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Letters to the Editor

## **BIOFUEL**

### **BLUEEARTH STUDYING MANY SOURCES FOR OIL**

In response to the letter (March 4) from Kelly King, vice president of Pacific Biodiesel, we share many of her concerns. We respect what the Kings have done to foster biodiesel production and use in Hawai'i, and would be happy to work with them in the future.

As Maui Electric Co. will be our major customer, its parent company, Hawaiian Electric Co., is working with Natural Resources Defense Council — one of the nation's most respected and influential environmental organizations — to craft an effective and enforceable sourcing model. Once agreement is reached on sourcing standards and the public has an opportunity to comment, it will become the policy specified to all of its biofuel suppliers.

We are evaluating various vegetable oils to determine which will serve as our initial feedstock until locally grown feedstock is available. The list of vegetable oils that we are considering includes soybean, canola, peanut, cottonseed and sunflower oil from the Americas, and various tropical oils from the Pacific Rim and South America.

The Maui biodiesel refinery project provides for a cleaner environment, reduced greenhouse-gas output, responsible feedstock sourcing, totally transparent biodiesel pricing at capped profits, high-paying local jobs, a privately funded, publicly run trust to promote local biofuel development and a clear path to less dependence on imported oil for Hawai'i — all within a few years.

*Robert Wellington*  
*Co-managing partner, BlueEarth Biofuels LLC*