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Par Hawaii reaches milestone in \$90M renewable energy investment



Two newly constructed renewable feedstock tanks at Par Hawaii's refinery located at Campbell Industrial Park in Kapolei.

By [Elizabeth 'Ufi](#) – Reporter, Pacific Business News
Nov 22, 2024

The state's only crude oil refinery, Par Hawaii, unveiled two new 2.4 million-gallon storage tanks at its Kapolei facility during a ceremony marking the company's [\\$90 million commitment](#) to produce renewable diesel and sustainable aviation fuel by next year.

The two bright green storage tanks, which finished construction at the Kapolei refinery in August, will hold feedstock used for renewable fuel production and made out of locally grown oil-producing crops and imported plant and waste oils.

The overall project will include the reconfiguration of Par Hawaii's \$27 million distillate hydrotreater — a unit of pipes and tall steel towers that make up parts of the facility's skyline — into a renewable hydrotreater.

As [previously reported by Pacific Business News](#), after construction of the renewable hydrotreater is completed, it is expected to start producing renewable fuels by September 2025 and will be used by businesses such as [Hawaiian Airlines](#), which was [recently acquired](#) by [Alaska Air Group](#).

In an interview with PBN, Par Hawaii President Eric Wright said it was Hawaiian Airlines executives who approached his company for the opportunity back in December 2021.

"We actually started some of the engineering not too long after that [discussion]. We signed a memorandum of understanding, [Hawaiian] contributed some of the engineering costs, and we said, '... It's happening on the mainland — we think we can make it happen here,'" Wright said in an interview with PBN.

"We're hoping that with projects like this, the volume can grow and provide more of our fuel. But right now, [sustainable aviation fuel makes up] a little less than 1% of our fuel [and] that's a gap that we need to close — scaling more so that we can use more," said Diana Birkett Rakow, [Alaska Airlines](#) senior vice president of public affairs and sustainability, told PBN.

The feedstock will be made from crops such as camelina, sourced from Hawaii-based Pono Pacific Land Management LLC, a private natural resource conservation company.

According to Pono Pacific President Jonathan Marstaller, studies have shown that camelina-based jet fuel reduces net carbon emissions by about 80%.