

For Immediate Release

CONTACT: Doug Durante (301-718-0077)

CFDC Applauds Hawaii Action to Finalize Ethanol Program

Washington, DC, September 17, 2004. Hawaii Governor Linda Lingle (R) signed regulations today in a special ceremony on Kauai requiring ethanol blends of 10 percent volume to be used state wide. The regulations culminate several years of negotiations between Hawaii ethanol and agriculture interests, government entities, and the petroleum industry.

The regulations also represent the final piece of the puzzle with regard to implementing a comprehensive ethanol program in the state that includes a producer tax credit and special purpose revenue bonds authorized by the legislature to fund production facilities.

“We want to congratulate our member companies in Hawaii that have worked so hard for this day,” said Douglas Durante, CFDC Executive Director. “This has been a long and painstaking process, but everything is now in place for Hawaii to reap the benefits that we have seen throughout America resulting from ethanol production.”

The signing ceremony of the regulations was on the Island of Kauai which is home to the Gay & Robinson Sugar Company and the participant in the Worldwide Energy Group that plans to demonstrate gasification of sugarcane bagasse. Providing a value added option for Hawaii’s sugar plantations is seen as critical to survival of the industry in the state. The ethanol project plans to utilize the Pearson Technology, Inc. gasification process and through a proprietary catalyst produce significant yields of ethanol. In addition, the process will provide a syngas suitable for stationary source power and other applications.

“Governor Lingle’s commitment to renewable energy and the tireless efforts of the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism have made the dream of ethanol in Hawaii a reality,” said Durante. The regulations call for at least 85 percent of Hawaii’s gasoline to contain 10 percent ethanol by April 2006.

Other facilities on Maui and Oahu are well along in the planning stage and according to officials of Clean Fuels Hawaii, state chapter of the Clean Fuels Development Coalition, the finalization of the regulations will accelerate development of these projects considerably.

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CFDC is a nonprofit organization comprised of agriculture organizations, ethanol producers, automobile manufacturers, and design and technology firms supporting the use of cleaner burning fuels and fuel additives.

