

## **Waika's Proven Track Record & Partnership with World Leaders in Geothermal**

Ours is a story of indigenous people building a better, brighter future by exercising leadership in the development of our resources. The resource in this instance is a gift from Tūtū Pele—geothermal energy from deep within the fires that burn beneath our feet. By law, geothermal resources are owned by Native Hawaiians and the public. Yet, owners of indigenous resources are typically not the ones who benefit the most from their development. Too often foreign companies do.

Waika Consulting's Native-to-Native model is designed to huli the old exploitative model. The Native-to-Native model has been tested and has delivered impressive results abroad. Hawaii residents and businesses deserve to enjoy the same.

Waika's parent company, Innovations Development Group (IDG) worked with several Maori Trusts in advisory roles on economic development. The opportunity to do so came through an invitation from the late Maori Queen, Te Arikinui Dame Te Atairangikaahu to Senior IDG Advisor, Mililani Trask Esq at the United Nations. IDG and recognized world-class geothermal experts from the University of Auckland, with the Eastland Company as developer, facilitated the development partnerships of two power plant transactions in Aotearoa (New Zealand). One is already online and distributing to the national grid. The second project has been through two transactions that IDG procured for Taheke Trust.

**It is this proven experience and collective expertise that Waika offers to Hawaii.** A truly transformative model for development that will help relieve the burden of prohibitively expensive and destructive fossil fuels. The highest energy prices in the nation are driving our people away in search of more affordable places to live and work. This will give people a reason to stay.

Why? Because developing geothermal means we can replace fossil fuels as the firm power baseload. No other renewable energy source can do that. Developing indigenous resources under Native Hawaiian leadership using the Native-to-Native model will create new jobs and open up pathways for educational opportunity in fields Native Hawaiians have not engaged in so far. That is what happened in Aotearoa and that is what people can look forward to here.

One disgraced former Maori Trustee who was removed from her position because of her personal and financial shenanigans, has chosen to engage in the dissemination of false stories that impugn the integrity and success of IDG to mask her own wrongdoing. The deliberate lies that she is spreading about IDG are being used to cast aspersions on Waika by those in Hawaii who choose to stand in the way of geothermal development and the benefits it will deliver. The record of success in Aotearoa is clear to anyone who cares to examine the many ways the Maori Trusts who have worked with IDG continue to enjoy income and ancillary benefits for their Trust, small businesses and farms.

New Zealand has over 50 years of experience developing geothermal. And they are on track to be fully on renewable energy by 2040. They value greatly the contributions of IDG to this effort. Gavin Murphy, who led the Eastland team when IDG first worked in Aotearoa says:

*"I saw for myself how IDG's model for development integrated cultural values into the plans for developing a geothermal plant from the ground up. We are proud of what we accomplished, working with 'mana whenua' -people of the land- respecting their culture, providing roles and project outcomes for their benefit, ensuring the health and safety of all, managing multiple contractors without harm to the community or to visitors while creating an economically viable power station supplying the grid."*

**That is exactly what Waika intends to do in Hawaii.**

Hawaii would be further along in developing geothermal energy had its progress not been interrupted by Hawaiian Electric's corporate decisions. But it's not too late to act. The past seven decades have delivered advances in technology that make geothermal energy cleaner and safer than ever. The Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL) continues to explore ways to collaborate with Waika. Our roadmap for community outreach and development with deliverables at each phase allows for transparency and accountability: one reason why DBEDT and the University of Hawaii Research and Development Institute chose to work with the only local company with proven experience in mapping the best sites for geothermal and in building a commercial power plant.

It's time to leave behind those who peddle lies and conspiracies and cling to the past because they need to mask their own failures, both personal and professional. It's time to forge ahead with developing geothermal in a way that is pono, culturally respectful and economically sensible. We owe our children and grandchildren that much. And more.