



**APAICS**

**2024**

**ENERGY +  
SUSTAINABILITY  
SUMMIT**



**PROGRAM BOOK**



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JULY 24, 2024

# AGENDA

*Note that all times listed are in Eastern Time.*

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**12:00 PM -  
12:20 PM**

## **Opening Remarks**

**Madalene Xuan-Trang Mielke, APAICS  
The Hon. Dr. Ravi Chaudhary, U.S. Air Force  
Christine Harada, Office of Federal Procurement Policy  
Joanna Dean, Toyota**

**12:20 PM -  
1:10 PM**

## **Thinking Outside the Box: the Future of Renewable Energy and Infrastructure**

**Sponsored by: Toyota and Southwest Airlines**

The maturation of clean energy policy, technology, and finance has paved the way for a sustainable future. But how does it impact our energy infrastructure plans in this transition? This session will highlight the feasibility and economic viability in transitioning to renewables and within the infrastructure of our grid.

**Opening Remarks: Rep. Scott Peters (CA-50)**

**Panelists & Moderators:**

- **The Hon. Sam Cho, Commissioner, Port of Seattle**
- **Anna Nguyen, NOLA Office of Resilience & Sustainability**
- **Jason Shyung, Southwest Airlines**
- **Lynda Tran, Lincoln Room Strategies**
- **Moderator: Jean Lee, A&O Shearman**

**1:15 PM -  
2:05 PM**

## **Climate Resilience and Energy Equity**

**Sponsored by: Edison**

In the face of escalating weather events that are placing our energy infrastructure at risk, we all have an important role to play in advancing decarbonization efforts. This discussion will cover the role of renewable energy sources and storage in enhancing resilience, the effect 'new' technologies have on traditional planning and operations, and explore the significance of environmental justice in underserved communities.

**Opening Remarks: Sen. Alex Padilla (CA)**

**Panelists & Moderators:**

- **Rep. Elle Cochran, Hawai'i House of Representatives**
- **Tammy Tran, Southern California Edison**
- **Violet Wulf-Saena, Climate Resilient Communities**
- **Moderator: Em Nguyen, ABC News**

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# AGENDA

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**2:10 PM -  
3:10 PM**

## **Energy Diversification in Transportation**

**Sponsored by: Southwest Airlines and Delta Airlines**

The transition to electric vehicles (EVs) and other forms of sustainable transportation is a significant topic in energy and sustainability. This panel will explore how coordinated planning and investment can support innovation, maximize project budgets, yield grid solutions that build value beyond just transportation, and improve our communities

### **Opening Remarks:**

- **Sen. Brian Schatz (HI)**
- **Rep. Debbie Dingell (MI-06)**

### **Panelists & Moderators:**

- **Rep. Trish La Chica, Hawai'i House of Representatives**
- **Sarah Chou, Southwest Airlines**
- **Prateek Joshi, National Renewable Energy Laboratory**
- **Jumana Master, Delta Airlines**
- **Moderator: Dr. Jenny Liu, Portland State**

**3:15 PM -  
4:30 PM**

## **Innovation in Energy Policy and Production**

**Sponsored by: Breakthrough Energy**

This panel will evaluate the effectiveness of policy frameworks, regulatory incentives, and legislative initiatives in facilitating the transition to a low-carbon economy, fostering innovation, and overcoming barriers to renewable energy adoption.

### **Opening Remarks: Rep. Nanette Barragán (CA-44)**

### **Panelists & Moderators:**

- **Radha Adhar, Bezos Earth Fund**
- **Noel Crisostomo, U.S. Department of Energy**
- **Noe Kalipi, Aukahi Energy**
- **Aliya Haq, Breakthrough Energy**
- **Moderator: John Yang, PBS News**

**4:30 PM**

## **Closing Remarks**

Madalene Xuan-Trang Mielke, APAICS

# FEATURED SPEAKERS



## **Senator Brian Schatz** **U.S. Senate, Hawaii**

Senator Brian Schatz chairs the Indian Affairs Committee, and serves on the Appropriations Committee; the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee; the Foreign Relations Committee; and the Select Committee on Ethics. He also serves on the Senate Democratic Caucus's leadership team as Deputy Conference Secretary and Chief Deputy Whip. Prior to his service in Congress, Senator Schatz was Hawai'i's Lieutenant Governor and served for eight years in the Hawai'i State House of Representatives. Since joining the Senate, Sen. Schatz has focused his work on helping workers, veterans, and families and has led key legislation on health care, climate change, and technology.

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## **Senator Alex Padilla** **U.S. Senate, California**

In November of 2022, Senator Alex Padilla was elected to the United States Senate. He began serving in January of 2021 after being appointed to fill the vacancy created by the election of Vice President Kamala Harris. He is the first Latino to represent California in the U.S. Senate. Senator Padilla is also the first Latino to serve as Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and Border Safety. He is also a member of the Senate Committees on Budget; Environment and Public Works; Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Judiciary; and Rules. The proud son of immigrants from Mexico, Sen. Padilla believes in giving everyone a fair shot at the American dream. A progressive problem solver, Alex has dedicated his career to finding solutions to the toughest challenges and fighting for communities that are too often left out and left behind.

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## **Representative Scott Peters** **U.S. House of Representatives, California's 50th District**

Representative Scott Peters serves the 50th district in California. He also serves on the House Energy and Commerce and House Budget Committees, where he has championed and passed historic legislation to protect our environment and promote the energy transition and works to fix a broken budget process and take on our nation's debt. In addition to his Committee assignments, he co-chairs the Bipartisan Fiscal Forum and the House Special Operations Forces Caucus, chairs the New Democrat Coalition's Climate Change and Clean Energy Task Force, and is a vice-chair of the LGBTQ Equality Caucus. His career has been defined by major legislative victories for our veterans and military, deploying clean energy, reducing drug costs while protecting innovation, and confronting the substance abuse crisis.

# FEATURED SPEAKERS



## **Representative Debbie Dingell** **U.S. House of Representatives, Michigan's 6th District**

Representative Debbie Dingell represents Michigan's 6th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. She is a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Natural Resources Committee, where she leads on critical issues including affordable and accessible health care, clean energy and water, domestic manufacturing and supply chain resilience, and protecting our wildlife and natural resources. Rep. Dingell also chairs the Great Lakes Task Force, and has always been an advocate for the outdoors and commits her work in Congress to protecting the environment for generations. In 2021, she worked together with the White House, the auto industry, auto workers, and environmentalists to announce the Biden Administration's goal of having 50% of new vehicles sold in 2030 be zero-emissions vehicles. She is a respected voice in Michigan and has been named multiple times on Crain's Detroit Business' 100 Most Influential Women in Michigan list.



## **Representative Nanette Barragán** **U.S. House of Representatives, California's 44th District**

Representative Nanette Barragán was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in November 2016, becoming the first Latina ever to represent California's 44th Congressional district. Rep. Barragán is Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and a member of the Progressive Caucus. She serves on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and its Subcommittees on Health and Energy, Climate, & Grid Security. In 2019, she became the first Latina in 10 years to hold a seat on this prestigious committee and only the second Latina ever to do so. Rep. Barragán serves as a voice for the communities that have been on the frontlines of the negative health impacts associated with climate change and environmental injustice. She is also passionate about immigration reform, strengthening the economy, and making affordable and accessible education a priority.

# FEATURED SPEAKERS



## **The Hon. Ravi Chaudhary**

### **Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Energy, Installations, and Environment**

Dr. Ravi I. Chaudhary is the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Energy, Installations, and Environment, Department of the Air Force, the Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia. Dr. Chaudhary is responsible for the formulation, review and execution of plans, policies, programs, and budgets to meet Air Force energy, installations, environment, safety, and occupational health objectives.

Dr. Chaudhary most recently served as the acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy. Prior to this role, he served as the Director of Advanced Programs and Innovation, Office of Commercial Space Transportation, at the Federal Aviation Administration. He provided technical leadership and oversight for the commercial space industry, to include research and development activities to support Department of Transportation and White House National Space Council Initiatives.

Prior to this role, he served as Executive Director, Regions and Center Operations, at the FAA. In this role, he was responsible for leadership, integration and execution of aviation operations in nine regions nationwide. Dr. Chaudhary served as second in command to the Deputy of Transportation and FAA-wide services in the areas of operations, safety, policy, congressional outreach and emergency readiness for the National Aerospace System.

Dr. Chaudhary commissioned in the Air Force in 1993 upon graduation from the United States Air Force Academy. He completed 21 years of service in a variety of command, flying, engineering and senior staff assignments in the Air Force. As a C-17 pilot, he conducted global flight operations, including numerous combat missions in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as a ground deployment as Director of the Personnel Recovery Center, Multi-National Corps, Iraq. As a flight test engineer, he was responsible for flight certification of military avionics and hardware for Air Force modernization programs supporting flight safety and mishap prevention. Earlier in his career, he supported space launch operations for the Global Positioning System and led third stage and flight safety activities to ensure full-operational capability of the first GPS constellation. As a systems engineer, he supported NASA's International Space Station protection activities to ensure the safety of NASA Astronauts. Dr. Chaudhary is a DoD Level III Acquisition Officer and has published numerous articles in future strategy, aircraft design, business transformation and space operations.



# FEATURED SPEAKERS



## **Christine Harada**

### **Senior Advisor in the White House Office of Federal Procurement Policy**

In July 2021, President Joe Biden appointed her as the first permanent executive director of the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council, a role designed to expedite infrastructure project permit approvals involving federal lands and multiple agencies. Previously, Christine was the Vice President for Government Affairs at Heliogen, a renewable energy technology firm in California. She also served as the federal Chief Sustainability Officer under President Barack Obama, overseeing all federal sustainability-related initiatives in energy and vehicle fleet management.

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## **Joanna Dean**

### **Toyota, Group Vice President of Service Operations**

Joanna Dean is group vice president of sales at Toyota Financial Services (TFS), where she is responsible for all sales activities for the organization. She leads a team that works closely with the Toyota and Lexus divisions to bring a wide range of financing, insurance, and voluntary protection products to dealer partners. Throughout her career at TFS, Dean has recognized that effective dealer relations are critical in today's dynamic market. She has led the development of Toyota and Lexus national programs and incentives and has managed sales teams to consistently grow automotive retail and lease market share. Most recently, Dean was named an Automotive News Rising Star for her impact on the next generation of leaders in the automotive industry. She has also served as an executive sponsor for WIIT (Women Influencing and Impacting Toyota), and is part of the Women in Sales Excellence Advisory Council, which develops talent and promotes diversity in field sales, and within Toyota as a whole. Dean has also served on the board of directors for Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles.

# PANELISTS AND MODERATORS

## Panel I

### Thinking Outside the Box: the Future of Renewable Energy and Infrastructure



#### **The Hon. Sam Cho**

**Commissioner, Port of Seattle**

Sam Cho was elected to the Port Commission in 2019 and Commission President in 2023. He is the youngest and first person of color to become Commission President since the founding of the Port in 1911. Driven to help shape the economy of the future, Commissioner Cho's career has spanned from government and emerging start-ups to established companies in the tech and sustainability space. Commissioner Cho currently serves as Director of Strategic Initiatives in the Office of Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell. He also held positions as an analyst at the US Department of State, as a Legislative Assistant to both a Washington State Senator and a member of the United States Congress and served as a political appointee under President Barack Obama. Prior to his election to the Port, Commissioner Cho was the founder and CEO of Seven Seas Export, an international trading company that exported to various countries throughout the Asia-Pacific. Commissioner Cho earned his Master of Science in International Political Economy from The London School of Economics and his Bachelor of Arts in International Relations from American University. His priorities as a commissioner include creating economic opportunity; promoting environmental sustainability; equity, diversity, and inclusion; and ending human trafficking.



#### **Anna Nguyen**

**New Orleans Office of Resilience & Sustainability**

Anna is a 1st generation Vietnamese-American and New Orleans native. She specializes in strategic planning and communications, intergovernmental relations, community engagement, emergency management and disaster response, and volunteer management. In her current role at the Office of Resilience & Sustainability, Anna works to develop policy and projects that advance resilience and sustainability priorities in New Orleans, crafting communication plans to build coalitions of support, and tracking and securing funding from federal, state, and philanthropic grant programs as part of the Federal Infrastructure Task Force. In 2019, Anna was recognized as a top 40 under 40 Young Professionals by the National Association of Asian Pacifics in Politics and Public Affairs.



#### **Jason Shyung**

**Southwest Airlines**

Jason Shyung is an Assistant General Counsel at Southwest Airlines, where he has practiced since August 2018. He strives to be a strategic business partner to the commercial teams he supports. He currently leads a team of attorneys and legal staff who are responsible for a variety of practice areas, including, Treasury, Finance, Fuel Supply Chain, Enterprise Supply Chain, Fleet Transactions (aircraft purchases and leases), Tech Ops Supply Chain (aircraft and engine maintenance), ESG reporting, Sustainability, Patents, Innovation, Southwest Airlines Renewable Ventures (investment subsidiary), SAFFiRE (a sustainable fuel technology start-up), and certain Corporate Governance, Investor Relations, and other related matters. Jason is heavily engaged in Southwest's Sustainability efforts, including sophisticated transactions involving sustainable aviation fuel offtakes, investments, and acquisitions. Prior to joining Southwest, Jason was an Assistant General Counsel with Accudyne Industries, which, at the time, was a Carlyle Group and BC Partners portfolio company. At Accudyne, he became a true generalist, managing litigation, corporate transactions, and intellectual property issues on a worldwide basis. He was part of a successful divestiture of Accudyne's businesses and learned a great deal about how to be a strategic business partner in the process. Jason began his career as a commercial litigator at Alston & Bird and was a judicial law clerk for the Honorable Catharina Haynes, United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. In his free time, Jason can be found with his wife Diane, who is a pediatrician, his French bulldog Lucy, and two small children who keep him young (and tired). Jason and his family love to travel, eat good food, and share a good laugh with friends.



# PANELISTS AND MODERATORS

## Panel I

### Thinking Outside the Box: the Future of Renewable Energy and Infrastructure



#### Lynda Tran

Lincoln Room Strategies

Lynda Tran is an expert in advocacy and public engagement, with more than two decades of experience across politics, policy, and communications. She has served in two presidential administrations, advised some of the nation's most closely-watched political races, and helped pass groundbreaking legislation that is transforming how companies and communities take action to address climate change. As Senior Advisor to Secretary Pete Buttigieg and Director of Public Engagement for the U.S. Department of Transportation, she activated stakeholders to secure passage of the \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act – also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law – and played a critical role in shaping the policies and programs that determine how these historic resources are allocated in communities nationwide. A nationally recognized leader in transportation and infrastructure policy, Lynda serves on the Board of Directors for STV and is an advisor to LSN Partners. She co-founded 270 Strategies, served on the Advisory Boards for Higher Ground Labs and Battleground Texas, and was a senior strategist for Bill Gates' Breakthrough Energy. A CBS News Political Contributor and columnist through the 2020 cycle and frequent commentator, she previously led teams for President Obama's Organizing for America, then-Governor Tim Kaine, and SEIU.



#### Jean Lee (Moderator)

A&O Shearman

Jean Lee is a partner in Allen & Overy's Global Projects, Energy, Natural Resources and Infrastructure group and co-leads the firm's Agency Finance practice in Washington. She recently spent several years in A&O's Seoul office, which she helped open in 2015, and upon her return to the US served as managing partner of the firm's Washington office from 2020-2022. With over 20 years of experience in private practice, Jean has represented agency and commercial lenders, as well as sponsors and other stakeholders, in complex project financings around the globe in a variety of sectors. She also served as internal counsel at a global solar energy services company, where she focused on expanding the company's operations outside the United States. Jean is ranked Band 1 for Agency Financing by Chambers USA 2020-2022 and was named 'Woman Lawyer of the Year' by Asian Legal Business Korea Awards in 2017. She is actively involved in diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives at A&O and serves on the steering committees of the firm's Asian Affinity Network and Women's Committee.

# PANELISTS AND MODERATORS

## Panel 2

### Climate Resilience and Energy Equity



#### **Rep. Elle Cochran**

**Hawai'i House of Representatives, HI-14**

Elle Cochran serves as the Hawaii State Representative for House District 14, West Maui, which includes Lahaina. She serves as the Vice-Chair on the House Committee for Energy & Environmental Protection and sits on the Finance Committee and Committee for Agriculture and Food Systems. She has lived in Lahaina for her entire life. She first became involved in politics after founding the Save Honolua Coalition to preserve a culturally significant place from privatization and luxury development. She then served on Maui County Council from 2011 to 2018, was Infrastructure Chair and a member of The National Ocean Council under the Obama administration. As a council member, Cochran championed a measure banning the sale of sunscreen containing oxybenzone and octinoxate, helping to protect Maui reefs, and initiated a pesticide-free parks program which went county-wide, and passed measures against the use of polystyrene. Currently Representative Cochran is focused on the rebuilding of Lahaina.



#### **Tammy Tran**

**Southern California Edison**

Tammy Tran is a seasoned professional with experience spanning more than two decades across government, business, and nonprofit sectors. Currently, she serves as Principal Manager for Supplier Diversity & Development at Southern California Edison (SCE). In this role, she leads a dynamic team of advocates to promote the inclusion and growth of small and diverse business enterprises working alongside SCE to transform the electric power industry and accelerate the clean energy transition. Tammy's tenure at SCE began in 2013 as a Senior Community Liaison responsible for cultivating strategic partnerships and engagement with diverse community stakeholders across SCE's service area. She has taken on diverse responsibilities and leadership roles, including Government Relations Manager, Senior Manager for Community Engagement, Senior Manager for Local Public Affairs, and President of SCE's Asian Pacific Islander Employee Resource Group. Prior to SCE, Tammy served as Deputy Chief of Staff and District Director for then California State Senator Lou Correa. She has also served as a campaign manager, political consultant, executive director for a nonprofit combating human trafficking, policy advisor to a member of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, and field representative for a California State Assembly Member. Tammy, being fully bilingual, has also co-hosted a weekly Vietnamese television program to promote civic and community engagement. Tammy is a community organizer at heart. She is champion for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) in the workplace and in leadership across different sectors. She is advocate for youth leadership, political engagement, and civic participation. She regularly volunteers to mentor immigrants, college and high school students. Tammy serves on boards of her children's school Parent Teacher Association, Orange County Youth, OC Forum, Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics (LEAP), Center for Asian Americans United for Self-Empowerment (CAUSE), DEI Advisory Committee for the Rancho Santiago Community College District, and Orange County Black Chamber of Commerce Advisory Council. A proud product of Orange County public schools, Tammy earned a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations with a minor in Health Communications and Master of Public Administration. Both degrees are from the University of Southern California.

# PANELISTS AND MODERATORS

## Panel 2

### Climate Resilience and Energy Equity



#### Violet Wulf-Saena

**Climate Resilient Communities**

Violet Saena is the founder and executive director of Climate Resilient Communities, an organization that supports under-resourced communities of color at the frontline of climate change and sea-level rise. Her dedication to elevating community voices and responding to environmental injustice is rooted in her lived experience in the South Pacific. She has served as an international climate change expert with the United Nations' Least Developed Countries and Small Island States to protect communities from the impacts of climate change. She now works in the Bay Area partnering with governments, research institutions, and community-based organizations to build community capacity to respond to climate change and sea-level rise. Violet also serves as the equity program manager for the Bay Area Climate Adaptation Network, an environmental justice advisor for the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, and a community advisory council member to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. Violet has a master's degree in environmental management from Duke University, a bachelor's in environmental studies from the University of the South Pacific in Fiji, and postgraduate diplomas in environmental and climate change management from Dresden University in Germany, Erasmus University in the Netherlands, and Waikato University in New Zealand. Currently, Violet is a Distinguished Visitor at Stanford University and her residency is on Environmental Sustainability.



#### Em Nguyen (Moderator)

**ABC News**

Em Nguyen is a Washington reporter for ABC News, primarily covering Congress and the White House. She also works on passion projects, diving deeper into stories about the AA & NHPI and minority communities, k-12 education, and climate. During her correspondent tenure at Spectrum News in the nation's capital, she reported from the ground during the January 6 Capitol riot, crisscrossed the country following the 2020 election, and closely reported on then-presidential candidate Kamala Harris. She also reported internationally from El Salvador on immigration during the Trump administration. Em is an award-winning journalist, with Charter Communication's 2021 DC Spot Award for "outstanding work", as well as LA Press Club's Best Morning Newscast 2019 award, where she produced and reported a full political block every morning. Previously, Em was a newsroom leader at WICS and WCCU in Illinois, where she anchored and produced the 2016 presidential election and covered the 2018 gubernatorial race. Em is a Vice President for the Asian American Journalists Association's D.C. chapter, has officiated three weddings, and loves pickleball, and cooking new dishes in her spare time!

# PANELISTS AND MODERATORS

## Panel 3

### Energy Diversification in Transportation



#### **Rep. Trish La Chica**

**Hawai'i House of Representatives, HI-37**

Representative Trish La Chica represents Hawaii's 37th House district in Central Oahu, which includes the communities of Mililani Town, Mililani Mauka, Koa Ridge, and Waipi'o Gentry. Appointed by Governor Josh Green in 2023, she is committed to serving her constituents, improving her community, and advancing the Filipino-American community in Hawai'i. Rep. La Chica currently serves as the Vice Chair for the House Committee on Education, and is also a member of the Higher Education, Economic Development, and Tourism committees. Rep. La Chica has over 15 years of experience working in leadership roles for non-profit organizations, including State and County government in the areas of public health, Medicaid, housing, and homelessness. Her prior roles include leading public policy for Aloha Care and the Hawai'i Public Health Institute and serving under Hawaii Governor David Ige and Mayor Rick Blangiardi, as the former Executive Director of the Office of Housing. Rep. La Chica's passion for advocacy began as an investigative journalist in Manila, where she produced documentaries that shed light on the daily struggles of Filipino families and fought against corruption. Rep. La Chica is currently raising her two young kids with her husband in Mililani, where she enjoys spending time with her family, hiking, visiting the beach, traveling, and experimenting with new recipes.



#### **Sarah Chou**

**Southwest Airlines**

Sarah is a Senior Consultant on the Environmental Sustainability Team at Southwest. She drives the Company's portfolio of commercial sustainability programs and owns enterprise strategy around carbon offsets. She collaborates to support the Company's journey toward achieving its goals under Nonstop to Net Zero: Southwest's path toward net zero carbon emissions by 2050 and a more sustainable future. Through the three focus areas of Carbon, Circularity, and Collaboration, Sarah engages with Southwest's customers as we strive to do right by our Planet and our Company in the communities we serve and beyond.

In 2019, Sarah started her career at Southwest in Corporate Strategy, where she worked on many strategy projects for the Company. Prior to Southwest, Sarah worked in management consulting in the utilities and healthcare industries. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Managerial Studies and a minor in Business from Rice University.



#### **Prateek Joshi**

**National Renewable Energy Laboratory**

Prateek Joshi is an energy engineer and project manager in the Energy Systems Integration directorate. He works on clean energy planning and deployment efforts for both domestic and international communities, with a focus on power systems and electrification. He has prior experience in the building energy design and commercial solar PV industries, as a teaching assistant for an energy fundamentals graduate course, and as a research scholar analyzing the relationship between electric utilities and wildfires.

# PANELISTS AND MODERATORS

## Panel 3

### Energy Diversification in Transportation



#### **Jumana Master**

**Delta Airlines**

Jumana Master has a degree in Public Health, specializing in Human Rights, and has spent her career in the environmental movement. Her roots stem from mitigating environmental harms in communities impacted by the climate crisis and energy transition. In her current role at Delta Air Lines, Jumana focuses on roadmapping a sustainable travel experience and scaling initiatives to reduce the airline's environmental footprint, including leading Delta's efforts on the Sustainable Flight Challenge. Her previous work spans educating state and local lawmakers on environmental issues in Georgia, leading corporate ESG reporting strategy, managing sustainability marketing, and piloting corporate sustainability innovation initiatives. She serves as Vice Chair of Georgia Sierra Club's Executive Committee and is a certified Climate Reality Leader with Al Gore's Climate Reality Project. She is an Atlanta resident and Georgia native.



#### **Dr. Jenny Liu (Moderator)**

**Portland State**

Jenny H. Liu is an Associate Professor in the Toulan School of Urban Studies & Planning at Portland State University, where she also serves as Director of the Center for Urban Studies and Assistant Director of the Northwest Economic Research Center. Holding a Ph.D. in Agricultural & Resource Economics from UC Berkeley, her expertise spans transportation economics, urban planning, public policy, and economic development. Liu's research examines the socioeconomic impacts of infrastructure and public policies, focusing on urban mobility and environmental sustainability. Since 2020, she has also served on the Oregon Governor's Council of Economic Advisors. Her publications are accessible [here](#).



# PANELISTS AND MODERATORS

## Panel 4

### Innovation in Energy Policy and Production



#### **Radha Adhar**

**Bezos Earth Fund**

Radha Adhar is the Federal Policy and Community Engagement Strategist at the Earth Fund. She joins the Earth Fund from the White House where she served as Special Assistant to the President for Senate Affairs. At the White House, she led engagement with key Senators and Committees working on climate and environmental related issues. She also previously served as the Legislative Director at the White House Council on Environmental Quality, and as Deputy Associate Administrator for Congressional Affairs at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In these roles, she had an integral role in the policy and technical assistance development of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act.

Radha has held roles in the Senate and the environmental community. While working for the Office of Senator Tammy Duckworth, she led the creation of the Senate's first-ever Environmental Justice Caucus. She has authored several pieces of environmental legislation, many of which have become law. She received her B.S. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and her M.S. from Johns Hopkins University.



#### **Noel Crisostomo**

**U.S. Department of Energy**

Noel Crisostomo is a Physical Scientist in the Office of Policy at the U.S. Department of Energy, where he analyzes clean transportation technologies, regulations, and incentives and advises policymakers on the deployment of infrastructure to help realize the nation's climate change and energy security goals. For ten years prior to DOE, Noel shaped transportation electrification regulations in California. At the California Energy Commission, he coordinated policy analysis, technology research and standardization, investment design, demand forecasting, and led the team authoring the state's inaugural Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Assessment. At the California Public Utilities Commission, he oversaw the design of dynamic electricity rates, charging infrastructure incentives, and innovations to integrate electric vehicles with the grid. Noel was a Schneider Sustainable Energy Fellow at Rocky Mountain Institute and supported customer efficiency and smart grid programs at San Diego Gas & Electric. Noel holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in energy science and policy from the Earth Systems Program at Stanford University.



#### **Noe Kalipi**

**Aukahi Energy**

Noelani is the Vice-President for Aukahi Energy and manages the development team. She also serves as the Executive Vice-President for Progresion Energy, leading the development of utility-scale renewable energy projects globally. Noelani has extensive experience in project development, strategic planning and implementation, and external affairs. She served as the legislative counsel for US Senator Daniel Akaka in Washington, DC, and served on active duty in the United States Army Judge Advocate General's Corps. In 2021, Noelani was appointed to the position of Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (CASA) for Hawaii (East), where she works to enhance and support the relationships and interactions between Army personnel, military families, veterans, and Hawai'i residents and organizations. Noelani is from Hilo, Hawai'i. She holds a BA from George Mason University and a law degree from George Washington University. She and her husband coach fast-pitch softball and volunteer for various nonprofit organizations. They enjoy taking family trips with their two daughters which include watching professional baseball games.



# PANELISTS AND MODERATORS

## Panel 4

### Innovation in Energy Policy and Production



#### **Aliya Haq**

**Breakthrough Energy**

Aliya leads the team at Breakthrough Energy that advocates for an ambitious climate policy agenda in the U.S. to accelerate the transition to a global clean energy economy. She manages the development of policy ideas and frameworks to speed up clean technology innovation and deployment across multiple economic sectors, including power, industrial, buildings, transportation, and agriculture. She also oversees strategies around grantmaking, convening, policymaker education, and communications to advance clean energy and climate policy. Prior to joining Breakthrough Energy, Aliya was the Federal Climate Policy Director at the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). Aliya has been dedicated to climate and clean energy work since her days as an undergrad student advocate more than twenty years ago. Through her years at several national environmental organizations, she has deep experience in climate and clean energy policy analysis and development, communications, field organizing, and policymaker engagement. Aliya holds a master's degree in environmental management from the Yale School of the Environment, and a bachelor's degree from Cornell University in environmental sociology. She lives in Washington, DC with her husband and two young, spirited children.



#### **John Yang (Moderator)**

**PBS News**

John Yang is anchor of PBS News Weekend and a national correspondent for PBS NewsHour. Over four-decades in Washington, DC, Yang has covered Congress, the White House and the Supreme Court. He's also been a Middle East correspondent and a regional correspondent in the U.S. South and Midwest. Yang has worked for NBC News, ABC News, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, Time Magazine and The Boston Globe and has been honored with three George Foster Peabody Awards, two Alfred I. DuPont-Columbia University Awards, an Edward R. Murrow Award and a national Emmy. He is a cum laude graduate of Wesleyan University. He served on the school's board of trustees and received a Distinguished Alumni Award. He is a member of the Asian American Journalists Assn..., on whose national board he served, and NLGJA: The Association of LGBTQ+ Journalists.

# ABOUT APAICS

Founded by former Secretary Norman Y. Mineta and former Delegate Robert Underwood in 1994, APAICS is a national non-partisan, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to building the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AA & NH/PI) political pipeline at all levels, from community advocacy to elected office.

**INSPIRE: Identifying future leaders for tomorrow**

**EDUCATE: Building public policy knowledge**

**EMPOWER: Developing individual leadership**

**CONNECT: Bridging local, state, and national politics & the AA & NH/PI community**

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