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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sustainable Agriculture Tour on Hawaii Island

Jatropha farm, seed crushing mill and biodiesel facility tour attracts local legislators, farmers interested in community-based biofuel production

Keaau, Hawaii - On October 10, 2013, Pacific Biodiesel, Big Island Biodiesel (BIB) and Hawaii Pure Plant Oil (HIPPO) hosted a tour to exhibit the community-based biofuel production model that is developing on Hawaii Island - a model that undeniably supports green jobs, local agriculture, the livestock industry and the community.

Guests representing various facets of the local community attended the event, from State legislators to farmers, ranchers and biodiesel fuel consumers. Among those in attendance were Senator Russell Ruderman, Representative Richard Onishi and Senator Gilbert Kahele.

With many of the pieces now in place, farmers, ranchers and biofuel producers hope to garner State support of this expanding community-based production chain. State and Federal support will foster more local farming, ranching, production jobs and the involvement of the local community in sustainable, renewable energy creation, growing the local economy, keeping Hawaii green and working to achieve the State's clean energy goals. The tour was broken into three segments.

The model starts with farming.

The Hawaii Pure Plant Oil (HIPPO) farm was founded in 2008 by father and son team Christian and Jamie Twigg-Smith who planted a total of 200 acres of *Jatropha Curcas* with the intent of harvesting its seeds and extracting the oil for biodiesel production. Now, five years after the farm's inception, the Twigg-Smiths have formed a direct collaboration with Pacific Biodiesel Technologies (PBT) under its federally funded Hawaii Military Biofuel Crop (HMBC) project. The project involves developing production models for *Jatropha* and other potential biofuel crops such as sunflower, safflower and camelina, to share with potential biofuel crop growers throughout the state.

The missing link – a commercial crushing facility – has now begun to create the potential for biofuel farming by providing the processing to take biomass from field to fuel.

Seed crushing in Hawaii is made possible by HMBC's recently installed seed crushing mill – the first of its kind in the State – which has the capability to process a wide variety

of seeds and nuts from sunflower and soy bean to jatropha and kukui. Waste agriculture such as unusable macadamia nuts has also been incorporated at the request of local farming operations that are hoping to expand the market for their less-than-perfect produce. The by-product of this crush is a high protein meal that is already being sought after by ranchers as a feed supplement for Hawaii's livestock industry.

State of the art biodiesel production creates exceptional quality biodiesel.

Oil from crops crushed at the mill is sent next door to PBT's newest biodiesel production facility, Big Island Biodiesel (BIB). The facility boasts multi-feedstock processing technology as well as high vacuum distillation that enables production of the highest quality biodiesel in the world. By-products of the biodiesel refining process, such as glycerin, can be utilized locally in various applications.

IMAGES:

Image 1: All fuel produced at BIB is sold within the State of Hawaii. Akita Enterprises, who provided transportation for the event, fueled the bus with a 50% biodiesel blend and plans to test biodiesel in their school bus fleet. Akita Enterprises is the 3rd largest school bus company in the State, with operations on Hawaii Island and Maui.

Image 2: The 200 acre Hawaii Pure Plant Oil Farm in Keaau.

Image 3: Pacific Biodiesel Technologies' seed crushing mill.

Image 4: Plant Manager John Griffith leads a tour of Big Island Biodiesel.

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