

Kelly Takaya King

Vice President and Co-Founder

Pacific Biodiesel

Kelly King is Vice President of Pacific Biodiesel Technologies, LLC, a renewable energy company she co-founded with her husband Robert King in 1995. Well known as an industry pioneer, Pacific Biodiesel was created to alleviate the disposal of waste cooking oil at Maui's landfill and became the first commercial biodiesel company in the U.S. Pacific Biodiesel has built 13 biodiesel plants in the U.S. and Japan and its community-based biodiesel model has become a standard for the sustainable renewable fuel industry.

Kelly helped Pacific Biodiesel obtain and manage Congressional appropriations projects in collaboration with the U.S. DoD to test biodiesel fuel crops in Hawaii, most recently federal funding to continue the project on Kaua'i. She also worked to secure federal funding to develop a value-added by-product that holds great promise as a soil amendment for taro farmers. Today the company is marketing a retail line of beauty oils and culinary oils (wholesale and retail) made from local agriculture and pressed from its Maui sunflower crop and Big Island macadamia nuts.

Kelly and her husband also obtained a state hemp permit and invested in a new ag venture to produce hemp CBD as a topical product to add to Pacific Biodiesel's macadamia nut oil-based skin care products.

In Hawaii, Kelly served as an elected member of the Hawaii State Board of Education, representing Maui County from 1994-1998. She recently held the County Council seat for the South Maui residency area, where she chaired the Planning Committee in her first term. After serving as Council Chair for a year in her second term, Councilmember King stepped down to create and chair the Climate Action, Resilience and Environment Committee which passed numerous groundbreaking bills, including ordinances for wetlands protection, chemical sunscreen ban and a net zero energy requirement for homes over 5,000 square feet. In her third term, Kelly's office oversaw and directed the Maui Youth Council, mentoring high school students in researching, proposing and deliberating (in Council Chambers) on community priorities. After 6 years, Kelly decided to transition off the Council, making an unsuccessful bid for Mayor of Maui County.

Kelly has been active as a board member on local, state and national non-profits, including:

- Sustainable Biodiesel Alliance, which she co-founded
- Maui Hui Malama Learning Center
- Hawaii Renewable Energy Alliance
- Hawaii Energy Policy Forum
- AKAKU Community Television Board of Directors
- UH Maui College Sustainable Sciences Management Advisory Council
- Maui Farmers Union Board of Directors
- Hawaii Technology Development Corporation
- Hawaii State Association of Counties, Executive Committee
- Maui Nui Food Alliance Steering Committee
- NACO Western Interstate Region Board Member
- ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, USA Board of Directors
- Local Government Advisory Committee to the U.S. EPA
- Delegate to COP26 and COP27 (for climate change) and COP15 (for biodiversity)

Among her many accomplishments, Kelly received the 2018 Maui Sierra Club Onipa`a Award, was named to the Biofuels Digest international list of Top 100 People in the Advanced Bioeconomy 2017 and earned the 2005 BlueSky Award for her company from United Nations Industrial Development Organization in Schenzhen, China. She was recently honored for her accomplishments by the Maui County Council, the Kihei Community Association (Wiliwili Warrior Award), the Maalaea Village Association and the Hawai`i State Senate.

Kelly and Bob King have been married almost 40 years (this September) and have two grown children, both with Masters Degrees from the University of Hawaii. Their daughter, Jenna Long, has two children and is currently Director of Operations at Pacific Biodiesel. Aaron King recently stepped down as the Director of Research at Forsight Institute in California to pursue research in the extension of human mortality. He is also currently living on Maui and working for Pacific Biodiesel as the IT support staff.