



Hawaiian Electric Company

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Hawaii Utilities in Top Ten Nationally for Adding Solar Power

(Honolulu, Hawaii) – Hawaii utilities are among the national leaders in integrating solar energy to their grids, according to the second annual report released today by the Solar Electric Power Association (SEPA), comprised of over 560 utilities and solar industry members nationwide.

In the overall ratings for systems installed in 2008, Hawaiian Electric Company was number seven for total solar megawatts. In the ratings for total solar watts per customer, Kauai Island Utility Cooperative was second, Maui Electric Company was fourth, Hawaii Electric Light Company serving Hawaii County was sixth, and Hawaiian Electric Company ranked ninth out of the top ten.

“Whether big or small, these utilities exemplify leadership to their peers across the country as they diversify their generation portfolio with new solar resources,” the SEPA said in announcing the standings.

In the overall rankings, Pacific Gas & Electric Company, Southern California Edison and San Diego Gas & Electric were the leaders in the total solar megawatts category and San Francisco PUC ranked first in total solar watts per customer.

“These ratings confirm Hawaii’s past efforts,” said Robbie Alm, Hawaiian Electric Company executive vice president. “And we believe that with the proposals in the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative – including the Photovoltaic (PV) Host program and a Feed-in Tariff now before the Public Utilities Commission – Hawaii’s standing as a leader in integrating solar power to our grids can only rise higher in the future.”

This year, 92 utilities nationwide participated in the survey, an increase of 80 percent over last year. Investor-owned and public power utilities are included. The data counts only solar projects that generate electricity and not solar thermal projects that use solar power for hot water heating, an area where Hawaii is also an acknowledged leader.

Utilities in seven different states participated in the survey and nine of the top 10 utilities in the nation are in California and Hawaii.

The survey also includes a utility’s total solar portfolio broken down by utility side versus the customer side of the meter. On the customer side of the meter, Hawaiian Electric

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Company placed seventh for new capacity added in 2008 and tenth cumulatively in total solar megawatts. In watts per customer, Kauai Island Utility Coop was first, Maui Electric was fourth, Hawaii Electric Light Company was fifth and Hawaiian Electric Company was eighth for 2008. In cumulative watts per customer, Kauai Island Utility Coop was first, Hawaii Electric Light Company was second and Maui Electric Company ranked seventh.

On the utility side of the meter for 2008, Maui Electric Company was ranked third based on the addition of the Castle & Cooke 1.2-MW La Ola Solar Farm on Lanai which provides power to that island grid.

Looking to the future, SEPA noted, "Residential and commercial photovoltaic projects will continue to be important market segments, especially in secondary markets with small-business job creation, but the solar industry is diversifying away from roof top net metered projects as its primary economic means. That is not to say that 'solar farms' are taking over just that the industry is becoming more diverse and expanding into new financial project positions."

The complete report is available on line at www.solarelectricpower.org.

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