



Hawaiian Electric Company

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Hawaiian Electric Utilities Again in Top Ten Nationally for Solar Power

HONOLULU – For the second consecutive year, the Hawaiian Electric utilities claimed three of the top ten spots in the national rankings for the use of solar power, according to a report released today by the Solar Electric Power Association (SEPA.)

In SEPA's ratings for total solar watts per customer, Maui Electric Company ranked second. Hawaii Electric Light Company serving Hawaii County ranked third, and Hawaiian Electric Company was ranked eighth.

Other Hawaii utilities also performed well in the rankings. The Kauai Island Utility Cooperative ranked sixth in total solar watts per customer.

"These results would not have been possible without the efforts of the utilities and our local solar energy industry. We are committed to working with them to increase our use of renewable energy and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels," said Robbie Alm, Hawaiian Electric executive vice president.

The rankings move the Hawaiian Electric neighbor island utilities even further up the list from last year. In 2009, Maui Electric ranked fourth, Hawaii Electric Light Company ranked sixth, and Hawaiian Electric Company came in ninth.

"The utilities in the Hawaiian Electric family are to be commended for the amount of solar electricity they have integrated into the grid to date," said Julia Hamm, SEPA executive director.

"Serving territories that are physically separated from the rest of the nation makes it even more important for these utilities specifically to take advantage of clean local resources like solar energy," Hamm said. "As a result, the Hawaiian Electric utilities are serving as leaders in the utility industry by exploring cutting edge potential solutions to issues related to intermittency and power storage that will allow for even greater integration of solar electricity in the future."

SEPA is a non-profit organization comprised of more than 700 electric utilities and solar industry members. Its focus is on research, education, utility outreach and interaction with the many organizations dedicated to the solar industry.

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

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