



**Maui Electric Company, Ltd.**

**For Immediate Release  
February 15, 2011**

## **Newly approved contract clears path for largest wind energy project in Hawaii**

(Kahului, Maui, Hawaii) – The Hawaii Public Utilities Commission recently approved a power purchase agreement between Kaheawa Wind Power and Maui Electric Company for an additional 21 megawatts (MW) of wind energy. The project is an expansion of the existing 30 MW Kaheawa Wind farm above Maalaea in West Maui.

When complete, the expanded wind farm will be the largest wind energy project in Hawaii. Under the terms of the contract, Kaheawa Wind Power, a subsidiary of Massachusetts-based First Wind, will sell as-available renewable energy to Maui Electric at pre-determined prices over 20 years. The expanded wind farm will have a combined capacity of 51 MW, with the potential to produce enough energy for the equivalent of 20,000 Maui homes.

The project will also include a battery energy storage system to assist in meeting performance standards and smoothing fluctuations in wind energy output, similar to the system installed at First Wind's Kahuku Wind project on Oahu.

"We're excited to be able to deliver more clean, renewable energy to the residents and businesses of Maui," said Paul Gaynor, CEO of First Wind. "Hawaii has a unique appreciation and understanding of the need for clean, home-grown sources of energy, and we're thrilled we'll be able to help meet that demand."

"We are pleased to expand the contribution from First Wind to our portfolio of clean energy resources," said Ed Reinhardt, Maui Electric president. "In 2010, more than 10% of Maui's energy was produced from renewable resources and we look forward to increasing this even more with energy from this wind farm and other projects."

**More...**

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### **About First Wind**

First Wind is an independent wind energy company exclusively focused on the development, financing, construction, ownership and operation of utility-scale wind projects in the United States. Based in Boston, First Wind has wind projects in the Northeast, the West and in Hawaii, with the capacity to generate up to 504 megawatts of power. For more information on First Wind, please visit [www.firstwind.com](http://www.firstwind.com) or follow us on Twitter [@FirstWind](https://twitter.com/FirstWind).

### **About Maui Electric Company**

Maui Electric Company, Ltd. is a subsidiary of Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc., which also owns Hawaii Electric Light Company, Inc. Together they serve more than 95% of the population of the State of Hawaii on the islands of Oahu, Hawaii, Maui, Lanai and Molokai. Hawaiian Electric Company is a subsidiary of Hawaiian Electric Industries (NYSE: HE).

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