



Hawaiian Electric Company

N E W S • R E L E A S E

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Customer-sited solar PV on Oahu passes 20-MW milestone
Hawaiian Electric marks occasion with donation to Easter Seals Hawaii

(Honolulu, Hawaii) – Hawaiian Electric Company today donated \$5,000 to Easter Seals Hawaii to celebrate the achievement of reaching 20 megawatts of solar photovoltaic (PV) projects signed up for net energy metering on Oahu. The milestone was achieved in July 2011 and the Easter Seals 55 kW PV system became a net metered project at that time.

“We thank the nearly 4,000 Oahu customers who have taken advantage of solar power the hundreds of people in the solar industry who sell, install and maintain the systems,” said Robbie Alm, Hawaiian Electric executive vice president. “The Legislature also deserves credit for establishing net metering, as does the Public Utilities Commission which continues to regulate and expand it.

“On behalf of everyone who has helped to make this program a continuing success, we are pleased to present this donation to Easter Seals Hawaii in appreciation of its many years of providing critical services to infants, children and adults with special needs and their families in our community,” Alm said.

“Easter Seals Hawaii is extremely grateful for this generous contribution from Hawaiian Electric,” said Majken Mechling, president & CEO for Easter Seals Hawaii. “In today’s economic environment, it is critical that we continue to find ways to operate cost-effectively so that every valuable resource can go into programs and services for people with disabilities.

“Energy Industries’ photovoltaic power purchase agreement program made it possible to install this system without an initial capital expense. The PV system will provide 80 percent of our power, significantly reducing our overall energy costs. It’s a win-win situation for everyone that will move both our organization and our islands to a more sustainable future,” she said.

A non-profit organization can not benefit directly from solar tax credits. Energy Industries’ power purchase agreement allows Easter Seals to get the benefits of photovoltaics without having to buy a PV system outright.

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Oahu surpasses 20 MW in net energy metering

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Net Energy Metering (or NEM) lessens Hawaii's dependence on imported oil by encouraging residential and commercial customers to use more eligible renewable resources like solar (photovoltaic), wind, biomass, or hydroelectric power to generate electricity. Customers with a NEM agreement can send excess electricity produced by their renewable energy systems to the utility grid for full retail credit. Among the eligible renewable resources, solar is by far the most popular.

"This is one more sign of the tremendous growth of customer-sited solar photovoltaic energy in Hawaii," said Scott Seu, Hawaiian Electric vice president for energy solutions.

"The Solar Electric Power Association has again named Hawaiian Electric as one of the nation's Top 10 utilities for solar power added to its system per customer in 2010. All four Hawaii utilities are in the top ten utilities for total solar watts per customer. At Hawaiian Electric we are proud to play our part in promoting and administering net metering and other programs, such as the new Feed-in Tariff, to encourage more clean energy," Seu said.

On Oahu, net metering agreements added in 2010 more than doubled over 2009. In 2011, NEM agreements have already surpassed the total of 2010.

For all Hawaiian Electric utilities' service territories combined, the total amount of registered PV under NEM is nearly 35 MW. In Maui County close to 7.5 MW and on Hawaii Island nearly 7 MW of customer-sited photovoltaic capacity is signed up for the NEM program.

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