



Hawaiian Electric Company

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 1, 2009

Hawaiian Electric utilities look to add more solar energy

(Honolulu) –To encourage more renewable energy use in Hawaii, Hawaiian Electric Company and its neighbor island utilities, Hawaii Electric Light Company and Maui Electric Company, have filed an application with the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for a program that could more than double the amount of solar-generated electricity in Hawaii.

If approved by the PUC, the Photovoltaic (PV) Host pilot program could add up to 16 megawatts of new PV systems over a two-year period, more than twice the amount of installed PV at the end of 2008.

Under the proposal, which is aimed at government and commercial facilities, the utilities would lease rooftops or other space for the systems from property owners. Independent PV developers would then be contracted to install PV systems at these sites. The PV developers would own, operate and maintain the systems and sell the energy to the utilities at a fixed rate under a long-term contract.

PV systems use silicon panels or similar materials to generate electricity using solar energy, which can then be fed into the utility grid.

“It just makes sense to take greater advantage of solar energy in Hawaii to help reduce our dependence on fossil fuels,” said Dick Rosenblum, Hawaiian Electric President & CEO.

Rosenblum said the program is intended to simplify the process of acquiring PV for property owners who want to encourage the technology, to promote additional use of solar energy and to increase business opportunities for Hawaii’s PV industry.

Hawaiian Electric committed to develop the PV Host program as part of the Energy Agreement signed in October 2008 with the State of Hawaii as part of the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative.

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