

# REBUILD AMERICA CLOSE-UP



Rebuild America

## Rebuild America Greens Hawaii

A quarter of a century ago, on his “Aloha from Hawaii” tour, Elvis sang his now-famous song, *Blue Hawaii*. During the same year, most Americans were facing skyrocketing oil prices due to the OPEC crisis.

Flash-forward to the present—now, Hawaii Island has become a “green” island, due in large part to Rebuild America.

Unfortunately, Hawaiian residents still face an “oil crisis” that is, in many ways, comparable to the OPEC crisis of 1973. The situation is critical: energy prices on Hawaii Island are high—35% above the national average, primarily because the island must import more than 90% of its oil supply.

Furthermore, every dollar spent on imported oil is removed from the local economy. To address this problem, local officials have vowed to cut oil imports and boost the economy, largely through energy efficiency measures.

### THE 25% SOLUTION

Enter the Rebuild Hawaii Island partnership, with the strong support of local officials. In September 1996, the County of Hawaii took the lead and the Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc. (HECO) and the Na Makani Community Initiative of North Kohala joined as partners. The partnership’s goal: to cut energy consumption in county buildings by 25% in year 2000.

This “25% solution” will save county taxpayers nearly \$250,000 annually through various energy efficiency measures in 90 county owned buildings, which total 540,000 square feet.

### BIG SUCCESS FOR DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

In the first phase of Rebuild Hawaii Island, the partnership upgraded the lighting and mechanical systems in the 42,500 square-foot Hawaii County Building, saving about \$70,000 and 35% of energy usage (405,000 kWh) in 1997, the first year post-retrofit. This demonstration project was conducted under a performance contract with Honeywell, Inc., and financed by a tax-exempt municipal lease.



Island paradise meets energy challenges

Hawaii County Mayor Stephen Yamashiro lauded the County Building retrofit, stating: “This is an example of using the best available technology to save energy, reduce our dependence on imported fossil fuel and save the taxpayers’ money. We plan to expand this program to other County facilities.”

### TACKLING THE ISLAND

Phase II involves retrofitting an additional 500,000 square feet in County building space, with a total annual electricity cost of more

## Partnership Facts:

### TARGETED BUILDINGS:

Hawaii County buildings, water supply and wastewater facilities, other county-owned and private facilities

### SQUARE FOOTAGE:

540,000 square feet

### ANTICIPATED COST SAVINGS:

\$250,000 annually

### NEW & NOTABLE INNOVATIONS:

Partnering with utility

### COMPLETION DATE:

2000

### TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE REBUILD HAWAII ISLAND PARTNERSHIP:

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than \$1,000,000. The project will require an investment of approximately \$1.5 million. Incentive payments from partner HECO's demand-side management (DSM) program will be used to help fund these retrofits or to credit against electricity costs.

### UTILITY STEPS UP TO THE PLATE

HECO is a key industry resource for the Rebuild Hawaii Island partnership. Company President Warren Lee is very supportive of the Rebuild Hawaii Island partnership and has offered HECO's extensive technical and marketing assistance to promote the partnership.

### SOFT ENERGY PATH TO THE FUTURE

The Na Makani Energy Initiative (Na Makani project), was formed in 1996 after the Hawaii County Council and North Kohala citizens asked State officials to endorse a 'soft energy path' for the future, using energy efficiency and renewable resources. The Na Makani project seeks to establish a process for planning North Kohala's future energy development through community participation and consensus building. The Na Makani project joined the Rebuild Hawaii Island partnership to gain technical and peer support and to boost their credibility through collaboration with U.S. Department of Energy. Correspondingly, the project adds a unique dimension to the partnership through its motivated grassroots members and its proactive mission.

The Rebuild Hawaii Island partnership has many other allies and resources to tap. The Rebuild Hawaii State partnership frequently offers valuable technical and management support to the island partnership. In addition, Hawaii County officials work closely with various civic, business and environmental groups that are important vehicles for disseminating information about energy efficiency and the Rebuild Hawaii Island program.

### LEADING BY EXAMPLE

The Rebuild Hawaii Island partnership will act as a resource for the state, other island partnerships and the private sector. Rebuild Hawaii will help draft and negotiate performance contracts for energy efficiency retrofits. The partnership also plans to assess energy savings potential in the county wastewater and water supply facilities with the aim of reducing their annual electricity costs of about \$9,000,000.

The Rebuild Hawaii Island partnership is taking care of business ("TCB," as Elvis would say) for its residents. As Raymond Carr, Energy Coordinator says "We may not be able to do much about the price of oil, but this program will reduce our electricity bills and permit us to use the savings to upgrade our buildings and minimize our impact on Hawaii's precious environment."



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the 21st Century**

