

Rebuild Hawaii State: Leveraging Resources for Success

When Maurice Kaya, Program Administrator of the State of Hawaii's Energy, Resources and Technology Division, Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT), and Eileen Yoshinaka, U.S. Department of Energy's Pacific Liaison, first heard about the Rebuild America program in the mid-1990's, they thought it sounded like a great community-based program that could really make a difference in energy efficiency.

In recalling his impressions of the program, Kaya says, "Rebuild America sounded like the perfect deployment platform to deliver community-based services to towns and cities in Hawaii. States can't do everything they want to do—a meaningful context is needed. Rebuild America provides that context."

Yoshinaka adds, "The U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) will have better success in delivering energy-efficiency services to the community by using the existing State Energy Office [SEO] infrastructure. Top-down programs don't have a great history of success. SEO's can leverage State programs so Rebuild America projects can hit the ground running."

To take advantage of Rebuild America, Kaya asked Elizabeth Raman, energy program specialist in DBEDT's Energy, Resources & Technology Division, to lead the Rebuild Hawaii State partnership, which was established in 1997.

Rebuild Hawaii Consortium: Leveraged Networking

Shortly after this partnership was founded, the State recognized that one government agency with limited resources would find it impossible to reach all segments of the community at once. In early 1998, Rebuild Hawaii State leaders founded the Rebuild Hawaii Consortium, a statewide forum that allows all the Rebuild America partnerships, utilities, and community and private business groups from Hawaii to get together to help each other reach their goals. By leveraging the resources of its members, the Consortium promotes energy efficiency as a catalyst for economic development.

The ultimate goal of the Consortium is to implement innovative energy solutions in the underserved small business and low-income housing sectors. Ongoing projects in these markets include Energy Solutions for Small Business, leveraged with the utility, Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc. (HECO), and the Maili II multifamily housing project, leveraged with the Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawaii and Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Other Leveraging Tools

Beyond the State Energy Office representatives and the assembled resources of the Consortium, Rebuild Hawaii State provides several other tools

PARTNERSHIP FACTS:

- **Estimated Investment Dollars:**
\$19 million
- **Estimated Cost Savings:**
\$4 million
- **Estimated Reduction of Greenhouse Gases:**
44,000 tons of CO₂

- **New & Notable Innovations:**
Established the **Rebuild Hawaii Consortium** to network local resources to help promote energy efficiency, complete energy projects, and reach their goals.
- **Completion Date:**
Ongoing

for its partners. Over a three-year period, the State received \$313,000 in competitive grant awards from U.S. DOE to support Rebuild Hawaii State partners. These funds are used to hold peer exchanges and workshops, obtain training in energy efficiency, implement performance contracting, and to help facilitate other energy-related projects.

Technical assistance is also provided to Rebuild Hawaii State partners, in many different forms. For instance, the Hawaii State Public Library System asked for assistance in alternative financing of energy-efficiency measures for its facilities from Dale Sartor, an engineer from Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory's (LBNL) Environmental Energy Technologies Division. LBNL also provided lighting expertise to several partners. Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) has been helpful with benchmarking and measurement & verification (M&V).

Performance Contracting Lessons

Energy performance contracting allows the State to fund building improvements and reduce utility bills without the need for up-front capital. The building receives new and improved lighting, cooling, and other equipment, the cost of which is offset by reduced utility bills.

The first energy performance contract for State facilities was completed at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, with encouraging results. The first annual savings reconciliation in June 1999 confirmed that the \$2.9 million investment by Johnson Controls, Inc. had exceeded guaranteed annual savings estimates by \$83,000.

When all State partnerships have completed their planned efficiency projects, they will result in an

investment of \$19 million in facility improvements and an average annual cost savings to the State government of \$4 million, as well as \$16 million in direct and indirect income to the economy. These retrofits will result in an annual reduction of 44,000 tons of CO₂.

Not every performance contracting project went so well. Lessons learned from several Hawaii projects are conveyed in the **Guide to Energy Performance Contracting** (available at www.hawaii.gov/dbedt/ert).



Maurice Kaya is congratulated by Mark Ginsberg, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Building Technology, State and Community Programs for receiving the 1999 Rebuild America State Partnership of the Year award.

Success Recognized

The leveraged resources approach to energy efficiency in Hawaii must be working. Hawaii won three of the eleven 1999 Rebuild America Energy Champion Awards, presented on Tuesday, August 10 at the Rebuild America National Forum in Las Vegas, Nevada. Judging by their success, the Rebuild Hawaii State partnership is making a significant difference in the Islands' energy-efficiency goals.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE REBUILD HAWAII STATE PARTNERSHIP, CONTACT:

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