Hawaiian Electric Company and the U.S. Army

HECO partners with the U.S. Army, and local community on a rate-based, comprehensive energy resiliency project

Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) and the U.S. Army partnered with the local government and state regulators on a comprehensive grid resiliency project at Schofield Barracks on Oahu. This triple win project provides benefits to HECO, all customers on Oahu and our nation’s security.

Partnership at-a-Glance

- HECO needed a cost-effective generation resource at higher elevations, away from areas susceptible to tsunamis or other natural disasters.
- HECO and the state of Hawaii also needed additional contingency response and load balancing resources to accommodate the increasing amount of intermittent renewable energy being added to the grid.
- The U.S. Army needed added energy resiliency to maintain critical missions in the event of a grid outage.
- In exchange for secure, expensive Hawaiian land, HECO agreed to build, own, and operate a 50 MW multi-fuel generating station at the Army’s Schofield Barrack.
- The generating station can black-start Oahu’s energy grid and ramp-up to full capacity in 6 minutes.
- The plant is capable of supplying power for long-term disaster relief efforts at the U.S. Army base until normal conditions are restored, and during blue skies, the facility helps to integrate intermittent renewable energy.
- The in-kind arrangement involved priority power during outages, and HECO’s investment in a microgrid to serve Schofield and nearby Wheeler Army Airfield.
- The project was completed in 2018. The Hawaii PUC approved HECO’s request to recover certain costs of the estimated $148 million project from customers.