Hawaiian Electric adds another public access EV Fast Charger to network in central Honolulu

HONOLULU, April 7, 2016 – Hawaiian Electric Company has opened a DC Fast Charger for electric vehicles accessible to the public at its Ward Avenue facility. It is the fifth utility-owned and operated public charging station on O‘ahu.

The fast charger will help eliminate “range anxiety” for residents and visitors driving EVs to and from Honolulu. Additionally, the fast charger will serve EV owners residing in multi-unit dwellings in the Honolulu area who may not have access to EV charging in their buildings. Using a fast charging station, a near-depleted battery can be recharged to 80 percent capacity in 30 minutes, less for smaller recharges. Drivers will be able to safely operate the charger and pay by credit card or by a Greenlots smartphone app.

A fast charging session will cost $6.50 during most of the day; slightly more during times of peak electric use or less if used during overnight hours. Session prices may change based on the changing cost of electricity. Information on charging, including the current price, is available at www.hawaiianelectric.com/goev.

“At the Hawaiian Electric Companies, we are committed to making Hawaii a world leader in electric vehicle use as an essential part of our clean energy future,” said Jim Alberts, Hawaiian Electric senior vice president for customer service. “To this end, we continue to help accelerate use of electric vehicles by providing public fast-charging stations so drivers always know where they can top off quickly across the islands. And we are eager to cooperate in other ways to help automobile dealers and their customers make the electric vehicle decision that makes so much sense in Hawaii.”

The DC Fast Charger at Ward, like those at Dole Plantation in Wahiawa, Ko‘olau Center in Kaneohe, and 7-Eleven in Hawaii Kai, has both a CHAdeMO connection (used mostly by Japanese and Korean EVs like the Nissan Leaf, Mitsubishi i-MiEV, and Kia Soul EV) and a CCS connection (used by American and European EVs like the BMW i3).

Hawaiian Electric is working with Greenlots -- a global provider of open standards-based distributed energy resource solutions – on the Ward Avenue fast charger. As with the fast charger at Kapolei Commons, the Ward Avenue installation is designed to show how electricity demand management strategies can support EV initiatives on the road to a clean energy future for Hawaii.

“We are pleased to be working with Hawaiian Electric and support a burgeoning electric vehicle industry in Hawaii,” said Brett Hauser, CEO of Greenlots. “Fast charge infrastructure is critical to

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accelerating clean transportation systems and making it easy for electric vehicle drivers to plug-in and charge.”

The Hawai‘i Public Utilities Commission authorized a five-year demonstration for the utilities to install, own and operate up to 25 fast chargers in their service territory. Additional sites are now being sought on O‘ahu and neighbor islands.

Although this fast charger is located on publicly accessible utility property, most will be located on privately owned host sites. Hawaiian Electric will operate the equipment at no cost to the host for installation, maintenance or electricity. Hosts must be willing to provide the requested space and minimal assistance for operation.

Hosting a fast charger helps with compliance of the state law that requires public parking lots with at least 100 parking spaces to have at least one exclusive parking space for electric vehicles equipped with a charging station. And the host gains recognition as an early supporter of electric transportation and clean energy. More information is available by contacting 808-543-GoEV (4638), GoEV@hawaiianelectric.com or Hawaiian Electric GoEV, CP-10 SR, P.O. Box 2750, Honolulu, Hawai‘i, 96840-0001.

The Hawaiian Electric Companies offer customers a discounted EV charging rate. In addition to being cheaper to operate mile for mile and needing less maintenance than internal combustion engine vehicles, EVs allow drivers on O‘ahu to enjoy free parking at municipal lots and meters and use of high-occupancy vehicle lanes with only one person aboard.

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Photographs/video of the fast charger and dedication ceremony are available.