

NEWS RELEASE

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2017 saw big surge in solar installations

Largest increase in 5 years; more grid-scale projects online in 2018

HONOLULU, Jan. 18, 2018 – More than 100 megawatts of solar were installed across the Hawaiian Electric Companies' service territories in 2017, a 19 percent jump from the previous year, helping to move the state closer to a clean energy future.

At the end of 2017, Hawaiian Electric, Maui Electric and Hawai'i Electric Light recorded 695 megawatts (MW) of cumulative installed solar, up 109 MW from 2016. The megawatts of solar added last year produce power equivalent to that used by about 32,000 homes.

The solar total includes 82,000 private rooftop solar systems connected or approved, up 3.6 percent from 2016. It also includes the addition of the 27.6-MW Wai'anae solar facility, which provides some of the state's lowest priced renewable energy.

Private rooftop solar installations and approvals as a percentage of total customers rose or held steady in 2017. By the end of 2017, 20 percent of residential customers at both Hawaiian Electric and Maui Electric have rooftop solar installed or approved for installation, up from 19 percent at both companies in 2016. Sixteen percent of Hawai'i Electric Light residential customers have solar installed or approved, the same percentage as in 2016.

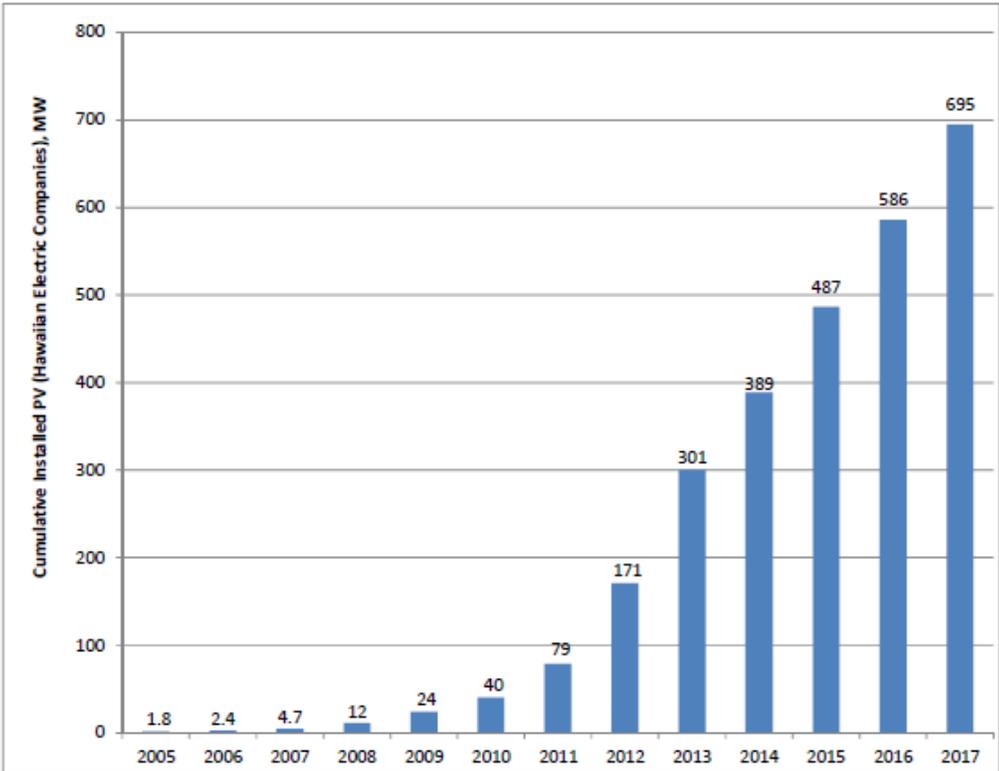
"We ended 2017 with the largest year-to-year increase of installed solar since 2013 and we anticipate even higher numbers by the end of this year," said Jim Alberts, Hawaiian Electric senior vice president of customer service. "We're excited about new solar programs on the horizon such as Smart Export and CGS+, community-based renewable energy and new grid-scale projects underway on O'ahu and Maui. And we continue to improve and streamline the rooftop solar application process for our customers."

Since the launch of the online Customer Interconnection Tool last fall, customers have been able to submit online applications to install private rooftop solar under the Customer Self-Supply program. The online application tool is believed to be the first of its kind to provide a seamless process allowing customers to follow the status of their applications from start to finish.

The companies anticipate continued growth in private rooftop solar and utility-scale projects. On O'ahu and Maui, 135 MW produced by six separate projects will come online this year, including Hawaiian Electric's 20-MW solar facility at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. That project will produce the lowest-priced grid-scale solar in the state for the benefit of all Hawaiian Electric customers.

(more)

Cumulative Installed PV as of Dec. 31, 2017



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