



**Maui  
Electric**

## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **MAUI ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, INC. RECEIVES DONATION OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE FOR MOLOKA'I PROGRAM**

*Maui Electric Company and the Hawaiian Electric Industries Charitable Foundation  
strive to build a better community and promote electric transportation*

**KAUNAKAKAI, HI, Feb. 23, 2019** – Maui Electric Company and the Hawaiian Electric Industries (HEI) Charitable Foundation donated an electric vehicle yesterday to the Moloka'i transportation program of Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. (MEO).

The car was presented to the nonprofit organization in Kaunakakai, Moloka'i. On hand to mark the donation were president of Maui County and Hawai'i Island Utilities, Sharon Suzuki; Creighton Liu, manager of Strategic Planning for Hawaiian Electric Industries, Inc.; Brennon Morioka, Hawaiian Electric general manager of Electrification of Transportation; Debbie Cabebe, CEO of Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.; and Ned Davis, Board Chair of Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.

"MEO is grateful for this generous donation from Maui Electric and Hawaiian Electric Industries Charitable Foundation for the purchase of a new Nissan Leaf electric vehicle and Level 2 charging station," said Cabebe. "In the transportation industry, the switch to electric vehicles (EVs) is growing as they promote a clean energy future. Adding an electric vehicle to our fleet will save us money on fuel and makes one on one transports more efficient. There are many times we have clients who need a ride to and from an appointment and the time is not in alignment with other runs, therefore a shared ride is not possible. Having access to a sedan, and an electric sedan at that, makes operations more efficient and reduces operating expenses. With the high cost of living on Moloka'i, any way we can save is a benefit to the community and an overall good for the environment."

In addition to the donation of the new Nissan Leaf, Maui Electric and the HEI Charitable Foundation also donated \$5,000 towards the purchase and installation of a Level Two electric vehicle charger at MEO's Moloka'i base yard.

"Maui Electric is proud to partner with the HEI Charitable Foundation to support the much needed transportation services that MEO provides on Moloka'i. We are also grateful for the extraordinary assistance from New City Nissan and Nissan North America that helped to make this contribution possible," said Sharon Suzuki, president of Maui County and Hawai'i Island Utilities "The adoption of EVs on Moloka'i will play a key role in reducing their carbon footprint and getting their island to 100 percent renewable energy ahead of the other Hawaiian Islands."

(more)

The popularity of EVs has risen in recent years as the world takes greater notice of the importance of reducing reliance on fossil fuels for transportation and rebates and discounts helps with purchase costs. The donation was held in conjunction with an electric vehicle fair, GoEV Moloka'i, co-sponsored by Maui Electric and the County of Maui's Office of Economic Development and made possible with help from Maui Economic Development Board.

The event commenced with a blessing of the island's first public electric vehicle charging station installed by Maui Electric with support from the County of Maui. Participating in the blessing conducted by Kahu Naomi Eiko Duvauchelle, were Mayor Michael Victorino and Council Member Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

### **ABOUT MAUI ELECTRIC**

Our vision is to empower our customers and communities with affordable, reliable, clean energy, and provide innovative energy leadership for Hawaii. For 97 years, Maui Electric Company, as a subsidiary of Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc., has helped to provide the energy that has fueled the islands' development from a Hawaiian kingdom to a modern state. Maui Electric Company services over 60,000 customers on the islands of Maui, Moloka'i and Lāna'i.

### **ABOUT HEI CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**

The HEI Charitable Foundation is proud to support and add value to important community initiatives through grants, donations, scholarships, a matching gift program and volunteerism from employees of our family of companies. By doing our part, we hope to fulfill our responsibility to strengthen our communities and serve as a catalyst for a better Hawaii. For more information, visit [www.hei.com](http://www.hei.com).

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