



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Maui Electric partners with local businesses to save money, stabilize the grid and use more renewable energy

KAHULUI, Aug. 6, 2018 – Maui Electric Company, in partnership with commercial and industrial customers, this month filled the current capacity of its expanded Fast Demand Response program. The program is designed to help participating businesses save on their electric bills while they help the company maintain stability on the electric grid and use more renewable resources.

Last July, the Public Utilities Commission approved Maui Electric’s proposal to expand its pilot Fast DR program that incentivizes large commercial customers through bill credits for designating loads that can be removed from the grid during critical energy situations with 10 minutes or less notice. Participants work with technical coordinators to identify customer-sited resources such as back-up generators, behind-the-meter batteries and load curtailment to use in these situations.

Fast Demand Response is designed to keep the grid stable and prevent outages if there is not enough generation to meet demand, including when output drops from intermittent renewables such as solar and wind, by quickly reducing energy use until additional generation is brought online. Temporarily postponing the need to increase conventional generation helps reduce costs and dependence on imported oil. Additionally, it can be used in emergencies if there is not enough electricity generation to meet demand.

Maui Electric requested the expansion from 0.2 to 5 megawatts to make up for back-up power reserves lost when Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company closed in December 2016. With customers now volunteered for the full 5 MW, specialized demand response equipment is being installed at 24 participating sites on Maui.

“Thanks to our partners, we’re excited to get started on this phase of our Fast DR program,” said Sharon Suzuki, president of Maui Electric. “This is part of our overall plan to ensure we continue to provide reliable power to the community, add more renewable energy to our island’s power grid, and offer another way for customers to manage their electricity costs.”

Fast DR partners receive monthly credits of \$5 per kilowatt enrolled and \$0.50 per kilowatt-hour actually implemented. A minimum of 50 kW of predesignated electric reductions was required for participation, with a cap of 40 event hours per year.

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Fast DR partners include the County of Maui, Fairmont Kea Lani, Honua Kai Resort & Spa, Hyatt Regency Maui Resort & Spa, Marriott Residence Inn Wailea, Sysco Hawaii, the University of Hawai'i Maui College, and VIP Foodservice/Island Grocery Depot.

“The Fast Demand Response program has been a great opportunity for the County and Maui Electric to work together,” said Fred Redell, energy commissioner for the County of Maui. “While the County reduces its operating costs, Maui Electric is able to increase grid flexibility and manage peak loads in a cost-effective manner. It is clearly a win-win.”

Maui Electric will evaluate possible further DR expansion for more businesses.

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