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Hawaii ranked seventh in U.S. for solar energy



[Duane Shimogawa](#)

Reporter- *Pacific Business News*

[Email](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

Hawaii is the seventh-best state in the nation for solar energy, according to the [2012 annual report](#) released on Thursday by the solar industry trade group **Solar Energy Industries Association**.

Hawaii, which is ahead of states such as Texas, Colorado and Maryland, installed 108.7 megawatts of solar in 2012, enough to power up 37,000 homes. Hawaii moved up four spots from 2011's ranking.

The report also said that Hawaii gets a greater percentage of its electricity from solar than any other state.

Hawaii ranked third on the residential side and fifth in the non-residential segment in 2012. This year, Hawaii is forecasted to finish second in residential and fifth in non-residential.

In 2012, the U.S. solar industry installed 3.3 gigawatts of solar capacity, growing 76 percent over 2011's total.

The report said that even with the cost of solar falling for consumers, the market size of the U.S. solar industry grew 34 percent from \$8.6 billion in 2011 to \$11.5 billion in 2012, not counting billions of dollars in other economic benefits across states and communities.

As of the end of 2012, there were 7,221 megawatts of solar photovoltaic energy and 546 megawatts of concentrating solar power online in the United States, enough to power 1.2 million homes.

California, the top solar state, became the first state to install more than 1,000 megawatts in one year.

Duane Shimogawa covers energy, real estate and economic development for Pacific Business News.