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HONOLULU RANKS FIRST IN THE NATION FOR SOLAR INSTALLATION

HONOLULU — On a per-capita basis, Honolulu is the leading solar city in the nation according to the *Shining Cities: At the Forefront of America's Solar Energy Revolution* report by Environment America Research and Policy Center.

The report highlights progress on solar and looks at principal cities in the largest metropolitan areas in the United States. Coined in the report as a “Solar Star,” Honolulu ranks number one with 91 megawatts of installed solar photovoltaic (PV) capacity per person.

“This distinction is recognition that Hawaii is on track to meeting our energy goals and taking control of the economic drain from our reliance on imported oil,” said Gov. Neil Abercrombie. “Our state is at the forefront of our energy transformation to a clean energy future and my administration remains committed to establishing a clean energy economy for the people of Hawaii.”

The report also ranked Honolulu as fifth in the top 20 solar cities by cumulative installed solar PV capacity. The report found there is more than 200 times as much solar PV capacity installed in the U.S. today compared to 2002, much of that in America's cities. The top 20 cities account

(more)

for 7 percent of the installed photovoltaic solar, while occupying only 0.1 percent of the land area.

“The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) has long understood the potential to significantly increase the state’s amount of renewable energy,” said Richard Lim, director of DBEDT. “As Hawaii emerges as a global clean energy leader, this national ranking demonstrates how renewable energy generation has significant impact on our mandated renewable energy goals.”

With the popularity of solar, there is a growing awareness of solar power as a mainstream energy solution with widespread economic and environmental benefits. The Hawaii State Energy Office supports such energy solutions by providing technical assistance, permitting tools, and local connections to accelerate energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives.

“The Hawaii State Energy Office continues to stimulate Hawaii’s clean energy market with our innovative policies and deployment strategies,” said State Energy Administrator Mark Glick. “These rankings prove our commitment to increasing renewable penetration and reducing energy consumption.”

The *Shining Cities: At the Forefront of America’s Solar Energy Revolution* report can be found at www.environmentamerica.org/sites/environment/files/reports/EA_shining_cities_scrn_0.pdf

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*The **Hawaii State Energy Office** is leading the state’s charge toward clean energy independence. With a goal to meet and exceed Hawaii’s 70 percent clean energy targets by 2030, the State Energy Office is committed to developing and deploying high impact solutions that will maximize Hawaii’s renewable energy resources and improve efficiency and transportation standards. Through effective policies and innovative programs, the State Energy Office has positioned Hawaii as a leading proving ground for clean energy innovation, which will generate quality jobs, attract investment opportunities and accelerate economic growth. The State Energy Office is a division of the state’s Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism. For more information, visit www.energy.hawaii.gov.*

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