



**Hawai'i
Electric
Light**

NEWS RELEASE

NELHA, County of Hawai'i, and Hawai'i Electric Light Jump into Energy Storage Race

HILO, February 13, 2014 – The state, County of Hawai'i, and Hawai'i Electric Light Company today announced a strategic partnership to share resources and attract companies interested in testing and evaluating pre-commercial energy storage units at the Hawaii Ocean Science and Technology (HOST) Park in Kailua-Kona, managed by the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority (NELHA).

"This strategic partnership highlights NELHA's value to our state as a test-bed for new technologies and driver of innovation and economic development," said Gov. Abercrombie, who last month released more than \$13 million for capital improvements at NELHA facilities.

"With the significant cost reduction in clean energy generation over the years, some consider lower cost energy storage to be the 'missing link' and one of the most challenging elements in the design and function of a clean energy microgrid," said NELHA Executive Director Gregory Barbour.

Energy storage is a rapidly evolving market and offers significant potential for future growth as microgrids require higher degrees of reliability and power quality, sophisticated generation-load balancing.

According to some reports, the worldwide market for energy storage systems for wind and solar will grow from less than \$150 million annually in 2013 to \$10.3 billion by 2023 and an installed capacity of projected to total 21.8 GW.

"The good news is that we have already developed the necessary infrastructure to allow for the 'real-world' grid connected standardized testing and validation of energy storage devices at HOST Park," Barbour said. "NELHA plans to offer low-cost outdoor and indoor sites for testing, up to 30kW of power, power sensors, and real-time monitoring data of energy storage devices at no additional cost."

"Hawaii Island offers an ideal opportunity to develop technologies that will allow more cost-effective, sustainable energy solutions to benefit our residents," said Mayor Billy Kenoi.

(more)

“Our mission is to provide secure, clean energy for Hawai'i,” said Hawai'i Electric Light President Jay Ignacio. “There are great opportunities in energy storage to increase clean energy, support reliability and ultimately lower costs for customers. This partnership will help our efforts to identify economic and reliable energy storage options that support our mission.”

Added Barbour, “Efforts like these are providing a backbone that NELHA can build out further in the coming years and greatly assist in making the critical seawater system more cost efficient for businesses at HOST Park.”

About Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority

NELHA administers the world's premier energy and ocean technology park. This unique master-permitted park is located on 870 acres of prime coastal property in Kailua-Kona Hawaii and offers research support facilities for the development of renewable energy and other demonstration projects that utilize the unique resources found at the park. It is the world's only facility that continually brings ashore high quality, pristine supplies of both warm surface and cold deep seawater 24 hours a day which allows for various tests to take place with views to reap economic potentials from the dual temperature seawater delivery system and high solar insolation. Tenants located in HOST Park work at the pre-commercial, commercial, research and educational levels. It is the largest diversified economic development project in the State and is solely focused on developing green economic projects. More information on NELHA can be found at www.nelha.org.

About Hawai'i Electric Light Company

For more than 100 years, Hawaiian Electric Company has provided the energy that has fueled the islands' development from a Hawaiian kingdom to a modern state. Hawaiian Electric Company and its subsidiaries, Hawai'i Electric Light Company and Maui Electric Company, serve 450,000 customers on the islands of Oahu, Hawai'i, Maui, Lanai and Molokai, home to 95 percent of Hawai'i's 1.4 million people. Hawaiian Electric Company is a subsidiary of Hawaiian Electric Industries (NYSE: HE). For more information, visit www.hawaiielectriclight.com.

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