



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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March 31, 2020

Statement from Hawaii State Energy Office on COVID-19 Emergency

On March 2, 2020, the Hawaii State Energy Office activated its emergency procedures in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. As the primary and coordinating agency for State Emergency Support Function #12 (Energy), our office coordinates interagency support for response to emergency incidents impacting Hawaii's energy supplies and distribution, including coordination with the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and other government entities. HSEO is closely monitoring the impact of the COVID-19 virus on essential fuel and power suppliers and utility services to support their efforts to maintain energy and fuel supplies to Hawaii residents. At this time Hawaii continues to have sufficient supply to meet our energy needs.

Under our emergency operations plan and in coordination with other agencies and companies, we are able to provide uninterrupted support for our vital energy sector. While we have transitioned to teleworking, our staff continue to provide all essential services including solar water heater variances and payment of bills to support our businesses. We regularly check the HSEO email (dbedt.energyoffice@hawaii.gov), answer calls during business hours, and respond to voicemails left on our main phone line, 808-587-3807.

One of HSEO's duties under [HRS 196-72](#) is to develop and recommend programs for energy assurance and energy resilience. As such, we are a clearinghouse for all energy-related information in the state. This is vitally important during a state of emergency whether it is a natural disaster or a pandemic. In order to support the smooth operation of our state's energy sector during the mandatory shelter in place order, HSEO is working with its partners to ensure all essential energy and fuel infrastructure workers in Hawaii are able to carry out their duties safely and efficiently. We are regularly updating our website (<http://energy.hawaii.gov/>) and social media accounts (Twitter: @EnergyHawaiiGov & Facebook: @HawaiiStateEnergyOffice) with federal and state guidance and energy sector announcements.

While fully engaging in the State's COVID-19 response, we are moving forward on our recently expanded mission under Act 122 (2019) to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation to help achieve a resilient, clean energy, decarbonized economy. Toward this end, we are developing policies and programs to achieve our energy and climate change goals while identifying strategies that create jobs, lower costs, and improve quality of life in Hawaii.