



Committed to the future of rural communities.

Hawaii - Rural Utilities Services

Alternative Energy

KIUC Powering the Future of Kauai

Outline of Need:

Kauai's remote geography presents both unique opportunities and challenges in meeting its energy requirements. The need to wisely manage the island's energy resources is key to ensuring the success of the infrastructure of this rural community.

How Rural Development Helped:

Rural Development Rural Utilities Services Program provided a \$110 million guaranteed loan commitment for improvements to their system (generation, distribution and transmission).

Kauai Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC) is the primary source of electricity for the Island of Kauai. KIUC provides energy sources via multi-tiered initiatives gearing towards increased energy self-reliance from renewable sources. KIUC is implementing a 15-year plan that they expect will provide 50% of power supplied from renewable resources by 2023, but are optimistic they can reach that goal much sooner.

The End Result:

Kauai's natural resources offers a multitude of opportunities for renewable energy including; solar, hydro-electric and biomass fuels. KIUC is currently more than



KIUC's Solar Farm in Kapa'a, Kauai County

doubling their solar production by adding a second solar facility in Poipu located in South Kauai. KIUC is also hoping to expand their existing hydro-electric power production to include an additional six facilities which would power at least 20% of the island's energy needs. Kauai's tropical weather and resulting prolific vegetation creates an ideal climate for production of biomass fuels. KIUC recently initiated a biomass production plan anticipated to serve the energy needs of 8,500 households.

Rural Development working together with KIUC is helping the Island of Kauai to lower and stabilize the cost of electricity by providing a diversity of, locally produced, clean energy production facilities from renewable sources. These efforts are ultimately anticipated to increase Kauai's energy independence, and reduce the need and associated price risk from shipping fossil fuels from foreign sources.

FAST FACTS

Program: Rural Utilities Services

Investment: \$110 Million Guaranteed Loan

Partners: KIUC, USDA - Rural Development

Demographics

Kapa'a, Kauai County

Rural Island Population - 9,472

Impact:

• 32,000 Housing & Commercial Units Served

April 2011