



Hawai'i Energy

## The EmPOWER Hawai'i Project

*Equipping local nonprofits with tools to reduce their operating costs.*

### About the Program

Nonprofits in Hawai'i address community needs in many market sectors, from food sustainability to childcare. Many have limited budgets and struggle with high operating costs that affect their ability to provide high-quality services. Hawai'i Energy has found that this situation often creates pressure to reduce costs quickly and when combined with limited knowledge of energy-saving options, many nonprofit decision-makers often do not consider energy efficiency as a viable option, when it is often a crucial, foundational step. Now more than ever, in consideration of the current pandemic and economic hardships that so many nonprofits are facing, Hawai'i Energy wants to be available as an ally to the nonprofit community.

### How it Works

Hawai'i Energy will select up to ten (10) qualified organizations to participate in this year's cohort. Upon selection, Hawai'i Energy will work with participants to identify opportunities for energy-saving projects and take them through the steps of executing a project from start to finish. Participants will receive technical assistance from the Hawai'i Energy team and connections to contractors – all while learning the benefits of energy efficiency and tips & tricks to use in years to come. Trainings are conducted in a group, where your team will learn and share experiences with participants from other organizations. We will start the program by conducting trainings remotely rather than in-person. As the cohort continues, we can re-evaluate in order to ensure safety for all participants

### Who Is Eligible?

Participating organizations must:

- Possess tax-exempt 501(c)(3) status.
- Have the authority to make capital improvements at their facility, or in best cases, own the facility.
- Be in operation for at least 3 years.
- Demonstrate ability to provide high-quality services and community impact
- Designate two (2) "champions" at your organization to serve as points of contact throughout the program, attend sessions, and keep the rest of your team updated as needed throughout the project.
- Be willing to commit at least 20 hours of time over the next year to attending sessions, accompanying Hawai'i Energy staff and contractors remotely and for site visits and making arrangements/decisions with Hawai'i Energy contractors.

*While it is not a mandatory criteria point, preference may be given to organizations that have never participated with or received a rebate from Hawai'i Energy before.*

## Program Schedule\*

The program will take place over approximately 10-12 months from application to project completion.

October	Application period opens
Late November	Announcement of selected organizations Hawai'i Energy initial program survey
December	Session #1: Introductions, Electricity Bill Review, Efficiency vs. Renewable Energy, Navigating the Hawai'i Energy Website
February	Session #2: Understanding Your Data, Contractor 101 Contractor site visits and proposal submissions to follow
April	Session #3: Reviewing Your Proposals, Pitching to Leadership
July	Session #4 Project Updates & Check-in. Encouraging Energy Efficiency in your facility
September/October	Project completion (expected)
October	Final Session: Wrap-up and Graduation
October – November	Hawai'i Energy post-project inspections and bill analysis

*\*schedule may change slightly base on project and participant needs*

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### How many nonprofits are participating in the EmPOWER Hawai'i Project?

Hawai'i Energy has selected ten (10) qualified organizations to participate in Cohort 3.

### What types of projects are the nonprofits looking to complete?

Projects may include lighting, HVAC, controls, refrigeration and commercial kitchen equipment upgrades amongst other energy efficient measures.

### Do I need to be a Clean Energy Ally to participate?

Yes, but it's easy to sign up if you aren't currently a Clean Energy Ally! Along with being able to participate in the EmPOWER Hawai'i Project, Clean Energy Allies will be listed in Hawai'i Energy's online vendor directory, receive first notice and subsidies for professional sales & technical trainings, are eligible to apply for financial assistance for events or advertising, and have access to technical assistance from our energy advisors.

To apply to become a Clean Energy Ally, please visit:

<https://www.amplifyincentives.com/HawaiiCEA/Account/Register>

If you have questions about the Clean Energy Ally program please contact Desiree Sumaoang at [desiree.sumaoang@leidos.com](mailto:desiree.sumaoang@leidos.com).

### **Do I need to provide retrofits for free?**

Not at all. Hawai'i Energy will provide guidance to nonprofits on the most cost-effective options for their facilities, factoring in general costs and how much money they can expect to see in savings each month. In addition, Hawai'i Energy will also provide elevated incentives for contractors to keep their proposal amounts as low as possible. In some cases, we have seen contractors opt to provide the retrofits for nonprofits for free or lower their labor costs, but you are not required to do so. The nonprofits will also have a limited budget available for capital upgrades, so they will review each contractor's proposal and make the best choice based on the copy and scope of work presented.

### **Is this available for nonprofits on neighbor islands?**

New for our 2021 cohort, we will be offering this program to nonprofits on neighbor islands as well! The Nonprofits must be located in Hawai'i, Honolulu, or Maui counties.

### **I know of a nonprofit that needs assistance. What can they do?**

Have your nonprofit contact Giuls Kunkel at [gkunkel@veic.org](mailto:gkunkel@veic.org). We'll determine how best to support them, which will either mean putting them on our waiting list for the next EmPOWER cohort, or serving them through the standard Hawai'i Energy programs.

### **What does the project timeline look like?**

Hawai'i Energy will work with participants to best identify energy savings needs and to identify project types (e.g. lighting, HVAC, etc.). Hawai'i Energy will be contacting Clean Energy Allies for your interest in submitting proposals to the nonprofits. Proposals will need to be completed by April 16, 2021.

**Please contact us if your question isn't here: [gkunkel@veic.org](mailto:gkunkel@veic.org)**