



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The EmPOWER Grant provides funding for energy efficiency improvements for Hawai'i small businesses and charitable organizations. These projects are reducing energy use at participants' facilities, improving their resilience, and ultimately, reducing their operating costs.

Hawai'i Energy is offering eligible small businesses and 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations a **reimbursement** of up to \$10,000* for an energy-efficient equipment upgrade. Applicants must apply for specific project that qualifies for a Hawai'i Energy commercial incentive on the EmPOWER Grant Eligible Equipment Types list.

IMPORTANT PROGRAM INFORMATION

- All qualified applicants may apply for one EMPOWER Grant per program cycle. Applicants may submit a second application for the same facility if the second application is accompanied by a verifiable referral to Hawai'i Energy of a contact at an organization which has not yet applied to this year's EmPOWER Grant program.
- Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until Hawai'i Energy publishes a closing date on our website at hawaiienergy.com/grant.
- All applications will be reviewed and processed on a first-come, first-served basis. EmPOWER Grants will be offered to applicants with complete, qualified project applications on a first-come, first-served basis until program funding is exhausted.
- If awarded, the **EmPOWER Grants will be paid as a reimbursement after the project is completed.**
- Applying for an EmPOWER Grant does not guarantee grant funding will be offered. Applicants DO NOT need to purchase equipment prior to applying for an EmPOWER grant.
- Applicants that are not awarded an EmPOWER Grant may still be eligible for rebates for the energy efficiency project submitted in their application. Hawai'i Energy will notify the applicant if this applies.

HOW TO APPLY

Incomplete applications will not be considered. Applications will be accepted while funding lasts, and the program may close the application window at any time without notice.

1. Review this document for program rules and eligibility. If you have questions, please contact Melissa Onishi at HE-Grants@Leidos.com or your Energy Advisor.
2. Gather quotes for your project from [Clean Energy Ally contractors](#).
3. **Email the following application package attachments to HE-Grants@Leidos.com as soon as possible. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until otherwise announced by Hawai'i Energy on our website at hawaiienergy.com/grant.**
 - **EmPOWER Grant Application:** Complete the fillable form pages in this document.
 - **Hawai'i Energy [Commercial Incentive Application](#)**
 - **[IRS Form W-9](#):** The most up-to-date form available from the IRS must be signed and dated in the current calendar year.
 - **Photos of existing equipment:** A photo of the nameplate and a photo of the equipment in the space it is serving are recommended.
 - **Itemized quote [from a Clean Energy Ally](#):** It is recommended to obtain multiple quotes.
 - **Proposed equipment specification sheets or submittals:** This can be provided by your selected Clean Energy Ally.
 - **For 501(c)3 organizations only: IRS 501(c)3 Determination Letter**



ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the EmPOWER Grant, the applicant must fulfill the following requirements:

1. **Applicant is a commercial rate schedule account holder of an electric utility on the island of Hawai'i, Lana'i, Maui, Moloka'i, or O'ahu where the equipment is being installed.** If your business name is not listed as the HECO account holder, you must apply through the entity listed on the HECO account for your facility.
2. **Applicant falls into ONE of the following categories:**
 - Small business with electric rate Schedule G
 - Small business receiving electric service under a commercial rate schedule with demand less than or equal to 30 kilowatts (kW) per month
 - Small business with less than 5,000 sq. ft. facility
 - Restaurant that is:
 - Privately owned, owner-operated, and a non-chain establishment;
 - Independently owned by Hawai'i residents, and explicitly not owned or operated by a national hospitality company or publicly traded corporation;
 - Or operated as an independently owned business located inside a hotel or resort.
 - 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization
3. **Applicant is seeking reimbursement to replace aging equipment with a qualified energy-efficient option that meets the following requirements:**
 - The equipment type is listed here hawaiienergy.com/empower-grant and meets Hawai'i Energy's efficiency requirements.
 - Equipment is new.
 - Reimbursement request covers costs for:
 - Parts, accessories, and other materials necessary for installation of qualified equipment;
 - Labor for old equipment removal, site preparation, and installation of energy efficiency measure(s);
 - Shipping costs for equipment and materials;
 - Taxes for the above items.
 - Equipment is purchased on or after August 5, 2026. Purchases made outside of this window may be considered on a case-by-case basis with pre-approval from Hawai'i Energy.

The following entities are not eligible:

- Businesses with a residential, or Schedule R, electric utility account. This includes home-based businesses.
- Businesses on the island of Kaua'i.
- Entities that are off the grid.
- Food establishments that are owned, managed or financially controlled by hotels or resorts.

The following expenses are not eligible:

- Equipment that does not qualify for a Hawai'i Energy incentive or is not listed on the EmPOWER Grant Eligible Equipment list.
- Used equipment.
- Administrative fees.
- Electric vehicle charging stations.
- Solar PV systems or panels.
- Battery storage.

"LET'S TALK! TIER"

If an eligible facility has an idea for an energy efficiency project that does not fit immediately into the standard tiers detailed on the EmPOWER Grant Eligible Equipment Types list, email HE-Grants@Leidos.com with your project scope. A limited number of larger grants will be available to projects meeting an energy savings threshold determined by Hawai'i Energy. Each application will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.



GRANT AMOUNT

EmPOWER Grant reimbursement is up to \$10,000* depending on equipment type. Applicants also receive the applicable Hawai'i Energy rebate in addition to the EmPOWER Grant reimbursement. The total reimbursement cannot be greater than the total project cost.

*Please see Hawai'i Energy's list of EmPOWER Grant Eligible Equipment Types and potential grant funding available for each equipment type at hawaiienergy.com/grant

Grant Tier	Maximum Grant	
	Honolulu County	Maui & Hawai'i County
1	\$500	\$750
2	\$1,500	\$2,250
3	\$3,000	\$4,500
4	\$4,000	\$6,000
5	\$6,000	\$9,000
Let's Talk!	\$10,000	\$15,000

APPLICATION REVIEW CRITERIA

- Application forms are complete.
- Project demonstrates potential for energy savings.
- Applicants demonstrate ability to cover costs through completion prior to receiving reimbursement through this program.
- Unless otherwise noted by Hawai'i Energy (e.g. demonstrated impact from the wildfires on Maui or the Kona Low storm), applicant has provided information and pictures of existing equipment to be replaced.

SURVEY

Applicants who are awarded an EmPOWER Grant will be emailed a survey after their project is reimbursed.

EMPOWER GRANT PROGRAM TERMS & CONDITIONS

- Hawai'i Energy reserves the right to accept or reject any and all applications.
- Funding is not guaranteed.
- Organizations are limited to two applications per facility given the second application is accompanied by a verifiable referral to Hawai'i Energy of a contact at an organization which has not yet applied to this year's EmPOWER Grant program.
- Applicants may apply for one grant per energy efficiency project. Grants cannot be combined.
- Projects that are not approved for an EmPOWER Grant may be directed to other Hawai'i Energy programs.
- Applicant must submit to Hawai'i Energy the IRS Form W-9 with their application for processing of the IRS Form 1099 (most current version from IRS website and dated in the current year). It is understood that Hawai'i Energy may forward a copy of the IRS Form 1099 to the applicant at the end of the calendar year, should IRS Form 1099 apply.

TIMELINE

Key Activity	Timeline
Applications open	August 5, 2026
Applications due	As soon as possible to ensure consideration while program funding remains available.
Award letters sent electronically	On an ongoing basis as Hawai'i Energy completes review and processing of applications
Projects must complete installation and submit final documentation	June 5, 2027
Reimbursement check mailed	6-8 weeks from final document submission
Final survey	Survey is emailed a few weeks after reimbursement and is to be completed upon receipt.



ORGANIZATION DETAILS

Business/Organization Name:

Is this your first ☐ or second ☐ EmPOWER Grant application?

Help another local business! For second applications, please refer a friend or colleague from a different eligible business who would benefit from the program

Organization/Business Name:

Contact Person:

Email:

Phone:

Check all that apply to your business:

- ☐ 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization
- ☐ Business with HECO rate Schedule G
- ☐ Business with HECO rate Schedule J with demand $\leq$ 30 kilowatts (kW) per month
- ☐ Business with facilities $\leq$ 5,000 square feet
- ☐ Restaurant that is independently owned, an owner-operated non-chain, or a local chain/franchise owned entirely by Hawai'i residents.

Provide a brief description of what your business/organization does and your mission statement.

Provide a general description of your customers or clients and an estimate of how many people you reach with your goods or services each year.

How are current economic conditions such as costs of goods, cost of labor, supply chain, or tariffs affecting your business decisions and utility bills? Please describe any facility improvements your organization has hoped to do but postponed due to budget constraints.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Estimated Project Costs:

Are you able to cover or obtain financing for the upfront costs of this project?

The grant funds are awarded as a reimbursement of project costs after installation.

☐ YES

☐ NO

Provide a description of your project and what the funds will be used for:

Month and Year of Anticipated Project Completion

Projects must be completed by June 5, 2027.

Provide details about the existing equipment being upgraded as part of this application. Please provide the make, model, and approximate age of the existing equipment. Attach photos of the existing equipment nameplate and the space served by the equipment in your application package.

We have reviewed this application and acknowledge that the information provided is accurate to the best of our knowledge. We authorize Hawai'i Energy to use this information to determine our business/organization's eligibility for the EmPOWER Grant program and to contact us for further questions and clarifications if necessary. We understand that while our participation in the EmPOWER Grant program includes receiving financial assistance from Hawai'i Energy, it does not guarantee that we will receive any products, equipment or labor for free.

Person preparing application:	Executive Director/CEO/President (if different):
Name:	Name:
Title:	Title:
Organization:	Organization:
Signature:	Signature:
Date:	Date: