



## News Release

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### **HAWAI'I ENERGY AWARDS OVER \$1,000,000 IN ENERGY RELIEF GRANTS TO 251 LOCAL NONPROFITS AND SMALL BUSINESSES**

**Honolulu, Hawai'i** – [Hawai'i Energy](#) announced today that it has awarded over \$1,000,000 in funding to 251 nonprofits and small businesses in O'ahu, Maui and Hawai'i counties, through its Energy Relief Grant program. Hawai'i Energy launched the program in August 2020 to help fund energy efficiency improvements for nonprofits, small businesses and other qualifying organizations experiencing economic loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We recognize the hardships that many local businesses and nonprofits are facing during these unprecedented times," said Brian Kealoha, executive director of Hawai'i Energy. "With the funds provided through the Energy Relief Grant program, business owners will have the resources to reduce energy costs by \$2,800 annually, on average, and pivot these savings to other business costs. I am excited to share that everyone who applied for a grant received at least a portion of the funding they requested. Additionally, many contractors are small businesses too, so this grant also helps generate business for them to keep them afloat during this tumultuous time. It is one of the reasons Hawai'i is one of the few states that saw clean energy job growth during the pandemic."

Energy Relief Grants were awarded in two rounds, and each recipient was awarded up to \$25,000 in grants. Businesses may use the funding to cover eligible energy efficiency projects including, but not limited to, upgrades to inefficient air conditioning units, lighting retrofits, commercial kitchen equipment and solar water heaters. The funding may also be used to cover eligible expenses for the projects, such as parts, accessories, and other materials necessary for installation, labor for removal of equipment, site preparations and installation, and shipping costs.

"We are very appreciative of Hawai'i Energy's assistance in getting us fitted with LEDs. This was planned from 2009 when our lab was under construction," said Blake Vance, assistant director of Hawaii Agriculture Research Center. "However, cost overruns, change orders, and just the cost of LEDs at that time prevented us from installing them. Now that this milestone has been reached, these savings will help us to fulfill our mission of supporting a viable agricultural sector in Hawai'i."

"We had to close our shops during the two stay-at-home orders and even when open, our sales have been down," said Chris Chan, owner of Jewel or Juice. "We're very thankful that Hawai'i Energy awarded the Energy Relief Grant to our business during this difficult time. It means a lot to us. This has helped us to keep our business stay open and continue to provide jobs for our employees."

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Energy Relief Grants were awarded to 165 businesses on O'ahu, 31 businesses in Maui county and 55 businesses on Hawai'i Island. For a full list of recipients and for more information about the Energy Relief Grant program, please visit [Hawaii Energy's website](#).

**ABOUT HAWAI'I ENERGY**

Hawai'i Energy helps island families and businesses make smart energy choices. We encourage and reward energy decisions that will allow our state to reach 100% clean energy faster and cheaper. To date, we have saved the people of Hawai'i more than a billion dollars off their energy bills. Let Hawai'i Energy be your trusted energy advisor to help save you money and protect what makes Hawai'i so special. For more information, please visit [hawaiienergy.com/about](http://hawaiienergy.com/about).

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