



EmPOWER GRANT INFORMATION & APPLICATION

OVERVIEW

Building on the success of the last five years of this program, the EmPOWER Grant provides funding for energy efficiency improvements for Hawai'i small businesses and nonprofits. These projects are reducing energy use at participants' facilities, improving their resilience, and ultimately, reducing their operating costs.

Hawai'i Energy is offering small businesses and 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations a **reimbursement** of up to \$6,000* for an eligible energy efficiency like-for-like upgrade to existing equipment. Applicants must apply for specific project that qualifies for a Hawai'i Energy commercial incentive on the EmPOWER Grant Eligible Equipment Types list.

NEW FOR 2025-2026: Organizations are limited to two (2) applications per facility as long as 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 iteration of the EmPOWER Grant program.

All applications will be reviewed and processed on a first-come, first-served basis. EmPOWER Grants will be offered to applicants with complete, eligible, and qualified project applications on a first-come, first-served basis until program funding is exhausted.

If awarded, the EmPOWER Grant funds 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

1. Review the information in this document to ensure the applicant is eligible and that the project is qualified. If you have any questions, please reach out to Chester Carson at HE-Grants@Leidos.com or your Energy Advisor.
2. Gather quotes for your project from [Clean Energy Ally contractors](#).
3. **Complete and submit all of the required documents to Chester Carson by email at HE-Grants@Leidos.com as soon as possible to be considered for the EmPOWER Grant program.**
 - **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 complete with a signature and dated within 12 months.
 - **Itemized quote [from a Clean Energy Ally contractor](#):** It is recommended to obtain and review multiple quotes.
 - **Proposed equipment specification sheets or submittals:** This can be provided by your selected chosen Clean Energy Ally contractor.
 - **[For 501\(c\)3 organizations only: IRS 501\(c\)3 Determination Letter](#)**
4. Applications will be accepted, reviewed, and processed until funding is exhausted.

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



EmPOWER GRANT INFORMATION & APPLICATION

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

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

1. **Applicant must be 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 energy efficiency measure is being installed.** You must be a Hawaiian Electric customer with a commercial account to be eligible. 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 must fall 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
 - 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

The following entities are not eligible for the EmPOWER Grant:

- Businesses with a residential (Schedule R) electric utility account. This may include home-based businesses.
- Businesses on the island of Kaua'i
- Entities that are off the grid

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

A comprehensive list of eligible project types and is available at: <https://hawaiienergy.com/empower-grant>

- Eligible project expenses
 - New energy efficient equipment that qualifies for a Hawai'i Energy incentive. *For new appliances, Hawaii Energy must be able to verify the existing equipment being replaced*
 - Parts, accessories, and other materials necessary for installation
 - 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
- Ineligible projects and expenses
 - Equipment that does not qualify for a Hawai'i Energy incentive or is not listed on the EmPOWER Grant Eligible Equipment Types list
 - Used equipment
 - Items purchased before August 1, 2025
 - Administrative fees
 - Electric vehicle charging stations
 - Solar photovoltaic (PV) systems or panels

NEW FOR 2025-2026: the **“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 capped grants up to \$10,000 (\$15,000 for Maui County and Hawai'i County) will be available to projects meeting an energy savings threshold determined by Hawai'i Energy. Each application to Tier 6 will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.



EmPOWER GRANT INFORMATION & APPLICATION

GRANT AMOUNT

The total EmPOWER Grant reimbursement is up to \$6,000* depending on equipment type. The 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: <https://hawaiienergy.com/for-business/empower-grant>

Grant Tier	Maximum Grant Amount	
	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

- All application materials are filled out completely.
- Project demonstrates potential for energy savings.
- Applicant is able to demonstrate available funding to cover project 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), applicant has provided information and pictures of existing equipment to be upgraded.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Applicants who are awarded an EmPOWER Grant must complete a final survey after their project is completed. The survey must be completed within thirty (30) days of receiving the survey, which is provided by Hawai'i Energy after the reimbursement is issued.

EMPOWER GRANT PROGRAM TERMS & CONDITIONS

- Hawai'i Energy reserves the right to accept or reject any and all applications.
- Funding is not guaranteed.
- ***NEW FOR 2025-2026: Organizations are limited to two (2) applications per facility as long as 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 (1) grant per energy efficiency project. Grants cannot be combined.
- Applicants who are ineligible for a grant may participate in Hawai'i Energy's other energy efficiency programs, if applicable.
- Projects that are not approved for an EmPOWER Grant will be directed through the standard commercial incentive process.
- 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.



EmPOWER GRANT INFORMATION & APPLICATION

TIMELINE

Key Activity	Timeline
Applications open	August 1, 2025
Applications due	<i>As soon as possible to ensure consideration while program funding remains available</i>
Award letters sent electronically	<i>On an ongoing basis as Hawai'i Energy completes review and processing of applications</i>
Projects must complete installation and submit final documentation	June 1, 2026
Reimbursement check mailed	6-8 weeks from final document submission
Final survey due	Within thirty (30) days of receiving the survey, which is provided by Hawai'i Energy after the reimbursement is issued

EMPOWER GRANT APPLICATION

ORGANIZATION DETAILS	
Business/Organization Name:	
<p>Is this your first <input type="checkbox"/> or second <input type="checkbox"/> EmPOWER Grant application?</p> <p>If this is your second application, please provide a referral for another eligible organization or business that would benefit from this program.</p> <p>Organization/Business Name: Contact Person: Email: Phone:</p>	
<p>Check all that apply to your business:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization <input type="checkbox"/> Business with HECO rate Schedule G <input type="checkbox"/> Business with HECO rate Schedule J with demand ≤ 30 kilowatts (kW) per month <input type="checkbox"/> Business with facilities ≤ 5,000 square feet <input type="checkbox"/> Restaurant</p>	
<p>How did you hear about the EmPOWER Grant?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Hawai'i Energy staff member <input type="checkbox"/> Referred by someone within my company <input type="checkbox"/> Online search <input type="checkbox"/> Webinar</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> Contractor <input type="checkbox"/> Referred by another organization: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p>	



EmPOWER GRANT INFORMATION & APPLICATION

Please provide a brief overview of what your business/organization does and your mission statement, if applicable:

Does your business/organization serve any under resourced populations (e.g. low-income, geographically rural, or hard-to-reach)? Please provide a general description of your customers or clients and an estimate of how many people you reach with your goods/services each year.

How do energy costs typically factor into your business/organization's decision-making processes (short-term, long-term, not at all, etc.)? For example, if your organization's energy costs or ability to pay them is currently impacting operations, please tell us about that. Or, are there planned energy efficiency upgrades or retrofits your organization has hoped to do but has been unable to? If so, please elaborate.

Has your organization received a Hawai'i Energy rebate or grant in the last five (5) years?

YES NO

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Estimated Total Project Costs:

Are you able to cover or obtain financing for the costs of this project? The grant funds are awarded as a reimbursement of project costs after installation is completed and verified.

YES NO

Amount Requested from Hawai'i Energy (up to 100% of total project costs or up to \$6,000*, depending on equipment type, whichever is smaller):



Hawai'i Energy

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

When do you anticipate this project will be completed by if the grant is awarded? Projects must be completed by June 1, 2026. Please provide a month and year at minimum.



EmPOWER GRANT INFORMATION & APPLICATION

Provide photos and details about the existing equipment being upgraded as part of this application. Please provide the make, model, and approximate age of the existing equipment and photos. A photo of the existing equipment nameplate is recommended. Additional photos of the space served by the equipment are a plus. This information may be included with the application in separate attachment if additional space is required.



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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:

Name:

Title:

Company:

Signature:

Date:

Executive Director/CEO/President (if different):

Name:

Title:

Company:

Signature:

Date: