KIUC Achieves Milestones in 2018

Līhuʻe, Kauaʻi, HI – 12/13/2018 – KIUC has boosted its use of renewable energy resources, implemented member service enhancements and earned industry accolades over the course of the past year. Some key accomplishments from 2018 include:

- With a full twelve months of productivity from the Tesla solar-plus-storage facility, nearly 45 percent of KIUC’s fuel needs can be met from renewable sources, and up to 20 percent of evening peak demand can be powered with dispatchable solar.
- Renewable generation is reaching close to 99 percent during mid-day on most sunny days.
- By year’s end, the cooperative will be receiving power from a new solar-plus-storage facility in Lāwaʻi, operated by AES Distributed Energy, which will boost overall renewable generation capacity to nearly 60 percent, with up to 40 percent of evening peak powered by dispatchable solar.
- KIUC was recognized by the Smart Electric Power Alliance for having highest percentage of battery storage per-customer in the nation.
- Technology improvements continue: KIUC recently launched a new website featuring a publicly available outage map to keep members better informed during outages.
- Although the April flooding event was costly in terms of operations and repairs, KIUC’s status as a not-for-profit cooperative allows reimbursement of up to 75 percent of eligible costs from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.
- The Board of Directors retired $3.2 million in patronage capital credits to members in mid-2018.

President and Chief Executive Officer David Bissell noted that adding more renewables with favorable purchase power agreement pricing has helped stabilize rates. “When we became a cooperative in 2003, our rates were 78 percent higher than rates on Oahu,” Bissell said. “By the end of 2017 we’d closed that gap to 17 percent. This is a trend that we expect will continue over the next several years as we replace the volatility of diesel pricing with renewables at 11 cents per kilowatt hour or less.”

KIUC Board Chair Allan Smith says the cooperative is recognized around the world as a leader in innovation and transformation. “We could not achieve our goals without the effort of our dedicated workforce, the governance of a member-elected board of directors, effective partnerships with public and private entities, and the support of our elected officials,” he said, adding: “Our greatest strength is in our membership. We encourage you to stay involved with your cooperative and guide us to continued success in the future.”

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