

Construction for Anahola Service Center is Underway

Līhu'e, Kaua'i, HI – 12/02/2020 - Construction has begun on a facility that will serve as the hub of field operations for Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC) for the island's east side and north shore service area.

“Moving out of the current location in Kapa‘a has been a goal for several years,” said KIUC’s President and Chief Executive Officer, David Bissell. “The Anahola Service Center will help us better serve these areas in a facility that meets our operational needs, and also provides benefits for the community of Anahola.”

The Anahola Service Center will be built on 4.5 acres of land leased from the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL), adjacent to the KIUC substation serving the Anahola Solar Farm. In addition to providing more space than the Kapa‘a Service Center, the new facility will include a community meeting room that may be used by the beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act and the Anahola community at large.

“We appreciate the support from DHHL in relocating the service center to Anahola, as well as our continuing partnership with the Anahola Hawaiian Homestead Association and the Homestead Community Development Corporation,” said Bissell. “The Anahola Solar Farm has been a true collaboration that continues to benefit the community of Anahola and all of our cooperative members.”

Kaua‘i-based Cushnie Construction Co. has been awarded the bid for completion of site improvements. Award of the contract for building construction is expected to be announced shortly. “We’re so pleased that the work is staying on Kaua‘i during this time when our economy needs the boost,” said Bissell.

“We’ve been operating out of the current location in Kapa‘a for more than 60 years and it’s no longer able to meet our needs,” said KIUC’s Transmission and Distribution Manager, John Cox. The new center will serve as a staging area for T&D operations and will also house KIUC’s distribution planning team. The expanded site will serve as a storm preparation area and equipment depot for hurricane season. Cox notes that response times to outages on the north shore should improve when the impact of Kapa‘a traffic congestion is eliminated.

The Center will include the following features:

- 6,600 square feet of garage and workshop space
- 5,500 square feet of office space, which will include offices, storage, a utility room, an information technology room, a work-room for KIUC’s distribution planners, a work-room for KIUC’s line crew, and a community conference room
- 3,200 square feet for a materials and tools warehouse
- 44,000 square feet for a driveway and parking lot
- 24 employee parking stalls
- 24 guest and public parking stalls
- 6,400 square foot pole storage area

(more)

The community conference room will measure 20 feet by 50 feet in size. It will be available during regular business hours by advance scheduling and subject to KIUC policies. The community conference room will have a separate entry to ensure that the community will have access without interfering with KIUC's utility operations or compromising utility security, and will also include separate restrooms and a small kitchen, as well as video monitor and internet Wi-Fi capability. Tables and chairs will be included to accommodate seating for approximately 50 people.

The construction plans include installation of a new waterline along Kuhio Highway along with a fire hydrant to be located next to the building, enhancing firefighting capabilities in the immediate area surrounding. Traffic impacts will be mitigated via a 20-foot wide, double-lane entrance and exit from Kuhio Highway.

KIUC expects the project to cost approximately \$9 million, and for construction to be complete in the fourth quarter of 2021.

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A small group gathered in Anahola for the groundbreaking and blessing



L-R: Ralph Cushnie, David Bissell, Dennis Neves (Hawaiian Homes Commission), Robin Danner, Kahu Wayne Vidinha



The 12-megawatt Anahola Solar Field began operation in 2015