

KIUC Hosts CEO of National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Līhu'e, Kaua'i, HI – 08/15/2019 – The top executive for the nation's electric cooperative network paid his first visit to Kaua'i this week and toured several of Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative's facilities.

"KIUC's innovative accomplishments are a point of pride in the cooperative community," said Jim Matheson, Chief Executive Officer at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). "It's impressive to see how KIUC became a leader in the adoption of renewables and energy storage technology as it responds to evolving member expectations and geographic challenges."

During his visit, members of the KIUC Board of Directors and staff led Matheson on a tour of the AES Lāwa'i and Tesla solar plus storage facilities as well as the Kapaia Power Station, and provided a briefing on overall KIUC operations.

Matheson notes that, at 55% renewable generation, KIUC is a leader among the NRECA membership in the transition to more renewable power generation. Since 2010, co-op renewable energy capacity nationwide has increased 145% from 4 gigawatts to 9.7 gigawatts. On average, 1 gigawatt of electricity can power about 700,000 homes. More than 90% of electric co-ops operating in 48 states provide electricity generated by renewable energy resources.

"Each cooperative faces unique challenges and opportunities as it works to empower local communities to succeed," stated Matheson. "Cooperation among cooperatives, and the collaboration that takes place throughout the cooperative family, enables co-ops across the nation to learn from each other and succeed."

"We appreciate the opportunity to host Mr. Matheson and better acquaint him with KIUC," said David Bissell, KIUC's president and CEO. "Our collaboration with other co-ops and the highly skilled and experienced staff of NRECA brings tremendous value to our member-owners."

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association is the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56 percent of the nation's landscape. As local businesses built by the consumers they serve, electric cooperatives support more than 600,000 American jobs and invest \$12 billion annually in their communities.

KIUC became a cooperative in 2002, and is one of only two NRECA member co-ops that provide electric generation, transmission and distribution services.

(more)



A visit to the AES Lāwaʻi solar plus storage facility: L-R: KIUC Power Supply Manager Brad Rockwell, KIUC Director David Iha, NRECA CEO Jim Matheson, KIUC President and CEO David Bissell, KIUC Director Janet Kass, KIUC Director Phil Tachian



Directors Janet Kass and David Iha show Jim Matheson how sheep are used for vegetation management at the AES Lāwaʻi facility

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