

### KIUC Holds Annual Membership Meeting

*Līhu'e, Kaua'i, HI – 07/23/15* - Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC) reduced its use of imported oil by 2.5 million gallons over four years and cut greenhouse gas emissions by 9 percent, the president and chief executive officer of the cooperative said Thursday.

Speaking at the 13<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of cooperative members at Kaua'i Community College, David Bissell said the cooperative's increasing use of renewable resources to generate electricity is paying off with stable rates and lower carbon dioxide emissions.

By the end of 2015, 38 percent of the electricity used on Kaua'i will be generated by renewable resources, up from 9 percent in 2009, Bissell said.

Two solar arrays owned by KIUC, one in Kōloa and one in Anahola, will provide nearly half the electricity consumed on Kaua'i during the daylight hours.

Jan TenBruggencate, chairman of the KIUC board of directors, noted that the average residential electric bill was \$214 lower last year than the previous year, the result of greater energy efficiency and lower fuel costs.

TenBruggencate also said that KIUC returned \$2.1 million in patronage capital to its members for fiscal year 2014, an average of \$24 for each residential customer. Since 2003, the co-op has returned \$32.6 million in patronage capital and bill credits.

“That's money that stays on the island and does not end up in the pockets of some offshore shareholders,” he said.

(more)

Other highlights of the meeting:

- KIUC expects to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to below 1990 levels by 2020 if all of its renewable energy projects come online.
- KIUC's rates have risen more slowly than those on the other islands with an increase of 0.1 percent from 2008 to 2014. By comparison, rates on Oahu rose 28 percent over the same period.
- The number of photovoltaic systems on Kaua'i has risen from 378 in 2010 to 2,376 installed by the end of 2014.
- Residential energy use is at its lowest level since 1986. Residential customers who do not have rooftop solar used an average of 450 kilowatt hours a month through the first six months of 2015, down from 465 in 2014.
- KIUC is spending \$2.5 million a year on research and hazard mitigation for federally protected seabirds like the Newell's shearwater. That amount has risen 125 percent over the past 3 years, making KIUC the largest single funding source for research on endangered seabirds on Kaua'i.

Members who attended the meeting received three LED light bulbs worth \$20, a bag of rice and a dinner of chili and rice.

KIUC is a member-owned cooperative serving 33,000 customers on the island of Kaua'i.

Governed by a nine-member, elected board of directors, KIUC is one of 900 electric co-ops serving more than 42 million people in 47 states.

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