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The Queen's Medical Center inks deal with Honolulu Seawater Air Conditioning

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[Duane Shimogawa](#)

Reporter- *Pacific Business News*

[Email](#) | [Google+](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

The Queen's Medical Center, Hawaii's largest private hospital, has signed an agreement with **Honolulu Seawater Air Conditioning** LLC to utilize the long-planned \$250 million project that will cool Downtown Honolulu office buildings and condominium towers with cold water from the ocean, a spokesman for the hospital told PBN Tuesday.

Queen's, one of the state's largest employers, is the first nonprofit and certainly one of the more high-profile customers that signed up for the project, [which recently got a new majority owner](#) in eBay founder [Pierre Omidyar](#)'s Hawaii-based investment firm, Ulupono Initiative.

The Sweden-based deep-water cooling company, Capital Cooling, which has been serving as a management consultant as well as a \$500,000 co-investor with Ulupono Initiative on the project, is a partner in the endeavor.

"The Queen's Medical Center signed an agreement with Honolulu Seawater because of its potential benefits in energy reduction," Queen's spokesman [Cedric Yamanaka](#) told PBN in an email.

Employing 4,312 people and with 533 licensed beds, Queen's ranks at the top or a close second, respectively, in terms of the state's hospitals ranking, according to PBN research.

In 2001 and 2006, Queen's took HECO's [top energy awards](#) for energy efficiency projects it had done.

The 472,164-square-foot medical facility, which is located near Downtown Honolulu at 1301 Punchbowl St. on about 11 acres, joins the Prince Kuhio Federal Building, Remington College, First Hawaiian Center, **Hawaiian Electric** Co., One Waterfront Towers and Finance Factors as

customers that have signed up to use the project, whose reduction of electricity usage is the equivalent of a 30-megawatt wind farm or a 42-megawatt solar energy farm.

Some have even called the seawater air conditioning project one of the largest energy efficiency projects in Hawaii's history.

The system is designed to cool water to provide air conditioning to buildings in Downtown Honolulu by pumping deep ocean water through a pipeline more than four miles offshore to a cooling station in Kakaako.

The project is slated to start construction by Aug. 1, 2015, and be operational by the first quarter of 2017, [Eric Masutomi](#), president and CEO of Honolulu Seawater Air Conditioning, has said.

Duane Shimogawa covers energy, real estate and economic development for Pacific Business News.