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Customers cite both environmental, financial benefits from Seawater A/C

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Customers who have signed up so far for the **Honolulu Seawater Air Conditioning** system realize that it's not only good for the environment, but their pocketbooks as well.

The Alakea Corporate Tower, a condominium office building located at 1100 Alakea St., is one of the newer customers of HSWAC.

[Jim Cavanah](#), chairman of the board for the tower, previously told PBN that, in the end, it was a triple bottom line decision.

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- [Seawater A/C contractors stay on board despite facing long delays](#)

"The use of the HSWAC system not only makes sense from a financial and system reliability standpoint, but also allows our owners and tenants — most of whom are locally based businesses — to be part of an effort that, from an environmental standpoint, will also significantly contribute to the broader well-being of our island community," he said in an email to PBN.

The Queen's Medical Center, the state's largest private hospital, also recently signed up to use HSWAC, a big win for the project.

[Cedric Yamanaka](#), spokesman for Queen's, one of the state's largest employers and the first nonprofit to sign up for the project, told PBN that it decided to go this route because of its potential benefits in energy reduction.

Hawaiian Electric Co., which signed a contract in 2011 to service its four-story Richards Street office building in Downtown Honolulu, expects to reduce the building's energy use by 20 percent, according to spokesman [Peter Rosegg](#).

"We're still committed to supporting HSWAC as it completes its process," he said. "We're looking to get our building cooled by deep seawater. I think we will do whatever we can to support them whenever they come online."

In 2014, HSWAC signed up its first federal government customer with the Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse agreeing to use its seawater cooling system.

The 930,000-square-foot federal government office building and courthouse in Downtown Honolulu will become the first federal government building in the nation to use seawater for cooling.

The incorporation of seawater air conditioning into the \$121 million modernization and renovation already under way will help the GSA to meet its goal of reducing the building's energy consumption by 30 percent and attaining a silver designation under the **U.S. Green Building Council's** Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED program, officials said.

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

PATH OF THE PIPES

The seawater air-conditioning project will require construction crews to tunnel under Downtown Honolulu streets to install almost three miles of pipeline that will carry the cool water to the buildings and return slightly heated water to the heat exchanger.

SIGNED CUSTOMERS

1. Alakea Corporate Tower
2. Finance Factors Ltd.
3. First Hawaiian Center
4. Hawaiian Electric Co.
5. One Waterfront Towers
6. Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole Federal Building and Courthouse
7. The Queen's Medical Center

