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# Hawaii to use seawater to cool state office buildings in Honolulu

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The state of Hawaii on Tuesday said it reached a preliminary agreement with Honolulu Seawater Air Conditioning to cool seven state office buildings and the state Capitol, a move that could save taxpayers more than \$14 million a year.

Under the terms of the agreement, HSWAC will deliver chilled fresh water to air condition the eight state buildings in Downtown Honolulu. According to a statement from the department, the planned switch to chilled water will reduce state electricity consumption by more than 5.3 million kilowatt-hours each year.

Based on the latest figure from the Hawaii State Energy Office, which shows an electricity price of 26.53 cents per kilowatt-hour during June 2017, the switch could save taxpayers more than \$1.4 million annually.

Additionally, the state Department of Accounting and General Services said that potable water consumption is expected to drop by 11.4 million gallons per year and sewage discharge will be reduced by over 1.7 million gallons annually in buildings covered by the preliminary agreement.

“Using water largely chilled by the ocean instead of our own electric chillers for our air conditioning needs should result in significant environmental benefits at no



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The Hawaii state Department of Accounting and General Services on Tuesday said it reached a preliminary agreement with Honolulu Seawater Air Conditioning that will result in a significant reduction of energy use at state facilities.

additional cost to the taxpayer," state Comptroller Roderick Becker said in a statement.

The \$250 million Honolulu Seawater Air Conditioning project, which has been in the works for several years, has yet to start construction. According Cindy McMillan, Gov. David Ige's communications director, it will take HSWAC about two years to build out the infrastructure. The company anticipates to provide service in late 2020.

Investors in the project include Honolulu-based investment firm Ulupono Initiative, which was founded by eBay Inc. (Nasdaq: EBAY) founder Pierre Omidyar.

DAGS said it has been exploring ways to support the state's 100 percent renewable energy goals and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions at the direction of Gov. David Ige.

Hawaii remains the only U.S. state with a 100 percent clean energy goal. Ige signed the state's goal to generate 100 percent of its electricity from renewable resources by 2045 into law in 2015. Earlier this year, Hawaii became the first state to enact legislation that implements portions of the Paris climate agreement following President Donald Trump's announcement that the U.S. would withdraw from the non-binding

The eight buildings covered under the preliminary agreement are:

Keoni Ana (1170 Alakea St.)

Kalanimoku (1151 Punchbowl St.)

Keelikolani (830 Punchbowl St.)

Kinau Hale (1250 Punchbowl St.)

Leiopapa A Kamehameha (235 S Beretania St.)

Queen Liliuokalani (1390 Miller St.)

No. 1 Capitol District Building (250 South Hotel St.)

State Capitol (415 S. Beretania St.)

**HJ Mai**

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