

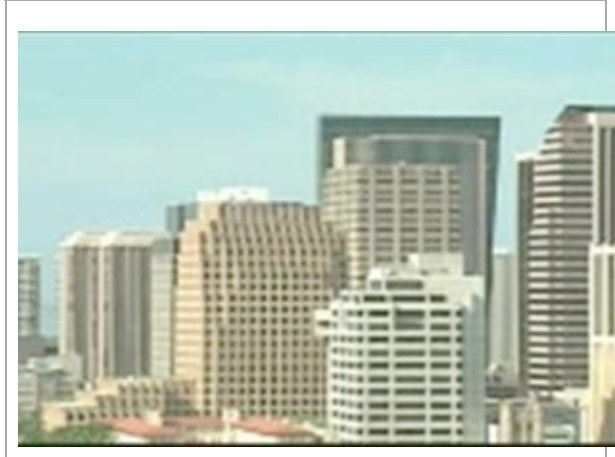
Honolulu Seawater Air Conditioning months away from breaking ground

Reported by: [Brienne Randle](#)

Email: brandle@khon2.com

Published: 9/01 9:34 pm

Updated: 9/01 9:49 pm



Hawaii is known for its year-round sun, but our warm climate has a price.

The state is one of the nation's largest per capita consumer of electricity, and air conditioning is a big part of that for downtown buildings. But off Kakaako waterfront park sits a nearly endless source that Honolulu Seawater Air Conditioning wants to tap to cool Honolulu's urban core.

"You might as well use the natural resources right outside your back door," says Scott Higa, Honolulu Seawater Air Conditioning.

His company is moving forward on a project to pump cool ocean water 4-miles off shore through pipes into a central station along Ala Moana boulevard, that will then chill freshwater to service downtown buildings. Heated sea water goes back into the ocean.

"This system saves over 75% of electricity that on-site conventional AC equipment uses," says Higa.

Higa says it will also eliminate the need for 178,000 barrels of oil per year. Honolulu Seawater Air Conditioning has already gotten several state permits to move forward, and is awaiting federal approval.

"I think anything that can bring costs down for people this day and age is great," says Dolores Mollring, Downtown resident.

"I think they should be completely evaluated, but after that if it's going to help the energy efficiency I think it's good," says Amy Brown, who works in Downtown.

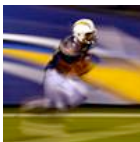
The Downtown Neighborhood Board was briefed with an update on the project Thursday. Including how the company plan to tunnel or trench the underground piping needed to get the cold water through downtown streets - without causing too much hassle to drivers.

"Mediations we are considering and planning for is to do most of our road work during the evening hours, so we avoid the peak daytime hour traffic," says Higa.

"Well when the rail comes it will be the same scenario so we're used to it here," says Mollring.

Construction is set for early next year, with the goal of bringing ocean air conditioning to buildings by 2013.

Top Photo Galleries



[NFL - Preseason](#)



[Around the World - Friday](#)



[Around the World - Thursday](#)



[U.S. Open](#)

