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Honolulu Seawater Air Conditioning signs 55-year lease for Kakaako parcel

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HONOLULU — A Hawaii company that plans to use seawater to air condition Honolulu office buildings has signed a lease for a lot it will use to operate a pumping station.

Honolulu Seawater Air Conditioning said Friday it will rent a parcel in Kakaako from Kamehameha Schools for 55 years.

The agreement allows Kamehameha Schools to build a parking structure above the pumping station in the future.

Construction is expected to begin early next year. Honolulu Seawater Air Conditioning plans to begin serving customers in 2013.

The company plans to suck 45-degree water from 1,800 feet deep, circulate frosty water into buildings' existing A/C systems and then dump it back into the sea.

The project has the potential to reduce the state's dependence on fossil fuels while slashing power bills.

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