# Project Abstract

**Project Title:** Climate Adaptation Resilience Program

**Applicant Name:** Hawaiian Electric

**Project Manager:** Rick Pinkerton, Director of Asset Planning & Strategy at Hawaiian Electric

Hawai'i faces a unique and diverse set of threats to its energy system including hurricanes, tsunamis, wildfire, and lava flows, the effects of which are amplified by the significant geographic remoteness and isolation of the islands. The central objective is to enable a transformation from Hawaiian Electric's current approach to resilience in order to drive system wide benefits and to particularly ensure that these benefits are being realized by the state's disadvantaged communities. To achieve this, Hawaiian Electric will need to develop a comprehensive approach to increase the system's ability to withstand and recover from severe climate driven events that includes upgrades to the system's existing infrastructure and enablement of future distributed energy resource (DER) and microgrid resilience solutions.

The proposed project is focused on transformative hardening of the T&D system against climate risks, to increase resilience for Hawai'i residents, critical community lifelines, and connected energy resources across the entirety of Hawaiian Electric's service territory.
The scope of the program consists of the following seven initiatives: (1) hardening critical transmission lines, (2) hardening and mitigating risks to critical overhead poles (e.g., highway crossings), (3) hardening circuits serving critical customers and community lifelines, (4) wildfire prevention and mitigation, (5) hazard tree removal, (6) undergrounding select overhead distribution lines, and (7) control center resiliency improvements.

Through this comprehensive approach, Hawaiian Electric expects to enable the following key benefits to become immediately recognized following the completion of the project

- Decreased likelihood of outages to critical customer facilities and community lifelines
- Decreased restoration times, resulting in fewer customers being out of power for extended periods of time, allowing for a faster economic and quality of life recovery
- Decreased risk of wildfire events caused by electric power lines and faster response times and mitigations if an event were to occur
- Increased grid operations resilience during both severe events and blue-sky conditions