



News Release

NELHA Approaches Completion of New Incubator Building

KAILUA-KONA – The Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority (NELHA) announced today that it expects to complete the renovation of its existing administration building into an alternative energy and biotechnology demonstration incubator by December 2015. The \$5.3M renovation was funded using U.S. Economic Development Administration, State of Hawaii and NELHA monies.

As our state strives to achieve energy security through renewable, clean sources, the progress being made by NELHA will help us achieve that goal,” said Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard. “Creating these innovation incubators in West Hawai’i will provide opportunities for entrepreneurs and innovators, promoting the research and use of renewable energy technology, stimulating the local economy, and providing job opportunities for years to come that will continue to benefit the next generation of leaders on Hawai’i Island.”

“This project is important for the diversification of West Hawaii and more broadly Hawaii State’s economy” said Governor Ige. He added “NELHA specializes in the demonstration of pre-commercial technologies in the areas of clean energy, marine sciences and sustainability. The alternative energy and biotechnology demonstration building will increase NELHA’s ability to accommodate new projects.”

“The idea of a technology hub for West Hawaii is much needed” added Representative Nicole Lowen. “The focus on sustainability especially in the fields of marine science and clean energy fits in very well with the community and the ability to provide additional avenues for place based training is tremendous” she said.

The building will provide approximately 10,000 square feet of leasable office space, and its amenities will include 2,400 square feet of multi-level collaboration and meeting space as well as a conference room that opens to an outdoor lanai with unsurpassed ocean views. The interior space will be cooled using NELHA’s unique deep seawater air conditioning.

“I am happy to hear that the building has generated much interest from companies established at NELHA as well as new companies. We have already received commitments for over 30% of the leasable space and are currently finalizing lease agreements for that space”, said NELHA Chief Marketing Officer, Laurence Sombardier. She added that “we have also received strong interest for several other projects for this incubator”, noting that the marketing of the building is just begun in earnest.

In addition to office and collaborative space, NELHA will offer convenient and “move-in-ready” outdoor space for small-scale technology demonstrations using NELHA’s seawater and environmental resources. NELHA has also partnered with the High Technology Development Corporation and Hawaii’s Small Business Development Center (SBDC) to provide business planning services for those projects locating at NELHA and West Hawaii. Both organizations will have on site presence in the incubator building.

“NELHA has already achieved annual economic impact in excess of \$120M through demonstrations of novel technologies and commercialization of the more promising ones. We believe the incubator will be an important step toward taking full advantage of everything NELHA has to offer and making it more accessible to innovative entrepreneurs”, said Cathy Wiltse, State Director for SBDC.

About NELHA: NELHA administers the world’s premier energy and ocean technology park. This unique master-permitted park is located on 870 acres of prime coastal property in Kailua-Kona Hawaii and offers research support facilities for the development of renewable energy and other demonstration projects that utilize the unique resources found at the park. It is the world’s only facility that continually brings ashore high quality, pristine supplies of both warm surface and cold deep seawater 24 hours a day which allows for various tests to take place with views to reap economic potentials from the dual temperature seawater delivery system and high solar insolation. Tenants located in HOST Park work at the pre-commercial, commercial, research and educational levels. It is the largest diversified economic development project in the State and is solely focused on developing green economic projects. More information on NELHA can be found at www.nelha.org.

For more information, contact:

Laurence Sombardier, NELHA Chief Marketing Officer, 808-327-9585, X244 or laurences@nelha.org

###