



Image: Kaua'i Islands Utilities Cooperative Solar Project on land leased from DHHL in Anahola, Kaua'i

Innovative Funding and the Ho'omalūō Energy Policy

While Act 279 provided critical capital, DHHL recognizes that one-time appropriations alone are insufficient to meet long-term needs. To support sustained housing delivery, the department is guided by its Ho'omalūō Energy Policy, adopted by the Hawaiian Homes Commission in 2009 following extensive beneficiary consultation.

The policy emphasizes:

- Mālama 'āina—respecting and protecting trust lands
- Facilitating diverse renewable energy resources
- Designing energy-efficient, self-sufficient homes and communities
- Reducing DHHL's carbon footprint and operating costs

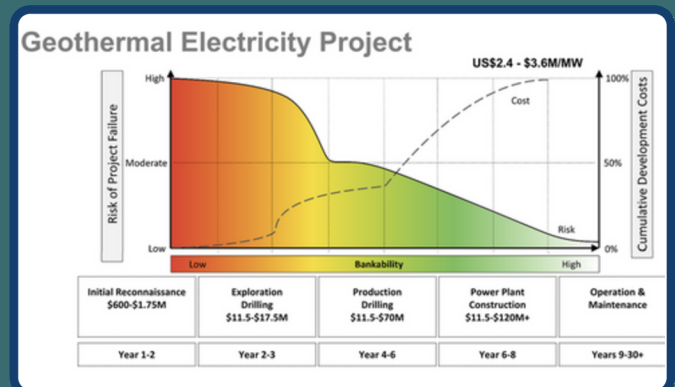
Renewable energy development, when responsibly pursued, offers the opportunity to generate recurring revenue, reduce energy costs for homesteads, and reinvest proceeds directly into housing and infrastructure.

Geothermal Energy

Supporting Beneficiaries and Hawai'i's 2045 Clean Energy Goal

Existing Homesteads & Estimated Energy Costs

Island	Existing				Estimated Annual Energy Costs*
	Homesteads	Residential	Agriculture	Pastoral	
O'ahu	5,038	4,978	60	0	\$14.5M
Kaua'i	765	719	45	1	\$2.2M
Maui	1,602	1,341	162	99	\$4.6M
Hawai'i	2,850	1,990	548	312	\$8.2M
Moloka'i	788	375	388	25	\$2.3M
Lāna'i	44	44	0	0	\$0.1M
Statewide	11,087	9,447	1,203	437	\$32.0M



*Estimate does not account for homes with a PV system. Avg. monthly electrical cost is \$240.4 for a Single-Family Home per DBEDT Jan 2025 Electricity Burdens Report (<https://bit.ly/3N9DENQ>)

Geothermal Development

History, Readiness, and Opportunity

Geothermal energy has been explored by DHHL for more than a decade as a potential sovereign asset capable of supporting the department's mission. Key milestones include:

- **2009:** Adoption of the Ho'omalūō Energy Policy supporting geothermal development
- **2016:** University of Hawai'i geophysical studies identifying thermal activity and resource potential on DHHL lands
- **2021–2023:** Commission briefings, feasibility discussions, and establishment of a Permitted Interaction Group to evaluate geothermal strategies
- **2024–2025:** Engagement with the U.S. Department of Energy, NREL, and participation in indigenous geothermal knowledge exchanges

Technical studies and expert input indicate that DHHL lands in areas such as Humu'ula (Mauna Kea) and Upper Kawaihae (Kohala) show the highest potential for viable geothermal generation. Importantly, recommendations consistently emphasize that DHHL should not develop geothermal resources alone, but instead pursue carefully structured public-private partnerships, with DHHL contributing land, cultural stewardship, and beneficiary engagement.

