

O'AHU RENEWABLE ENERGY ZONES



PRIORITIZING TWO ZONES FOR NEAR-TERM DEVELOPMENT

What are REZ?

Renewable energy zones (REZ) are areas with strong potential for clean energy generation and efficient connections to the grid. They serve as the building blocks of the clean energy grid, allowing for planned coordination of infrastructure upgrades that support new generation projects.

Benefits of REZ include:

- Reducing overall project and infrastructure costs
- Improving coordination and speeding up connection of renewable energy to the grid
- Reducing impacts on communities and the environment
- Stabilizing rates and providing reliable power by supporting local energy production

At a glance – what do I need to know?

- Renewable energy zones are an important step toward Hawai'i's goal of a net-zero carbon economy by 2045
- Hawaiian Electric recently completed an evaluation process to score and rank O'ahu REZ on key considerations like cost, efficiency, equity, environmental impact and resilience
- Based on this evaluation and community input, Hawaiian Electric is prioritizing the highest scoring REZ (Zones 1 and 6) for near-term development

Learn more: hawaiipowered.com/rez

Evaluating REZ

Hawaiian Electric first identified REZ across the islands in 2021, including eight REZ on O'ahu. Following direction from the Public Utilities Commission and the Governor's executive order, the company began evaluating O'ahu REZ in 2025 for near-term development. Each REZ was scored and ranked using technical analysis and input from partners and communities across three main priority areas:

- **Cost and efficiency:** Prioritizing locations that provide the best value and support financial responsibility
- **Equity and environment:** Supporting equitable project distribution while minimizing environmental impacts
- **Resilience and climate:** Avoiding locations at high risk for climate effects

The goal of this evaluation was to identify two REZ to move forward in the short-term, but all REZ on O'ahu will eventually need to play a role in meeting future renewable energy targets.

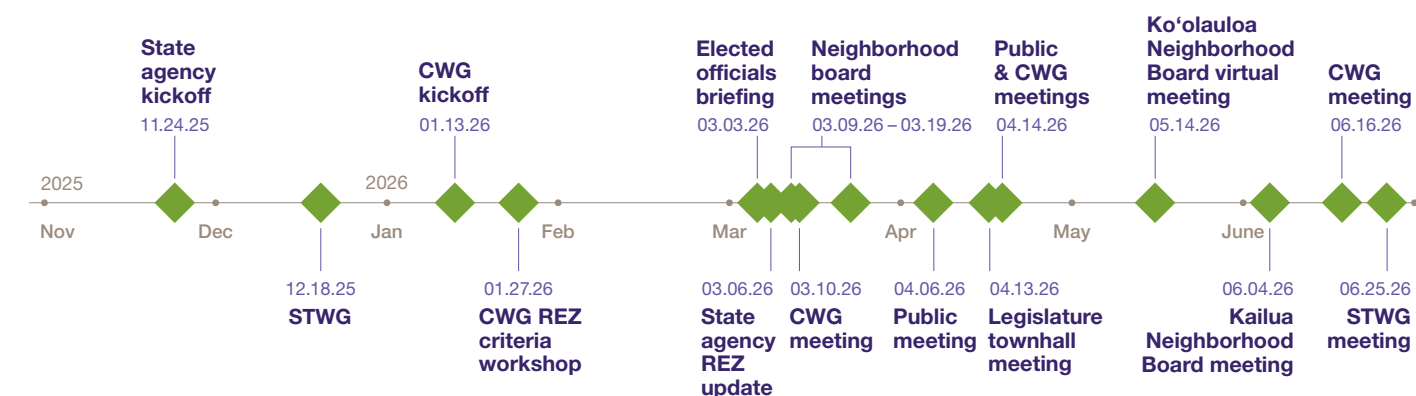
Community engagement

Input from many partners and the public helped inform REZ evaluation criteria and prioritization. Hawaiian Electric gathered input from:

- State agencies
- Elected officials
- Renewable energy developers
- Community Working Group (CWG)
- Public meetings and neighborhood boards
- Stakeholder Technical Working Group (STWG)



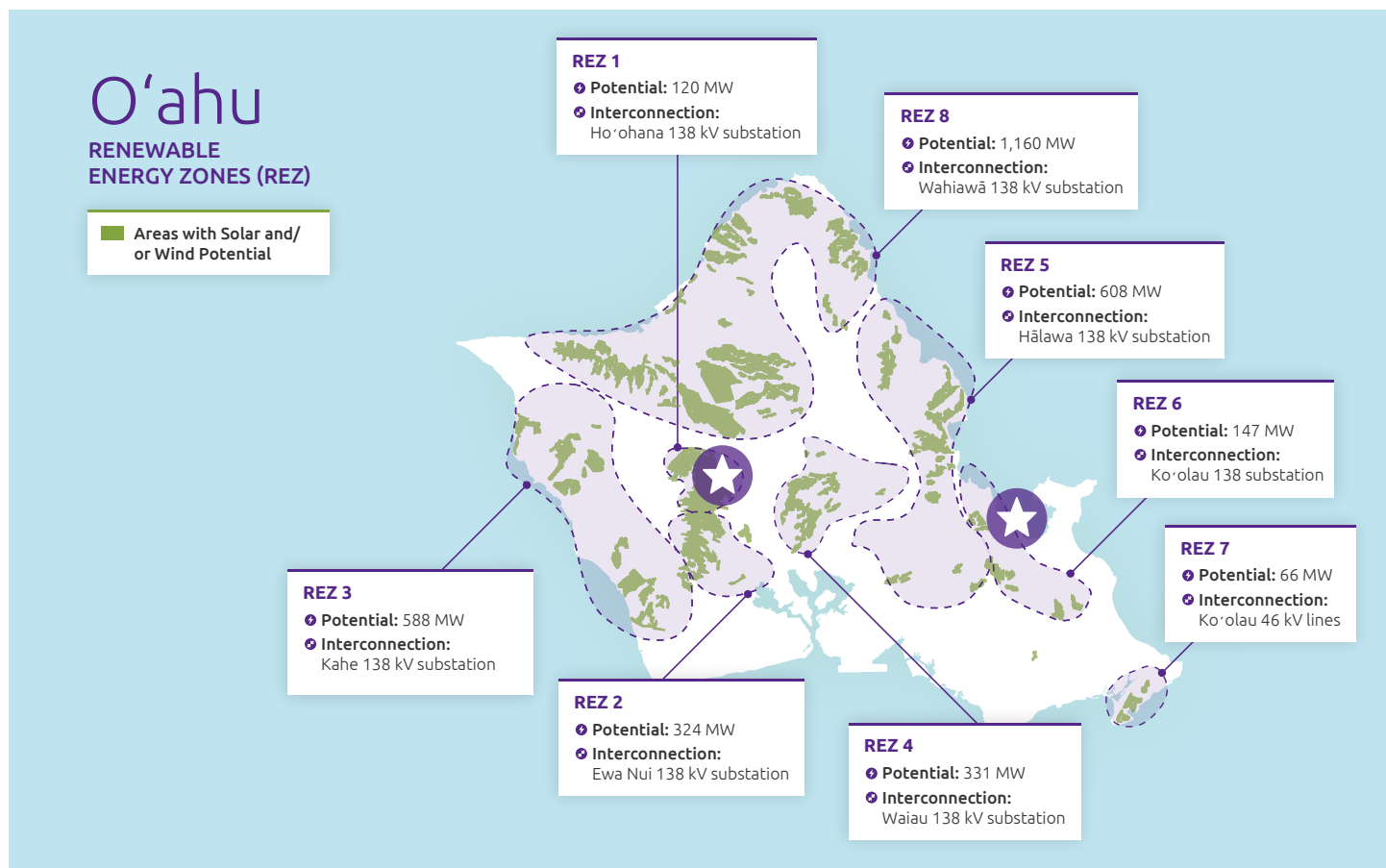
Public feedback did not identify any major issues that would prevent development of the highest-ranked zones in the near term. Community members also highlighted concerns about land use, transmission, environmental impacts and how projects may affect nearby communities, which will be considered in the next phase of project development.



More on back

Priority zones on O‘ahu

Based on the evaluation and community input, Hawaiian Electric recommends advancing the top two highest scoring zones—**O‘ahu Zones 1 and 6**—into Phase 2, conceptual design and procurement. These two priority zones represent pilots that are an important first step toward creating a REZ program across the islands Hawaiian Electric serves.



Why Zones 1 and 6?

O‘ahu Zones 1 and 6 are priorities for near-term development because they:

- Show high scores across all priority areas
- Involve minimal transmission upgrades
- Balance renewable capacity with manageable cost and risk
- Can inform future REZ as projects grow more complex

REZ development phases

Phase 1: REZ identification and prioritization

◆ **Phase 2:** Conceptual design and procurement

Phase 3: Project development and implementation

◆ We are moving into this phase

Next steps

Prioritizing two REZ for near-term development is the first step toward future renewable energy and transmission projects. Any future projects would undergo a rigorous process of community input and environmental review before approval and construction. Construction would not begin before 2030. Limited available land and competing land use needs remain a primary challenge to REZ development.

Key next steps for REZ development include:

- Holding discussions with state agencies and private landowners on land availability
- Continued collaboration with the State of Hawai‘i’s Office of Planning and Sustainable Development in its development of the Integrated Land Use Study
- Advancing conceptual design
- Preparing developer procurement packages
- Continuing to engage and communicate with communities
- Coordinating project timing with regulatory approvals and capital planning requirements

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