

Advancing Hawai'i's clean-energy future

How DSD helped Mauna Loa integrate a new solar portfolio into existing sustainable processes to offset 100% of their facility's energy use.

1.2 MW
of clean solar energy

500 kWh
of energy storage

100%
solar power offset

The Challenge

When people think macadamia nuts, they think Mauna Loa. The brand is not just the leader in its space, it's a leader in environmental sustainability practices, as well. Its Hawaiian crop of macadamias, for example, are grown with only rainwater — making its flagship product one of the most sustainable nut varieties.

So, when **Hawaiian Host Group** — Mauna Loa's parent company — looked to further reduce its carbon footprint and help ensure the Islands' clean-energy future, second-best wasn't going to cut it. To that end, they sought to develop the largest operating PV project dedicated to a private company in Hawai'i. That would require partners with standards as high as theirs. Partners like DSD.



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The new solar system — along with existing clean energy sources — powers the Kea'au facility with 100% renewables.



The Outcome

From the start, the teams knew that integration and synergy would be key. Mauna Loa already had sustainable practices and systems in place — so the question was how to best leverage them, and integrate the right technological additions. The DSD team partnered with local **No Ka Oi Energy** to develop a 2,916-panels ground mount system laid out across three acres on the nut farm.

The completed 1.2 MW solar array — matched with 500 kW of battery storage — has the capacity to directly power 85% of Mauna Loa's processing plant. Along with the on-site water and wastewater system, the facility in Kea'au, Hawai'i, is now powered by 100% renewables. The system generates 1.55 million kWh of solar energy annually, avoiding over 1,000 tons of CO₂ each year (equivalent).



Mauna Loa's solar array by the numbers:



1.55 million kWh
solar energy produced annually



1,000+ metric tons
CO₂ avoided annually



2.7 million
automobile miles
not driven (equivalent)

“Our purpose is to make the Islands’ future flourish, and partnering with DSD has enabled us to fulfill a large portion of our vision for a clean energy future.”



Ed Schultz

President & CEO
Hawaiian Host Group



To learn about clean-energy opportunities for your organization, please visit dsdrenewables.com/contact

