



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hawaii Public Utilities Commission named SEPA's 2020 Regulatory Innovation Power Player of the Year

HONOLULU -- The Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA) has named the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission as its Regulatory Innovation Power Play of the Year. The Commission was among eight categories of winners in the 2020 SEPA Power Players Awards that recognizes groundbreaking efforts in project or program design, unique partnerships, stakeholder engagement, and more.

Now in their 12th year, the SEPA awards recognize utilities, their industry partners, individuals and other stakeholders working on the front lines of the U.S. energy transition. In particular, the SEPA Power Players Awards focus on projects, initiatives and thought leadership that promote collaborative, innovative and replicable models for change. These industry leaders significantly advance knowledge of or access to clean energy with solutions that benefit electricity consumers and the grid.

The 2020 SEPA Power Players are:

- **Individual Power Player of the Year:** Jeff Guldner, CEO, Pinnacle West Corporation
- **Electric Cooperative Utility of the Year:** Holy Cross Energy
- **Public Power Utility of the Year:** Alectra Utilities
- **Investor-Owned Utility of the Year:** San Diego Gas & Electric
- **Utility Business Models Power Player of the Year:** Southern Company
- **Regulatory Innovation Power Player of the Year:** Hawaii Public Utilities Commission
- **Grid Integration Power Player of the Year:** Heron's Nest Microgrid
- **Transportation Electrification Power Player of the Year:** Dr. Karim Farhat, Engie Impact

"This year's Power Players winners showcase innovation in clean energy," said **SEPA President & CEO Julia Hamm**. "They are spearheading the visionary projects, innovative programs, and collaborative partnerships that will accelerate the transition to a clean and modern energy future. As our industry grapples with unprecedented challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, this leadership is more necessary now than ever."

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On behalf of the Hawaii PUC, Commissioner Jennifer Potter received the award at the SEPA virtual Grid Evolution Summit, which was held July 28-30.

“The Hawaii Public Utilities Commission thanks SEPA for this prestigious award,” said **Hawaii PUC Chair James Griffin, Ph.D.** “The award recognizes the team effort underway to update Hawaiian Electric’s regulatory framework and chart the future of our electricity systems. We also want to thank the unsung heroes — our staff and stakeholder community — who have devoted an extraordinary amount of time to make these efforts successful.”

This year’s winners were selected from a record-breaking competitive field of over 100 nominees.

SEPA’s announcement is available on their website:

<https://sepapower.org/knowledge/sepa-announces-2020-power-players-award-winners/>

Video of Hawaii PUC Commissioner Jennifer Potter accepting Regulatory Innovation Power Player of the Year Award:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AK6rbX0pHO4&feature=youtu.be>

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