

## Hawaii Rooftop Welcomes the Blazing Sun



/by Charlene Brown, Editor, Lookin' Green Magazine  
Thursday, December 2, 2010

Today, unlike any other day, the Hawaiian afternoon sun blazed down on the roof of the Kalanimoku Building near the State Capital, as a 200 kilowatt solar span started to slant at an optimal angle to capture much of that free energy.

Russ Saito, State Comptroller, Dept. of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) and Ted Liu, Director, Dept. of Business Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) showed off the first dozen of 1,000 photovoltaic panels to be installed and electrified by end of January 2011.

The price tag was nonetheless \$2.9 million stimulus dollars, a sign of recovery at work. Of course, solar panels don't cost as much, but the installation at the DAGS building is to be a solar statement for the State.

Under the recovery spending scheme, the solar installation is an educational and demonstration project reviewed by the U.S. Department of Energy. Visitors can look forward to both dollars and sun at work. A real-time energy performance kiosk will be on display in the DAGS lobby once the system is switched on in January.

Energy from a 200 kW system can power up about 40 homes in Hawaii, however, the solar system will supply only about 10 percent of the energy used at the facility - a drop in the bucket of energy consumed at the DAGS building - a computer service hub that runs nonstop.

The \$2.9M solar installation, seen from the high rises surrounding the State Capital, also claimed to create or retain 33 (well-paid) jobs during construction. Installation is performed by PhotonWorks, a subcontractor to NORESKO, LLC. A year ago in October 2009, NORESKO was also awarded a \$33.9 million contract to improve energy efficiency at State Capital buildings.

For more news, contact Charlene Brown at 808-284-7071 or email [charlene@lookinggreen.org](mailto:charlene@lookinggreen.org). For specific information about the State of Hawaii's \$2.9M solar system on the DAGS building, contact Russell Pang at 808-586-0043.