

INNOVATION FROM HAWAIIAN ELECTRIC COMPANIES

Deploying Unmanned Aircraft to Better Serve Customers



Unmanned aircraft, commonly called drones, are a new tool the Hawaiian Electric Companies are using to improve operations and provide reliable service to customers. Unmanned Aircraft Systems, the preferred industry term, are a more efficient and cost effective way to inspect utility equipment for routine maintenance and disaster recovery.

Unmanned aircraft allow us to inspect utility equipment while eliminating many dangerous tasks, improving service levels, and keeping operating costs down.

We understand some people may have concerns about privacy with the use of cameras on these devices. We take these concerns very seriously. Our program was developed in full compliance with federal regulations and we follow strict company operating standards that govern how we collect, use, and store visual images.

Unmanned aircraft are used primarily to inspect equipment in areas that are difficult or dangerous to reach. And they are used to reduce how often our crews must climb poles and towers.

Our aircraft weigh between one and eight pounds each and pose no danger to commercial or private aviation. In addition to common digital cameras, they can be equipped with infrared sensors and multispectral cameras to expand their use as trouble-shooting and diagnostic tools.

Unmanned aircraft provide many important benefits for our customers and employees:

Speed

Unmanned aircraft can inspect equipment in remote areas much faster than crews that often require special equipment. This helps accelerate repairs so our customers are not inconvenienced by extended outages.

Safety

They can be used in dangerous situations so our people don't have to go into harm's way.

System reliability

Visual data from unmanned aircraft can help us anticipate maintenance needs and make repairs ahead of problems that could result in outages.

Disaster recovery

After severe storms, wild fires or other disasters, unmanned aircraft can help us pinpoint trouble spots and set priorities for recovery work.

Efficiency

Unmanned aircraft help us keep costs in check by limiting the need for helicopter flights and use of heavy equipment for inspections and by reducing crew time needed for visual assessments.

For more information, please visit
www.hawaiianelectric.com/unmannedaircraft



**Hawaiian
Electric**