



**Hawaiian Electric
Maui Electric
Hawai'i Electric Light**

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hawaiian Electric volunteer crew helps revive tree-lighting tradition at Pu'u o Kaimukī Mini Park

HONOLULU, Dec. 5, 2019 – When the Kaimukī Christmas Parade ends this evening, it will culminate with the lighting of the floating Christmas tree at Pu'u o Kaimukī Mini Park – a tradition brought back, in part, thanks to Hawaiian Electric volunteers from IBEW Local 1260.

The illuminated tree, which sits about 40 feet above the mini park off Koko Head Avenue, had gone dark the past few years. But about a dozen Hawaiian Electric linemen, trouble men, inspectors, and substation technicians worked Wednesday to string new multicolored, energy-efficient LED light strands atop its galvanized steel base.

After staging bucket trucks and placing a tarp below the tree to capture any loose bulb shards, above-ground volunteers removed the old, weathered incandescent bulbs from the tree and tightened the fixtures. On-the-ground volunteers unrolled the reels of colored lights to check for flaws and broken bulbs. Each 66-foot strand was lifted to the top and safely secured to ensure the tree could withstand the elements.

The true test came when volunteer leader Todd Mayeshiro, a community relations specialist and former lineman, turned on the light switch amidst cheers from park users.

“We’re so glad it worked,” smiled Mayeshiro. “There were a lot of challenges, but everything just fell into place, and our volunteers stepped up from across the company to make this happen in time for tonight’s scheduled Kaimukī Christmas Parade and tree lighting ceremony.”

Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell will participate in tonight’s festivities. Hawaiian Electric worked with the City & County of Honolulu Department of Parks and Recreation and Kaimuki Business & Professional Association to resurrect the illuminated tree, which had been a community fixture for about three decades. In recent years, upkeep of the tree had become difficult, and it remained dormant.

In total, nearly 1,000 LED light bulbs were used to adorn the cone-shaped tree, which will save about 90 percent in electricity use. Volunteers completed their work in just under three hours.

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