



CHELSEA GROUP LIMITED

## **Chelsea Group helps clients navigate, and greatly benefit from, Hawaii Energy rebate incentive program.**

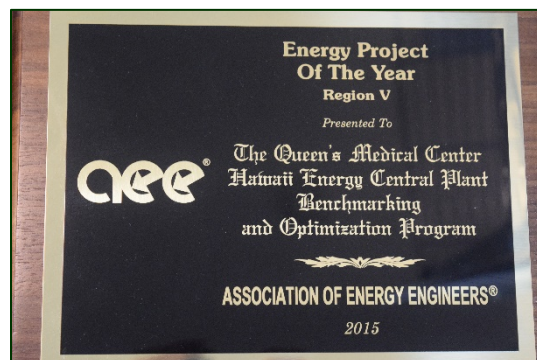
By Andy Beth Miller

Honolulu, HI— Hawaii Energy is a group hired through the state to run the rebate and incentive program. Via this endeavor, consultants and contractors—anyone who installs an approved piece of equipment—can qualify and apply for these rebates and incentives. Sounds easy. However, according to Chelsea Group Building Scientist Lisa Reddinger, navigating the system and optimizing your benefits proves to be a bit more than many bargain for.

The tricky thing, according to Reddinger, is that every year the rebates offered, as well as what will and will not qualify as meeting the approved program standards, changes. “This happens for myriad reasons,” she explained. “Each year the money collected that is available to enable the program fluctuates, technology is constantly changing and improving annually—daily even—and basically, the program’s criteria and standards are raised, ensuring that only those buildings and owners incorporating the most efficient products and equipment out there are rewarded and reimbursed.”

Here’s where Chelsea Group comes in. The local building science firm is a certified Clean Energy Ally, making it a member of a network of contractors, architects, engineers, equipment vendors, distributors, manufacturers and retailers who provide energy-efficient products and services—delivering energy-saving incentives—to residential and businesses of Hawaii. Namely, Chelsea Group aids its clients to navigate the sometimes murky waters, loops and hurdles they have to jump through in order to achieve the maximum incentives and rebates possible, all while ensuring their properties are functioning at the highest operating and efficiency standards.

A prime example of how Chelsea Group aids its clients is seen via its work with Queens Medical Center, who retained the building firm led by CEO George Benda to help its facility achieve the highest payback via Hawaii Energy incentives. By conducting a series of central plant studies that began in 2008 and culminated in the Retrocommissioning and Central Plant Optimization Program in 2011, all while fostering a collaboration between QMC and Hawaii Energy, Chelsea Group was able interpret and utilize all existing meter data and present it to QMC in a user-friendly way. The final result: an annual electrical bill savings of \$197,684, with an impressive 50% of QMC’s cost of equipment and services incentivized by Hawaii Energy. This project won Chelsea Group the 2015 Energy Project of the Year Award for Region V by the Association of Energy Engineers.



QMC is just one of the examples that shows just what Chelsea Group can help its clients accomplish in the realm of rebates and incentives. "The project was a financial homerun for The Queen's Medical Center," said Ito-Ohara. "The combination of incentives and performance bonuses worked together to cover our entire investment. Plus we get to keep all of the savings."

To see the highlighted Central Plant Optimization at QMC case study please visit: <http://chelsea-grp.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Central-Plant-Optimization-at-QMC.pdf>

For more information on Hawaii Energy and their rebate program please visit: <https://hawaiienergy.com/for-homes/rebates>

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**ABOUT Chelsea Group** Chelsea Group is a Hawaii-based building science consulting firm specializing in preserving and enhancing the mechanical infrastructure in existing commercial office, institutional, retail, and industrial facilities. For more than 25 years, Chelsea's building scientists and engineers have solved problems and found opportunities that add asset value to these properties. The Chelsea team is widely recognized for its thought leadership in sustainable, high performance buildings.