



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 30, 2015

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## **Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor “Flips the Switch” On 1,400 Newly Installed PV Solar Panels**

Honolulu, HI – Since 2006, Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor has dedicated itself to preserving Pacific aviation history. Today, with a flip of a switch, the Museum started preserving energy as well.

After two years of planning, installation and testing, Pacific Aviation Museum began using solar power, generated by 1,400 photovoltaic solar panels on the roof of Hangar 37. The Museum hosted a Hawaiian blessing ceremony, conducted by Kahu Kordell Kekoa, to mark the occasion; followed by a reception.

“As a non-profit, we are always looking for ways to minimize our operational expenses without impacting our visitor experience,” said Kenneth DeHoff, Executive Director, Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor. “In 2013, our electricity rate increased from 27 cents per kilowatt-hour to 62 cents. It became very clear to us that we needed to seriously consider generating our own clean energy through the installation of PV panels. **These solar panels will save the Museum about \$300,000 a year in electrical cost, allowing us to apply these funds to our Education Programs.**”

Each year, the nonprofit’s education programs reach about 10,000 young people, not including the hundreds of thousands of visitors who come to the Museum annually.

Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor is located on Historic Ford Island and is considered by many as “ground zero” for the December 7, 1941 Pearl Harbor attack. The Museum is surrounded by historic remnants from December 7 that have been left intact, including the Museum’s 158-foot tall Ford Island Control Tower, Hangar 37, and Hangar 79—which still bears bullet holes from the Pearl Harbor attack.

Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. Its mission is to develop and maintain an internationally recognized aviation museum on Historic Ford Island that educates young and old alike, honors aviators and their support personnel who defended freedom in The Pacific Region, and to preserve Pacific aviation history. A Smithsonian Affiliate, it is rated one of the top 10 aviation attractions nationally by TripAdvisor®. Hours of operation are 8 am to 5 pm daily, with access by free shuttles from the USS *Arizona* Memorial Pearl Harbor Visitor Center at Pearl Harbor. [www.PacificAviationMuseum.org](http://www.PacificAviationMuseum.org), 808-441-1000.

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