

HONOLULU HIGH-CAPACITY TRANSIT CORRIDOR PROJECT  
SURVEYED PROPERTY CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE FOR NATIONAL REGISTER

TMK: **21014006**

Historic Status: **Evaluated Eligible**

Portion of Alignment: **Koko Head portion**

Resource Name/Historic Name: **HECO Downtown Plant & Leslie A. Hicks Building**

Sector: **24 Downtown Station Sector**

Location: **222 ALA MOANA**

Owner: **HAWAIIAN ELECTRIC CO INC**

Station Block: **Downtown Station Block**

Date-Original: **1929 & 1955**

Source: **Tax Office, *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, March 4, 1955, p. 24**

Present Use/Historic Use: **Electric power generation**

Architectural Description:

The 1929 building has stepped-back massing at the upper levels, and has a stucco coating with most of the original windows sealed. The building features two arched tops of original openings (now sealed) and horizontal banding. Small additions of corrugated metal and an exterior stair are found on the Diamond Head side of the building. The 1955 building has a three-step massing; the lower walls are 2"x 12" brick in a running bond pattern, while the taller sections have concrete walls with a pattern of vertical scored lines. One the side walls vertical bands of metal louvers provide ventilation.

Photo at right: 1929 building on the right, 1955 building on the left.

Integrity:

The 1929 building has been much altered, including addition of roll-up doors and metal mesh gates and many façade changes. In 1941, installation was begun on new generators and boilers. The building retains sufficient integrity of location, materials, workmanship, feeling and association to convey its role in the history of electric power in Honolulu.  
The 1955 building appears unaltered.

Significance:

Criterion "A" - associated with the history of electric power in Honolulu. Power plants built in 1929 (designed by Dwight P. Robinson Co. of New York) and 1955 (designed by Merrill, Simms & Roehrig of Honolulu) are important for their associations with the history of electric power and the development of Honolulu.

The 1955 building was named for Leslie A. Hicks, HECO president at the time the building was opened (Pratt, Dudley. *HEI – The Start of a New Tradition*. Newcomen Society: New York, 1988: 16).

