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9 A.M. UPDATE: 2,400 customers restored, work continues for remaining 600 customers

HONOLULU, June 20, 2024 – Shortly after 8 a.m, Hawaiian Electric crews restored power to 2,400 customers in Chinatown, parts of downtown Honolulu and Nu'uanu who lost power last night due to an arc flash inside a manhole.

That arc flash set back work to restore power to 600 Chinatown customers, who have been out of power since a fire damaged underground power cables Monday night. Repair work resumed this morning and crews are working to complete the restoration process as soon as possible.

An arc flash occurs when high-voltage electricity is discharged between two conductors. The flash was smothered by a special heat-resistant blanket the crews used to cover cables and equipment while they work in the restricted space underground. Four Hawaiian Electric technicians were inside the manhole at the time but were not hurt.

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