

**Merz, Jeff**

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**From:** noreply@hirep-wind.com  
**Sent:** Monday, February 28, 2011 5:02 PM  
**To:** Johnston, Douglas; Merz, Jeff  
**Subject:** [HIREP Wind EIS] New Comment

**A New Comment has been Submitted**

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State of Hawai'i  
Dept. of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
Strategic Industries Division/Renewable Energy Branch  
P.O. Box 2359  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96804  
Attn: Allen G. Kam, AICP, HIREP EIS Manager

I am a student at the University of Hawai'i's William S. Richardson School of Law studying environmental law and ocean policy. I am writing you today to suggest that all viable forms of renewable energy should be fully addressed as alternatives before deciding to proceed with the use of wind energy. I applaud the State of Hawai'i and the federal government for looking into the use of alternative and renewable energy sources but must insist that such an impactful undertaking as large scale wind farms and undersea cables be proven the best method of accomplishing our goal of energy independence before proceeding.

The alternatives to wind energy that seem to hold the most promise for Hawai'i are geothermal energy, ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC), and an expansion of the residential solar grid tie system. I am not an expert on the physical processes that go into each of these renewable energy systems, but I do know that each comes with myriad benefits as well as the unavoidable drawbacks. What we do need to know is which one of these possible solutions will give us the maximum energy output with the minimum detriment to our environmental processes. While there is no completely green solution, before embarking on a project of this scale we must ensure that we are using the best science available to achieve our goals.

There are very few comparatively pristine environments left in the main Hawaiian Islands. I believe that setting a precedent of exporting O`ahu's utility needs to the other islands is a dangerous model of urban sprawl that should be avoided. Honolulu's exploitation of the rest of O`ahu should not be allowed to expand beyond these shores. I respectfully submit that alternative energy sources be implemented on O`ahu that will enable this island to be truly sustainable and energy independent.

Sincerely,

/s/  
Andrew Porter

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Honolulu, HI 96822  
Telephone: (256)218-1840

Submitted on Mon, Feb 28, 2011 / 05:02PM HST by Andrew Porter

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