

Merz, Jeff

From: noreply@hirep-wind.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 3:14 PM
To: Johnston, Douglas; Merz, Jeff
Subject: [HIREP Wind EIS] New Comment

A New Comment has been Submitted

As a concerned member of the public, I strongly support the Hawai'i Interisland Renewable Energy Program (HIREP) and more specifically the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) being managed by the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.

I believe Hawaii must move quickly to alleviate dependence on imported oil. Currently, there are various renewable options and all should be considered in order to create the most diverse and reliable system. Hawaii should not place itself in the precarious position of once again relying on a single source to support energy needs.

With that said, wind seems to be a readily available resource and the technology at this time makes it economically feasible as an initial source of renewable energy. It appears, however, that the PEIS would cover other potential renewable energy sources should they come on line at a future date. Thus, it seems necessary to incorporate into the current plan an undersea cable with the capacity to deliver more energy than just the currently planned Maui County wind farm. As turbine technology increases, by the time the initial turbines are replaced in 20 years or so, the next generation may significantly increase production. Additionally, other renewable energy sources may come on line and the undersea cable should have the capacity to transport energy from these sources as well. Future population growth further supports installing a larger capacity undersea cable.

As a former Maui County resident, I am also concerned about the energy being produced in Maui County but delivered to Oahu. I would hope if Maui County resources are being used at least some of the energy produced stay in Maui County. Perhaps, opposition to the plan could be offset by requiring a certain small percentage of the renewable energy be dedicated to the County in which it is produced, thereby benefiting the local inhabitants.

I encourage the work DBEDT is doing to help transition Hawaii into a renewable energy future.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

Submitted on Tue, Mar 01, 2011 / 03:13PM HST by Jamil Newirth

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