

Merz, Jeff

From: noreply@hirep-wind.com
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 6:14 PM
To: Johnston, Douglas; Merz, Jeff
Subject: [HIREP Wind EIS] New Comment

A New Comment has been Submitted

Aloha committee members,

I was present at your presentation on Lana'i a few weeks ago and listened to each testimony given by my neighbors until noon (Butch Gima was the last speaker I heard, Sally Kaye was the first). I agree with what each person had to say in their opposition of the wind farm proposal (excepting for Joseph, who supported it in the hopes that if it made Castle & Cooke wealthier, they in turn would be able to improve the island economy for all - as Beverly said, I don't believe that would necessarily be the case.)

As an environmental science teacher I am fully aware of the need to reduce Hawaii's dependence on fossil fuel. However, I do not believe huge wind farms on our island or any island are the magic bullet so many feel they are. Such projects will place an extraordinary burden on taxpayers (who will pay for the undersea cable) and energy rate payers (who will pay "levelized" yet undetermined rates). At the same time, such a project will not effectively solve our energy problems. The solution is not to place all eggs in one basket, as Hawaii did in the 1950s when we made our state 90% dependent on oil.

The solution to our energy needs which I believe you must strive for is this: subsidizing and developing diverse energy sources on ALL islands which requires ALL energy users to: first, reduce over-consumption of energy (from any source); and second, get energy from the best combination at their location of solar, wind, geothermal and wave energy - not from a single source that turns vanishing rural resources into industrial wastelands. Tax payers should pay for, and can afford, this option, and it will help us meet the laudable goals of the state initiative to become energy self-sufficient in a timely manner. At the very least -the public deserves to be fully informed and allowed to vote on whether or not we want to pay an unknown amount for these mega-projects which are clearly designed to serve "big business" at the expense of ordinary citizens. This paradigm can change, and all state citizens deserve the choice of making the change.

Finally, I encourage each of you on your next visit to stay overnight, and take enjoy some free time on our island. When you were here, did you notice how you relaxed when taking a stroll around the town? Did you get out on any of the trails, turn off the vehicle, smell the fresh air and experience the good feeling it gave you? Did you look at the stars before you fell asleep in peace and quiet? If you didn't have a chance, I urge you to give yourself time on your next visit. Not just because it's so lovely, but because it is a vanishing opportunity on this planet - and because it is your job! You cannot fairly make recommendations on what Lana'i will lose as a result of the proposed project, and how (if at all) it can be compensated, if you haven't stayed long enough to experience it. Heck, I'll even loan you our Jeep! With luck, you will see as I do, that this part of Hawaii - this lifestyle - is itself endangered. It no longer exists on Kauai, or Oahu, or the B ig Island, and it is almost gone on Maui. Molokai and Lana'i still have it, for now, but if the wind projects are developed, it will be lost to all of us, visitors and residents, on all islands forever.

Thank you for your consideration.

Submitted on Mon, Feb 28, 2011 / 06:13PM HST by Lisa Galloway

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