

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

PUBLIC HEARING

RE: HAWAI ' I CLEAN ENERGY DRAFT PROGRAMMATIC
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tuesday, May 13, 2014

5: 30 - 8: 30 p. m.

Keal akehe Hi gh School

74-5000 Puohul i hul i Street

Kai l ua-Kona, Hawai ' i 96740

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A P P E A R A N C E S

FACI LI TATOR: ROBI N CAMPANI ANO

PANEL: JANE SUMMERSON
U. S. Department of Energy

MARK GLICK
Energy Admi ni strator
Hawai i State Energy Offi ce

REPORTED BY: KIRSTEN REHANEK, RPR, CRR, CSR No. 481
Court Reporter, State of Hawai ' i

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1 Tuesday, May 13, 2014; Kai Iua-Kona, Hawai i

2 6: 15 p. m.

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4 FACI LITATOR CAMPANI ANO: Aloha. I'm Robi n
5 Campani ano, and as the faci lita tor, my goal tonigh t is to
6 make sure that those of you who have taken the time to
7 come here to listen to the presenta tions have an
8 oppor tunit y to voice your thoughts on the prelimi nary EIS
9 and its goals and objec tives.

10 So if you haven't signed up, you know, please
11 feel free to do so, and there will be ample oppor tunit y
12 for you to comment formally and informally. And again
13 formally, if you would like to send your comments in
14 to the EIS -- oh, yeah, it's up on the wall too.

15 MS. SUMMERSON: Mm-hmm.

16 FACI LITATOR CAMPANI ANO: Everything that Jane
17 said is right on the wall as well.

18 So I think we should just proceed with those
19 who have signed up, and we have a grand total of one
20 person so far, David Tarnas. So, Dave, thank you for
21 your patience.

22 MR. DAVID TARNAS: You think I could use
23 that?

24 FACI LITATOR CAMPANI ANO: Yeah, you can use
25 this. If you'd just state your name so that our court

1 reporter can take your comments.

2 MR. DAVID TARNAS: Sure. Hi. My name is
3 David Tarnas. I'm an environmental planning consultant,
4 live in Waimea, and have worked on a number of renewable
5 energy projects, planning and permitting, and I wanted to
6 say thank you for the work you've already done, that it's
7 a solid document. I just have some comments on
8 technology and on policy, a couple of different comments.
9 I wanted to make sure that you hear about some of our
10 local experience here on this island that may be unique.

11 For this island, there is, I think, a very
12 high importance of biomass power and geothermal as our
13 two sources of firm, dispatchable, renewable energy.
14 Biomass power on this island is moving forward with
15 Hu Honua power plant, which was formerly a coal-fired
16 power plant. Before that, it was a biomass power plant
17 using sugar waste. It's now being started up again on
18 the existing plant site as a power plant. They've gotten
19 their power purchase agreement approved.

20 One of the companies I've worked with before
21 has come up with a twenty-year woody biomass fuel supply
22 plan for that power plant.

23 MS. LINDA LYERLY: What kind?

24 MR. DAVID TARNAS: Woody biomass.

25 MS. LINDA LYERLY: What kind?

1 MR. DAVID TARNAS: So the wood would come
2 from the tree plantations that were planted years ago
3 that were never used for anything else, and so it
4 actually would be a way to use that wood on the island
5 without shipping it off, and it would be a source of
6 renewable fuel that could be grown and used on the island
7 to produce dispatchable -- firm, dispatchable, renewable
8 power.

9 There's an additional multiplier economic
10 benefit that I wanted to make sure you understood as you
11 look at the potential environmental impact of biomass
12 power on the island, and that is by having a commodity of
13 wood chips being sold to a power plant, it provides a
14 substantial enough business that the forestry industry
15 would be able to support the investment into the roads,
16 the equipment necessary to operate a forestry operation
17 here, a forestry industry on the island, which I think is
18 an important part of our future economy.

19 These are trees that were planted on former
20 sugar land. The environmental impact of these trees is
21 far less than sugar was, and it can be replanted, and the
22 wood can supply the power plant for years to come. And
23 by having a forestry industry, you can then actually
24 afford to harvest the very large, beautiful logs and sell
25 them to local value-added sawmills and other forestry

1 industries that can get established. They wouldn't be
2 able to establish themselves on their own, but with the
3 commodity of wood chips, you can support a forestry
4 industry that I think will have multiplier benefits.

5 MS. LINDA LYERLY: And what about the --

6 MR. DAVID TARNAS: And you may disagree with
7 me later, and you're welcome to speak after I am, but let
8 me go ahead and finish.

9 Woody biomass is also important on Oahu for
10 cofiring with coal in the AES power plant. I think it's
11 something I know they're exploring, and I think it's
12 something that they should further explore because it's a
13 way to use existing equipment at the AES power plant and
14 use a locally produced fuel to supplement that.

15 Geothermal is an important baseload, firm,
16 dispatchable power on this island, and I wanted to
17 emphasize that. There's political support for it as
18 well. There's opposition of course. There was a vote in
19 the Hawaii County Democratic Party Convention last
20 Saturday, and the vote was to retain the language in the
21 platform that said geothermal is recognized as a firm,
22 dispatchable power, baseload power for the island. It
23 was a vigorous debate, but the vote was in support of
24 keeping geothermal in the platform.

25 A third technology I want to make sure that

1 you include is sea water air conditioning. That's going
2 to happen much sooner than OTEC, and it's an important
3 way to use our resources just offshore here or right
4 below us for air conditioning. And by doing that, we
5 displace the power that you would get from other sources
6 for air conditioning, so I think that's an important
7 technology to include.

8 And finally it's further off, but
9 pumped-storage hydro is certainly one that you should
10 include. I know that there's interest on this island as
11 well as on Maui for that.

12 Okay. Policy. Let me just mention three
13 quick things on policy. The PUC is going to have to make
14 decisions about wheeling. Wheeling is an important
15 policy framework that has not been established in this
16 state, and it needs to be. There was a docket on
17 government wheeling, intragovernmental wheeling. That
18 was suspended for a number of years. It hasn't gotten
19 started up again, and it needs to. They have said that
20 they won't deal with retail wheeling until after
21 intragovernmental wheeling is dealt with, so it's an
22 important thing that has to be done. So that's the PUC.

23 The second policy one is legislature. I
24 think the legislature has considered, and I encourage
25 them to allow landowners to develop power generation on

1 one property and distribute it across TMK boundaries to
2 sell to tenants. Right now you can do that on one TMK,
3 but you can't cross TMK boundaries and sell to tenants,
4 and I think we should be able to do that if the landowner
5 owns adjacent properties and do that without being
6 considered a public utility. So that's a critical
7 thing.

8 Finally I encourage you to read a recent
9 document that was released by the PUC under some Decision
10 and Orders that were released on April 29th, and it's
11 called the "Commission's Inclination on the Future of
12 Hawaii's Electric Industry," a very informative document
13 that the PUC just released that I'm sure Mark and Andi
14 are very familiar with, and you should take a look at
15 because it gives a good sense of what Hermina Morita and
16 the other PUC commissioners believe is the future of the
17 Hawaii electric industry, and that might inform your
18 document.

19 Thank you for taking these lengthy comments.
20 I'm sure, ma'am, that you've got really important input.
21 I'm sorry to interrupt, but I just wanted to finish.

22 MS. LINDA LYERLY: No, I interrupted.

23 MR. DAVID TARNAS: Thank you.

24 MS. LINDA LYERLY: I wasn't prepared to
25 speak, but I have to say something.

1 FACILITATOR CAMPANIANO: Something, yeah.

2 MS. LINDA LYERLY: If we're calling this --

3 FACILITATOR CAMPANIANO: Could you please
4 state your name.

5 MS. LINDA LYERLY: Oh, I'm sorry. Linda
6 Lyerly, L-y-e-r-l-y.

7 It just upsets me, if we're calling this a
8 green energy program, that biomass, especially eucalyptus
9 chips, are even considered because how much carbon is put
10 back into the air by just burning wood is ridiculous and
11 backward. And if we're going to have a forest industry,
12 we should have our high-value, wonderful wood, not
13 chipping and burning pulp. And so that's what I think,
14 and that's what I think is the best for the island.

15 And we shouldn't be making an industry for
16 sure and replanting it. We should be -- you know, right
17 now they're going to Kawaihae and being taken away, and I
18 understand logs. They're not being chipped and creating
19 more carbon into the air.

20 And I think geothermal is a very sensitive,
21 volatile energy that would be best if we didn't have to
22 exploit it. I think wind and solar for sure, and if we
23 can get involved with ocean thermal and all of that would
24 be great.

25 Thank you.

1 FACILITATOR CAMPANIANO: Thank you, Linda.
2 Would anybody else care to offer any
3 comments?

4 MR. JOE RIVERS: What we can do if you want,
5 we can continue to have the open house for a little bit
6 longer to answer any informal questions.

7 FACILITATOR CAMPANIANO: Yeah. We'll do this
8 in a very informal way.

9 MR. JOE RIVERS: So we'll adjourn for a
10 little while to see if anybody else wants to speak a
11 little later.

12 FACILITATOR CAMPANIANO: Yeah, let's do
13 that.

14 (Off the record at 6:36 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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STATE OF HAWAII)
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COUNTY OF HAWAII) ss.

I, KIRSTEN REHANEK, Court Reporter, State of Hawaii, do hereby certify:

That on May 13, 2014, at 6:15 p.m., the foregoing U.S. Department of Energy public hearing was taken down by me in machine shorthand and was thereafter reduced to print by me.

That this 12-page transcript represents, to the best of my ability, a true and correct transcript of the proceedings had in the foregoing matter.

I further certify that I am not an attorney for any of the parties hereto, nor in any way concerned with the cause.

DATED this 23rd day of May, 2014, in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii.

Kirsten Rehanek

KIRSTEN REHANEK, CSR NO. 481