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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

PUBLIC HEARING

RE: HAWAII CLEAN ENERGY DRAFT

PROGRAMMATIC EIS (PIES)

TRANSCRIPT PUBLIC COMMENT

Thursday, May 15th, 2014

Public Speaker 6:28 - 7:30 p.m.

Pomaikai Elementary School Cafeteria

4650 South Kamehameha Avenue

Kahului, Maui, Hawaii 96732

FACILITATED BY:

ROBIN CAMPANIANO

REPORTED BY:

SANDRA J. GRAN, CSR NO. 424

Registered Professional Reporter

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I N D E X

PAGE

SPEAKER :

VICTOR REYES

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RODNEY RYUGO

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1 MR. ROBIN CAMPANIANO: And so, you know, at this  
2 point, Victor, could you come forward.

3 And following Victor, Rodney, could you offer your  
4 comments.

5 Oh. Could you state your name and spell it for the  
6 court reporter.

7 MR. VICTOR REYES: Good evening. My name is Victor  
8 Reyes, V-I-C-T-O-R, R-E-Y-E-S. I'm a resident of Kula,  
9 Upcountry Maui, and I also belong to the Kula Community  
10 Association.

11 And this subject of the environmental impact as a  
12 planning process is -- is very much in the -- in the mind of  
13 our community. So it just so happened that tonight is one of  
14 those areas that we have an opportunity to provide some input.  
15 And thank you very much for coming, we appreciate all the  
16 effort that you have made towards providing the community with  
17 information.

18 So I realize that this programmatic environmental  
19 impact statement is at a higher level or at a macro level and  
20 it's not project specific. So in the process you are able to  
21 accumulate a lot of information that will be helpful to the  
22 community, to the government, to the public, and to the  
23 private sector, who ultimately will be involved in the actual  
24 drafting of an environmental impact document that will be very  
25 specific to the actual project when it's proposed.

1           Our concern -- and thank you very much for that  
2           summary. And our concern kind of is that in the current state  
3           where environmental impact -- project impact statement is  
4           prepared in the state, it is the developer who picks the  
5           person or the company or the group that will provide or  
6           prepare the environmental impact statement. It is our  
7           sentiment, it is our concern that it should be the local  
8           government who should select an independent third party who  
9           will do the actual preparation of the document.

10           And we all know that this is paid for by the project  
11           developer. So under the current process, the project  
12           developer selects the firm that will do the actual preparation  
13           of the document, so what we are saying is it -- since this is  
14           a process, this is a planning document, this is actually a  
15           groundbreaking planning document since it will impact the  
16           whole state and every community because it refers to energy,  
17           we would like to recommend and have a key element in your  
18           finding to address the process by which EIS is done in the  
19           state of Hawaii.

20           I had an opportunity to have a conversation with one  
21           of your members and we are aware that in California, for  
22           example, the process is the local government selects the firm  
23           that will do the environmental impact document or prepare the  
24           environmental impact document paid for by the developer. So  
25           in the real sense of the true meaning of an independent and

1 something that the community can have faith on, it should be  
2 chosen by the local government or in the case of Hawaii, the  
3 local government is in charge of the planning -- I mean, the  
4 approval process.

5 So we feel that it's about time, since we are in a  
6 groundbreaking phase, it's about time we change by which the  
7 environmental impact documents are prepared in the state of  
8 Hawaii. I don't see this in the planning process that you  
9 address and that you mentioned or made mention tonight and so  
10 we'd like to take this opportunity to please incorporate this  
11 in your -- in one of the elements that -- I think it's very,  
12 very important.

13 All the information that you have gathered, the  
14 technology, the mitigation measures, those are all important,  
15 those are all being addressed, but who prepares that? That is  
16 our -- what we're trying to say should be prepared by an  
17 independent body chosen by the government, by the local  
18 government, that is involved in the approval process.

19 MR. ROBIN CAMPANIANO: Thank you very much.

20 Rodney?

21 MR. RODNEY RYUGO: My name is Rodney Ryugo, R-O-D  
22 and then R-Y-U-G-O.

23 One of the things that -- I just came here to get  
24 information and see what you all were actually up to and  
25 basically my feeling is when I look at the whole plan of using

1 alternative energy in Hawaii and what's gone -- I've been here  
2 ten years and I've seen the windmills go up and I'm sure to  
3 the dismay of maybe the Hawaiian people. That's where I have  
4 a concern there, when you look at the cultural practice and  
5 whether you're -- the state of Hawaii is really cognizant of  
6 the feelings of the Hawaiian people. I mean, we still have  
7 yet to apologize to the Kingdom of Hawaii, we still have  
8 yet -- they have yet to get their native rights back. That's  
9 definitely something I wish President Obama could -- and other  
10 people in congress and the senate and -- could get their  
11 Native Hawaiian rights back, that just should be a given and  
12 just a matter of time.

13 But when I look at -- I'm just looking at the people  
14 of Hawaii here and the windmills are up, you have  
15 photovoltaics going slowly, the state maybe not giving the  
16 kind of rebates back -- I think they were cutting them back.  
17 I don't own a home, I basically -- I'm in a -- I'm in an  
18 ohana, but I don't really worry about those kind of costs  
19 because -- but, anyway, that's a whole 'nother private issue,  
20 but I can see how the people of Hawaii when 37 -- well, when I  
21 arrived here, a person from the Sierra Club wrote in *The Maui*  
22 *News* I guess the price of energy was -- a kilowatt was around  
23 33 cents, 33.5, and now it's my understanding it's around 37  
24 and a half. We still have A & B burning coal and bio gas and  
25 when you look at the amount of photovoltaics as far as on

1 homes, it's just slow to me.

2 And, of course, affordable homes is really very  
3 slow. That's kind of like the worst thing here on Maui. I  
4 think the direction of the mayor and the county council --  
5 even though I support their affordable housing, the key issue  
6 is affordable rentals. So that if they can put on, you know,  
7 on affordable rentals affordable photovoltaics, then people  
8 can live here.

9 There's going to be a serious exodus of people  
10 leaving Hawaii because -- well, when you drive down the  
11 street, you can see the price of gasoline here, so -- and the  
12 diesel, if you have a diesel car, that's, of course, higher.  
13 We don't have any liquid natural gas like Sacramento. I  
14 see -- where I'm -- was born and raised, they have -- you see  
15 the buses that says natural gas on the top. We here on Maui,  
16 we drive diesel buses. We bought -- we buy them from Oahu,  
17 the used buses -- or there may be some new ones, but I know in  
18 the past, in the beginning of our bus transportation, we've  
19 had -- we bought the old diesel buses.

20 But if I were to just say something to you people as  
21 far as the planning, it's great to have these ideas, but the  
22 question is, is -- we really are under MECO, that's a private  
23 utility, I wish the public -- if there's a public utilities  
24 commission here, that it's those people that should really  
25 think about the people of Hawaii as opposed to maybe what MECO

1 wants to do.

2 I'm definitely disappointed that when we have all  
3 these windmills and we -- even though we have some of these  
4 photovoltaic systems, I still think the opportunity for  
5 businesses and homes, that should be the priority, 'cause  
6 that's the people, the people that are going to create  
7 businesses, jobs, the people that are going to live here. But  
8 because that's not a priority, that's where you'll get the  
9 exodus of -- it's just going to be too expensive to live here.  
10 You can't -- I mean, five years down the road, gas isn't going  
11 to be \$4.50, the kilowatt -- I mean, if you have all these  
12 windmills and it's still 37 and a half cents, where has the  
13 price come down? Only for those people that have been able to  
14 afford photovoltaics up to now.

15 Everybody knows that -- I was telling Mark that take  
16 a -- taking a neighborhood, let's say there's 500, 500 homes  
17 here, you're not going to have 500 homes with 500  
18 photovoltaics on there. It's all -- because MECO can't  
19 transition, take those 500 homes and say, Oh, okay, smooth  
20 everything out. It's almost like maybe 25, 50 homes might  
21 have it, but -- but the goal would be is if there's 500 homes  
22 right here in this Maui Lani neighborhood, they should have  
23 the opportunity to have photovoltaic. Over in Central Maui or  
24 any area, Kihei, any home should be able to, my feeling is,  
25 get a loan and put up some photovoltaics and work themselves



1 into the system.

2 But I don't think that's a reality. I think what's  
3 going to happen is there's going to be a -- you know, that  
4 only so many -- there's going to be only so many people be  
5 able to have those photovoltaics and then there would be more  
6 alternative energy uses, whether it -- well, I don't know, we  
7 may not even need that much power, because we only have  
8 150,000 people, folks, you know. I mean, we don't need -- I  
9 mean, if MECO were to put up double the -- more windmills, if  
10 the -- that -- the -- Ulupalakua, the ranch over there,  
11 increase their wind farm. If A & B decides to take 10,000  
12 acres and put up their own solar -- that mirror, the mirror  
13 like they do on the Big Island and create some power.

14 Well, what about the people? I mean, if you --  
15 that's what I can see if those alternative energies are used,  
16 if you have ocean -- ocean technology and -- besides wind and  
17 whatever other -- if you have 31 technologies, I'd have to go  
18 over there and see what the other 20 that I don't know about  
19 yet, you know, that we don't -- Maui doesn't need that. We  
20 don't have like Oahu 900,000, a million people to deal with.

21 So that's my concern, is that the people are being  
22 left out because more windmills could be built or maybe liquid  
23 natural gas -- some company, private company -- like I guess  
24 the mayor is -- there's a -- that burn the waste thing I think  
25 is planned or somebody is going to do that, so that -- I mean,

1 when they burn all that garbage, right, instead of putting it  
2 in the landfill, well, that -- where is that energy going to  
3 go? So is it -- is it going to lower the people's price of  
4 the kilowatts?

5 And that's -- that's the bottom line, is can regular  
6 people, regular locals, live here on this island and sustain,  
7 you know, and live and work and play here. And I don't -- I  
8 mean, I -- I don't -- I don't really see -- I mean, it's  
9 really a struggle for a lot of people, as you may already --  
10 well, some of you that are -- live here already know. It's a  
11 tough life and I -- I'm just in a different situation, I  
12 don't -- I don't have to worry about basically anything other  
13 than a couple little bills, but I really feel for those people  
14 on the island here.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. ROBIN CAMPANIANO: Thank you.

17 Would anybody else care to offer any comments?

18 Okay. Well, perhaps we'll recess for a few minutes  
19 and see if anybody else wants to come in.

20 MR. JOE RIVERS: And we'll also be around to answer  
21 questions informally.

22 MR. ROBIN CAMPANIANO: Absolutely.

23 (Concluded at approximately 7:30 p.m., May  
24 15, 2014.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF HAWAII )  
 ) SS.  
CITY AND COUNTY OF MAUI )

I, Sandra J. Gran, Certified Shorthand Reporter for the State of Hawaii, hereby certify that the proceedings were taken down by me in machine shorthand and was thereafter reduced to typewritten form under my supervision; that the foregoing 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 9th day of June, 2014, in Maui, Hawaii.



Sandra J. Gran, RPR  
Hawaii CSR 424