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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
PUBLIC HEARING

RE: HAWAII CLEAN ENERGY DRAFT
PROGRAMMATIC EIS (PEIS)

TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Monday, May 19, 2014

Kaunakakai Elementary School

30 Ailoa Street

Kaunakakai, Hawaii 96748

ON BEHALF OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY:

JANE SUMMERSON

ON BEHALF OF THE STATE OF HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE:

MARK GLICK

FACILITATED BY:

ROBIN CAMPANIANO

REPORTED BY: KATHRYN PLIZGA, RPR

Hawaii CSR No. 497

1	I N D E X	
2		PAGE
3	INTRODUCTION BY	
4	ROBIN CAMPANIANO	3
5		
6	SPEAKERS:	
7	JANEEL HEW	3
8	GREGORY KAHN	5
9	DAVID KANGAS	8
10	MIKE BOND	9
11	PEGGY LUCAS BOND	14
12	RITA WOODS	18
13	KANOHOWAILUKU HELM	21
14	JAMES ESPANIOLA	22
15	JANEEL HEW	29
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		

P R O C E E D I N G S

1

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MR. CAMPANIANO: So now is the opportunity for you to come forth and offer your testimony, should you desire. The rules are fairly straight forward. We ask that you treat each other with the aloha and respect that we have been experiencing throughout the state.

I'll call your names, and please come forward. And, if you can, speak pretty succinctly so that our court reporter can pick up your testimony and transcribe it. I would also ask you to please spell your name so that she can get your name spelled correctly.

So we are going to start with Janeel. We are going to follow with Greg and then followed by David.

I am going to ask you to come and, again, to respect the rights of others; if you could keep your initial comments to about three minutes. And then if there's time, we can circle back if you've got anything else to say.

MS. HEW: Thank you, Robin.

Aloha. Janeel -- J-A-N-E-E-L -- last name Hew, H-E-W.

1 Again, I want to thank everybody for coming;
2 both the crew, Mark, and everybody here on Molokai.
3 I would like to ask anyone that is here from Molokai
4 to help spread this information, give people the
5 e-mail address to comment the web site information
6 and so on.

7 I did scan the draft. Again, thank you for
8 getting that information out to people. My concern
9 was that although I appreciated all the work that
10 everybody put into this -- I know it was a long
11 process -- I know that I personally submitted over
12 200 questions, questions and comments, concerns.

13 And what I saw was that your teams reviewed,
14 took into consideration and categorized. Where is
15 the answers? Am I overlooking them in the so many
16 thousand pages? Are there answers that we can turn
17 to? I did not see any of the questions and comments
18 that I submitted even on the web site.

19 The only ones that I did find were the ones
20 that I stated verbally at the meeting that we had at
21 Mitchell Pauole. So apparently, I'm missing a link
22 or the questions that I submitted weren't received.
23 But I would like to know where I could find the
24 answers to these things.

25 A lot of the information that I was looking

1 at -- and there was a lot of information to go
2 through -- a lot of the information was very generic
3 for me. I was hoping when it came down to the
4 impacts, there would be more information in regards
5 to, say, the undersea cable. What happens when it
6 deteriorates, because it's not going to be removed
7 from the ocean. You know, what is it made of and
8 what do those things -- how do those things affect
9 our ocean life.

10 So I'm hoping -- and I will submit more
11 questions in writing -- but I'm hoping to find
12 answers to the questions and comments. So I think
13 that would help us feel more informed.

14 Thank you.

15 MR. KAHN: Aloha, everyone. My name is
16 Gregory Kahn. G-R-E-G-O-R-Y K-A-H-N.

17 Several weeks ago, the PUC reprimanded HECO
18 for not developing an energy action plan that would
19 reduce cost reductions to the consumer, and then they
20 ordered them to do so. As a regulated utility, HECO
21 is mandated to provide a reliable service at a
22 reasonable cost.

23 But the utility's impractical and misguided
24 pursuit of undersea cables that connect the islands
25 is a plan that does exactly what the PUC has

1 instructed them not to do. The implementation of
2 deep water cables as electric grid ties and electric
3 generation ties not only hinders reliability by
4 adopting an all-your-eggs-in-one basket philosophy,
5 but it also ignores the order to provide electricity
6 at a reasonable cost because the rate payer and the
7 tax payer foot the bill.

8 Now, according to HECO's own figures, the
9 cost of these gen-tie and grid-tie cables will be in
10 the ballpark of about \$5.2 billion. That's not one
11 million, that's not 10 million, that's not a hundred
12 million, that's a thousand million dollars times
13 five. And those are in 2009 dollars. So how does
14 anyone here interpret this as being a reasonable
15 cost.

16 So, HECO takes no financial risk in the
17 construction and maintenance of the cable, but is
18 able to use that asset that we pay for to generate a
19 profit. Now, the utility claims that the cost per
20 kilowatt hours is going to be reduced. But what they
21 don't say is that with the consumer paying for the
22 cable, our monthly bills will likely increase because
23 we'll see adjustments, surcharges, assessments and
24 fees.

25 At the Integrated Resource Planning Meeting

1 last spring in Honolulu, HECO's manager in charge of
2 overseeing the undersea cable presented the utility's
3 plan for inter-island connectivity. Afterwards,
4 during the Q and A we asked him, "What are the life
5 spans of these cables?" And his response was -- and
6 I quote, "I don't know, 15 to 20 years."

7 So, firstly, how can the utility proclaim
8 that the cable will reduce our bills when they are
9 not certain about the data needed to make that very
10 claim. In other words, if you are unsure of the life
11 span of the cable, how do you figure with any
12 accuracy its financial impact on the consumer?

13 Secondly, 15 to 20 years? Does that mean
14 that every generation of rate payers in Hawaii will
15 have to pony up billions of dollars when the cables
16 go down? Our children, our children's children and
17 their children will have to keep giving HECO billions
18 and billions of dollars to replace broken cables so
19 they can have electricity?

20 What we see in reading the PEIS is that
21 conspicuously absent from this discussion on the
22 utility's myopic radar are the obvious and plausible
23 alternative to the multi-billion dollar undersea
24 cable model. And that is, around the globe you find
25 countless nations, countless communities, who are

1 implementing micro-grids, implementing energy co-ops,
2 decentralized generation, etc. to achieve energy
3 independence without fossil fuels.

4 Now, Molokai's peak load is never above a
5 meager seven megawatts. So it would be financially
6 beneficial to the rate payer to establish a renewable
7 portfolio here, which would only require an amalgam
8 of, say, a two to three megawatt solar park (which
9 other islands have), some pumped hydrostorage (which
10 other islands have), and a waste-to-energy landfill
11 (which other islands have.)

12 Maybe we should ask ourselves the question,
13 do we want to wean ourselves off of fossil fuels by
14 constantly paying for the undersea cable folly, or do
15 we want to wean ourselves off of HECO by creating our
16 own renewal strategy that will generate and
17 distribute energy on Molokai for Molokai. Thank you.

18 (Applause)

19 MR. KANGAS: Janeel and Greg, that was
20 beautiful. This is like a postscript to that.

21 My name is David Kangas, K-A-N-G-A-S, with
22 "I Aloha Molokai." Again, thank you very much for
23 coming here and letting us all speak tonight.

24 I believe I'm correct in saying "I Aloha
25 Molokai", most people here and in Hawaii are

1 cautiously optimistic that we are of course stopping
2 the wind mills here and any cables.

3 Often our government has ignored the
4 communities here and on the mainland in making
5 "progress" to improve making energy and that proved
6 disastrous, especially for those environments and
7 people. Please do not ignore us here or in Hawaii.

8 We Aloha Molokai, our raw nature here and
9 our population here and in Hawaii. We don't ever
10 want any cables or wind mills of any kind touching
11 this island. That technology is not feasible and it
12 simply does not work to preserve Hawaii. We won't
13 tolerate that. Thank you.

14 (Applause)

15 MR. CAMPANIANO: Mahalo, Dave. Mike Bond
16 followed by Peggy and then Rita.

17 MR. BOND: Thank you. Just a couple of
18 brief things.

19 My name is Mike Bond, B-O-N-D, I live on the
20 west end. My family has been in Hawaii for nearly
21 200 years and we're extensive on all the islands.

22 I wanted to briefly touch on my own personal
23 background in the energy business. I was project
24 manager of a Department of the Interior Electric
25 Power Research Institute Study, a national study of

1 the impacts of underground and high tension wires for
2 the Navy.

3 I was project manager of several sanguine
4 Studies of hundreds of thousands of square miles for
5 potential cable laying, as well as many other
6 energy-related projects. I was the chair of the
7 28-Nation group that integrated or spoke the working
8 documents for integrating the Soviet Union's grid
9 with the west, etc.

10 I was the CEO of an energy company and
11 worked very long and hard for Al Gore in the energy
12 part of the 2000 presidential campaign. I'm very
13 pro -- totally pro renewable energy -- which is why
14 I'm very concerned and upset by this document.

15 There isn't time to go into it -- I have
16 read a good part of it -- there isn't time to go into
17 it, I am going to give an extensive response written.
18 But I would just like to say the one thing that
19 concerns me the most is the tacit acceptance of the
20 underground cable and the tacit acceptance of DBEDT's
21 arguments in favor of the cable. And in fact,
22 Mr. Glick being here tonight, Mr. Glick has long been
23 a very strong proponent of the cable.

24 And I personally, with more than 30 years of
25 experience in the energy business, I have to say I

1 think the cable is a disaster. It's hyper-costly and
2 it's basically in my view a political corporate scam.

3 And I would like to just give a very short
4 description. For instance, you start out with 200
5 megawatts of main plate capacity on a wind project in
6 Maui that you're trying to get to Oahu.

7 First off, your actual capacity factor is
8 about 24 percent in Hawaii. That takes you down to
9 48 megawatts. I just scribbled this right now on the
10 back of my pad here -- by the time you're done -- by
11 the time you take in the transmission loss, the
12 curtailment by HECO of power coming from this wind
13 project on Maui or wherever that they can't use for
14 curtailment, by the time you consider the cost of the
15 fuel for the spinning reserve that you have to run
16 constantly because wind is so erratic and going up
17 and down, you need to have a constant back-up of
18 fossil fuel generation.

19 Then, when you add in the purchases by wind
20 projects when they are forced to keep their rotors
21 turning, you have to buy electricity to do so when
22 the wind is uncooperative. That's just a few of the
23 many disasters associated with a wind project.

24 And I'll give you an example. In
25 California, hundreds of thousands of acres of

1 California are covered by wind projects. They
2 slaughter birds and bats by the millions. There's
3 13,000 wind turbines in California. They can be
4 replaced by one single gas-fired combined-cycle power
5 plant on about 45 acres; 555 megawatts would replace
6 hundreds of thousands of acres of bird cuisinarts,
7 which is what the renewable energy people call wind
8 mills.

9 So, just briefly, because I know our time is
10 short, these are not just fanciful projects. The
11 cable has been proposed, there is a law that was
12 passed, thanks to Mr. Gatto, that forces the
13 consumers to -- in actuality -- pay for it. So this
14 is not just a theoretical project, this is a real
15 project.

16 For instance, one of the proposed developers
17 just bought the land for the cable to land on in
18 Oahua. So they obviously think it's a real project
19 and not just a fanciful one.

20 The only way we can move forward
21 intelligently on Hawaii is rooftop solar. HECO has
22 tried to stop -- slow down rooftop solar everywhere
23 they can -- the 15 percent limit, all the other
24 balderdash associated with that one.

25 Kauai itself, by next year, is going to be

1 over 50 percent rooftop solar in terms of total
2 generation because it's not part of HECO and they can
3 do what's right.

4 I just have to say that the DBEDT'S analysis
5 of the cable and of the related wind projects is
6 fanciful, it's made up. It makes no sense to anybody
7 who has spent years in the energy business. Anybody
8 who's used to looking at it, it's a fraud. And it's
9 driven by corporate contributions to politicians who
10 then go ahead and push the kinds of legislation that
11 the corporations wish.

12 So, we're not so much dependent on foreign
13 oil as we could be. We could be free in many ways.
14 That's an old -- that's an old -- I don't know what
15 you want to call it -- scaredy cat -- to get
16 everybody to push for wind.

17 We need distributed generation, which you
18 did talk about briefly. I would just like to say
19 that rooftop solar has very few impacts. We're
20 coming to the point where batteries can be utilized,
21 we don't need to even be on the grid anymore. We
22 certainly don't need to build a catastrophic cable
23 through the humpback whale's sanctuary and saddle all
24 Hawaii rate payers with the cost.

25 Thank you.

1 (Applause)

2 MS. BOND: My name is Peggy Lucas Bond.

3 L-U-C-A-S B-O-N-D.

4 When this PEIS project started way back in
5 December 2010, like many Hawaiians, I was unclear as
6 to what a PEIS was and why it was being done. Our
7 learning curve was sharp. And, as you noted earlier,
8 our public comments were instrumental in forcing the
9 original 2010 PEIS to be morphed into the current
10 Draft PEIS.

11 This new Draft PEIS now encompasses a wider
12 scope of options for Hawaii to use to reduce CO2
13 emissions rather than focusing on the ill-conceived
14 Big Wind alternative, which penalized Molokai and
15 Lanai as well as Hawaiian rate payers.

16 Hawaiians, particularly those on the less-
17 populated islands, have become more energy aware and
18 are looking to become energy independent. The
19 concept of developing industrial scale energy
20 projects to ship power to more populated islands is
21 not widely accepted or popular. The Draft PEIS
22 highlights many low impact options that would help
23 Hawaii on an island-by-island basis to achieve the
24 energy independence economically without large-scale
25 projects that would qualify for government subsidies

1 that will raise our taxes and electricity rates.

2 The Draft PEIS is lengthy and I have not
3 been able to review all of its representative
4 alternatives which, as is stated in the document, are
5 "NOT" recommendations. Hopefully, developers will
6 use this document and remember that they are not
7 recommendations if they are planning to pursue the
8 representative transmission and distribution
9 project -- the Oahu-Maui grid tie.

10 The selection of the Oahu-Maui grid tie
11 project seems to imply that the State's desire to
12 move forward with this project is valid. Although
13 the Draft states that this "representative project is
14 not intended to reflect any known or planned
15 project", the reality is that this project is before
16 the Hawaii PUC and is a real project.

17 The Draft goes so far as to agree that the
18 grid tie is "in the public interest". How can a
19 project whose cost will certainly raise all
20 ratepayers' electricity bills and have massive
21 environmental impacts be in the public interest?
22 Additionally, can we claim that it is in the public
23 interest when it would be built if it were connecting
24 industrial-scale "renewable projects" which are
25 subsidized by Federal grants that add to our Federal

1 deficit?

2 This is especially egregious here in Hawaii
3 where there are other alternatives described in the
4 Draft that are more economically and more
5 environmentally safe.

6 In classifying the characteristics of the
7 potential environmental impacts of electrical and
8 transmission distribution, the Draft suggests that
9 the socioeconomic impacts of an undersea cable are
10 those "common among most construction and operational
11 activities."

12 At the same time, the Draft acknowledges
13 that the impacts of electro-magnetic fields from the
14 operation of undersea cables on marine species are
15 unknown and that researchers are working to determine
16 the extent and the magnitude of the impacts.

17 Shouldn't the Draft recommend that no cables
18 be laid until these impacts are known and validated?
19 Or, in the very least, the Draft should recommend
20 that the Uncertainty Principle as outlined by the Rio
21 Convention be applied.

22 We have come a long way worldwide towards
23 protecting our marine resources since I worked with
24 Dr. Ken Norris at Oceanic Institute in the early
25 1970's. Dr. Norris was doing groundbreaking research

1 on humpback whales that led to the creation of the
2 Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale sanctuary. The
3 sanctuary needs to be respected, and particularly its
4 annual six-month moratorium on activities such as
5 cable construction.

6 I may have missed the mention of this in the
7 Draft. And if it's not there, it should be.

8 It's very easy to be cavalier about daily
9 life underwater. I am one of few individuals who has
10 had an opportunity to live and work underwater.
11 After ten days living in an underwater habitat and
12 spending many hours in the water, I came to realize
13 that the undersea world is complex and fragile, and
14 that the Hawaiian concept that the ocean is a mirror
15 image of the land is correct. Let's not go backwards
16 on marine resource protection as this document can be
17 interpreted to suggest.

18 I also challenge the Draft's assumption that
19 undersea cables have no environmental justice
20 impacts. Isn't the degradation of the fisheries in
21 areas where population who rely on fishing for
22 subsistence a potential environmental justice impact?

23 Similarly, wouldn't industrial projects on
24 less-populated islands connected via an inter-island
25 cable have the environmental justice impact of

1 subjecting residents to "disproportionally high and
2 adverse impacts" by substantially changing the nature
3 of their island? Thank you.

4 (Applause)

5 MR. CAMPANIANO: We have one more person who
6 has signed up to testify. Kano?

7 I'm sorry, Rita, I jumped the gun.

8 MS. WOODS: Hi. My name is Rita Woods --
9 R-I-T-A W-O-O-D-S -- and I am a resident of Molokai,
10 and very, very interested in what's been going on
11 with the PEIS.

12 First of all, I want to say that it's a
13 very, very amazing chunk of paperwork here. And I
14 learned a lot about my island just by reading through
15 it. Spent most of the day today, in fact, which is
16 why I'm cross-eyed tonight.

17 My main concern about this PEIS is the plan
18 for the submarine cable. From the maps provided
19 throughout the PEIS, Molokai seems to have the lion's
20 share of endangered species and marine involvement.

21 From the maps, it appears that a cable from
22 Maui to Oahu will require three stations on Molokai.
23 It looks like it will be coming into the Pala'au
24 area, which is a very high tourism area, beautiful
25 beaches; and also it looks like it will be coming in

1 at Kakahaia National Wildlife Refuge just beyond the
2 Kavelas.

3 That's where all of the nutrients flow into
4 the ocean, and why we have some tremendous amounts of
5 green turtles and beautiful, beautiful coral heads
6 and fish of just every imaginable color.

7 Then, the last one, as it jumps off for
8 Oahu, looks like it will be at Ilio Point, which is a
9 very popular place for the very greatly endangered
10 Hawaiian Monk Seal where they take in on birthing,
11 nursing, resting, and molting.

12 We just did our Monk Seal count on Saturday,
13 and we counted 17 on Molokai, 17 on Oahu, and fewer
14 as you go south. That's not very many. And if we
15 start to take over their nesting and birthing places,
16 we'll probably lose more.

17 Their PEIS, by the way, is extremely
18 specific about the Hawaiian Monk Seals. And
19 apparently, it is in progress and people are abiding
20 by it.

21 The area in its entirety, of course, is the
22 whale sanctuary here. And it's just silly that we
23 have so many different endangered species that we're
24 going to try and interrupt with this cable that's
25 going through.

1 I believe the favorable course for Molokai
2 and for all of the islands will be to focus on
3 projects that work specifically for them.

4 For us, I believe that solar power is the
5 best thing. Raising that arbitrary 15 percent level
6 on solar would be very good; that would be a good
7 start; and then having some battery storage would of
8 course be helpful.

9 The report talks about having converter
10 stations at each of these three points where they hit
11 Molokai. It says that they'll be up to 40 feet above
12 ground level and have a footprint of six acres within
13 a half mile of shoreline. That's an enormous chunk
14 of land to disturb and will create a huge amount of
15 silt, which has been smothering our pristine Fringe
16 Reef, our 30-mile long -- second only to Australia's
17 Great Barrier Reef -- that runs along the south part
18 of Molokai.

19 For all these reasons, for the three huge
20 converter stations that will affect the humpback
21 whale sanctuary, the severely endangered Hawaiian
22 Monk Seal birthing areas, the population of green sea
23 turtles, our Fringe Reef along the south shore of
24 Molokai, and the huge footprints taken up by all of
25 this on our tiny island -- we don't want it, we don't

1 need it, and we -- at least I -- am opposed to the
2 undersea cable.

3 Thank you.

4 (Applause)

5 MR. HELM: Aloha and Mahalo, you guys, for
6 coming and broadening this process and looking at
7 other alternatives. I think Molokai has stated loud
8 and clear our stands on the cable and the Big Wind
9 project, and we oppose it.

10 Been saying it over and over again. I think
11 you guys get the message.

12 I represent an organization, Ikehu Molokai.
13 We have over 800 members. And we continue to meet
14 every month, continue to look for alternatives.

15 We have our meetings maybe every two months;
16 and hopefully we can get a little bit more on that,
17 called the Molokai Clean Energy Initiative. And we
18 will be more than glad to share some of that
19 information with you folks that we've gathered from
20 some of the people here on the island.

21 With that, I just wanted to share a
22 statement from Molokai Ranch, which comes from their
23 web site. I would like this to go on the record
24 because this is what they say, and this is on there
25 about the project, the cable project.

1 "Ikehu Molokai has the potential to convert
2 the island to 100 percent renewable and to accomplish
3 the following goals." And I will just read a few.

4 "Stabilize and reduce the cost of the energy to make
5 it more affordable for Molokai residents and
6 businesses, enable the grid to absorb more
7 distributed renewable energy. For example,
8 residential and commercial rooftop solar systems.
9 Allow Molokai to be self-sufficient in energy,
10 putting island residents more in control of their
11 energy future and help make the island a global model
12 of sustainability.

13 Reduce electricity for Molokai only. No
14 connection to a cable or export to other islands."
15 I want to repeat that. "Reduce electricity for
16 Molokai only, no connection to a cable or export to
17 other islands."

18 This is a statement that Molokai Ranch made.

19 So, I just wanted that to go on record. We
20 continue to work hard and look for alternatives.
21 Just again, thank you folks very much.

22 Mahalo.

23 MR. CAMPANIANO: Is there anybody else who
24 has not signed up to testify yet that would like to
25 come forward?

1 MR. ESPANIOLA: James Espaniola. Aloha,
2 everybody. My name is James Espaniola.

3 I just have a couple of questions to the
4 Hawaii guys -- or just questions about -- I mean,
5 listening just tonight the conversations about the
6 alternative energy and the issues, to me it's
7 creating energy and meeting that goal that the state
8 has does not look like an issue.

9 The issue that is bringing up all these
10 other issues is the energy going from wherever it's
11 been created to the consumers. And that's coming
12 through basically the issue that they're dealing
13 with, the electric companies.

14 That's where the issue is coming from, is
15 that -- and to me -- if the state was serious about
16 meeting their goals, to me I was wondering if the
17 state ever took data on what was the electric
18 company's use and consumption of fuel that they're
19 generating. Because the thing that it looks like is
20 that they're pursuing a lot of, you know, businesses
21 and homeowners to help meet this objective.

22 But if you look at it, if you really figure
23 out who were the biggest consumers or biggest
24 industries that are using up the energy, and you had
25 those people focus on the reduction of their energy

1 or having them switch over to alternative powers, you
2 meet your goals a lot faster and it will have less
3 effects.

4 Because the biggest energy consumer right
5 now would be HECO because they're bringing all their
6 fuel in. But what have they brought to the plan
7 other than wind, because everybody is saying no to
8 it -- and the undersea cable -- what else have they
9 brought to the plan in order to, you know, show that
10 they're actually making an effort to cut their costs
11 and their reductions.

12 I mean, a couple of other questions is, also
13 is if the state has any policies that help out the
14 individual homeowners? I mean, there's a lot of
15 different tax breaks that are going around. But I've
16 never seen any tax break for homeowners who are off
17 the grid on their own.

18 You've got to either have solar, because
19 there's paperwork for that, or you've got to have,
20 you know, a solar water heater or some other sources.
21 But there is people that are using their own
22 technology or creating their own fuel. But they're,
23 you know, they're creating their own fuel on site.
24 But there's -- I haven't seen any breaks for them.

25 I mean, even for transportation to meet that

1 goal of 70 percent is a really interesting goal to
2 cut the fuel cost by 70 percent. I mean, the only
3 way to do that is to, you know, switch out people's
4 cars.

5 But there is technologies and people that
6 are doing it individually, saving fuel, becoming more
7 fuel efficient with their vehicles which means they
8 use -- get better mileage -- which means they're
9 consuming less fuel. I mean, it's not -- to reach
10 those reductions is not necessarily you have to stop
11 all of it.

12 But it's just, you know, you've just got
13 to -- you know, it's like the alternatives that you
14 guys -- that they have on here -- there's 31
15 different technologies. Creating the power is not
16 the issue. Like to me it's just -- I'd just like to
17 say that the biggest issue that I see and I hear from
18 other people is dealing with the electric companies.

19 The one thing with a lot of people were
20 against the Big Wind company over here when they were
21 developing. And a lot of things was, you know,
22 people were against the company and asking them like,
23 oh, all the power is going to Oahu and none is coming
24 back to Molokai.

25 The issue is the power not coming back to

1 Molokai was never in the hands of the company. They
2 have to deal with HECO. It's HECO that is
3 restricting the possibilities that could be
4 beneficial for the island.

5 Now, if -- because I heard alternative plans
6 from people that talked with the wind companies where
7 their deal for the community -- which I'm just using
8 the wind now, but it could go for any power source
9 like Kano mentioned with the Molokai Ranch, that
10 there is people that see the potential of this island
11 because of the size of the island and the people, and
12 the support that the people have towards alternative
13 energies, that it could be totally self-sufficient.

14 But the biggest barrier is this HECO. If
15 HECO doesn't allow like Molokai Ranch's project that
16 could become a hundred percent renewable, they don't
17 want that because if they're not bringing in fuel or
18 they don't have a line that they've got to maintain,
19 that's one less fee that they can't add on your bill
20 in order for you to pay, which is more profits.

21 And it comes down basically to the profits.
22 How can -- as gas prices rise throughout the nation
23 and the electric bills rise -- how is their profit
24 margin also rising when they're saying they're doing
25 it for the consumer, that we need to raise -- we need

1 to raise prices of electricity because of the cost
2 that is -- the increasing costs in order to produce
3 it.

4 Well, if your costs is increasing and you're
5 increasing the bills, your profit margin should not
6 be exponentially increasing. And when they report
7 their finances it's blindly -- everybody can see
8 it -- but I don't hear anybody questioning, okay, you
9 ask PUC to raise the gas prices because gas is going
10 up, everybody can see it, everybody knows importing
11 fuel is going up.

12 But how does you raising it by five cents,
13 and all of a sudden your profit margin is increasing?
14 To me it's like if you're really doing it -- the
15 business of energy, the problem with HECO the way it
16 is -- that it's such a monopoly within the islands
17 that it's on, that they're just focused on -- they've
18 become too much of a corporation and wants their
19 focus on their bottom line, on their profits, and not
20 on their services to the people. And then that's why
21 they're having -- that's why they're having issues
22 with everybody.

23 But I just don't -- I just don't -- I just
24 disagree -- I mean, I agree that alternative energy,
25 there is potential. I see no problem with Hawaii

1 reaching those goals.

2 But to me, the biggest barrier is -- right
3 now is HECO -- because a perfect example is somebody
4 else mentioned on Kauai where they have another
5 energy source that is not with HECO, they're making
6 progress. And to me, it's like the direction that
7 we're focusing, maybe the people, but also the state,
8 some of that should be directed to HECO.

9 I mean, the issue is with HECO, they're
10 trying to cover their costs. Something I heard from
11 somebody who used to work there, the reason they
12 didn't want the Big Wind Energies coming in is
13 because they have some of their contracts for fuel
14 that they haven't a set price that is set for "X"
15 amount of years out there. And that's why they don't
16 want alternatives yet because they already bought the
17 fuel and they need to use it.

18 A good example of that is the reason why the
19 electric plant in Maalaea on Maui is switching over
20 to biodiesel, and HECO supported the wind farm, was
21 their contract for their fuel is running out. So
22 that's why they are pursuing alternative energies,
23 because they don't want to use fuel anymore because
24 it's going to cost them too much.

25 But yeah, thank you, everyone. And

1 everybody else have a good night.

2 MR. CAMPANIANO: Would there be anybody else
3 who would like to testify for the first time?

4 Then, Janeel, come on back up.

5 MS. HEW: Just me again.

6 I would like to emphasize, I think, what
7 most of the group here is feeling. We received this
8 draft of the final EIS.

9 My feeling is it's not ready. I know you
10 guys have put a lot of work into it. But I think we
11 need more details, we need more responses to our
12 concerns.

13 And we need issues such as what's going to
14 happen, how smart is it really to put anything in the
15 ocean, whether it's wind power or the cable in the
16 ocean, when we're dealing with issues such as
17 radiation from the Japan incident. Nobody is
18 thinking about those things. How is it going to
19 affect that cable or any wind mill stations out in
20 the ocean.

21 We still have to look at the larger picture,
22 not just site specific. And that's what I'm seeing
23 in the PEIS. A lot of it is site specific.

24 I also noticed that -- and I have to admit
25 I got a little offended by it, okay -- which was the

1 area of the impact on social, economics, and how the
2 impact wasn't that big because it was a minority or
3 it impacted -- there was the minority of individuals
4 in low-income situations.

5 That was offensive because Molokai, that's
6 the majority of the people that live here, that will
7 be impacted.

8 When we look at the issue of long term,
9 again, it needs to be broadened in the effect of more
10 than site specific.

11 When we're talking about our area, when
12 we're talking about our animals, I would like to see
13 the Draft -- the PEIS -- I would like to see it
14 include more information from NOAA. I would like to
15 know how they plan on protecting the whales when it
16 comes down to the guidelines for submarine cables
17 saying that the Hawaii humpback sanctuary is exempt
18 from the guidelines that they have in place.

19 Why are they exempt, and how much damage
20 will really take place. On the PEIS I see during
21 construction -- well -- I'm sorry, there is going to
22 be more than that. It's going to be a lot more than
23 that.

24 We need to -- when we're looking out of the
25 box for these energy ideas, we need to be looking out

1 of our area too -- we cannot be selfish on this.
2 What we do to our ocean and our land is going to
3 affect the world. Just like we want to affect the
4 greenhouse effect, we want it to be a positive impact
5 in every aspect.

6 So, my personal opinion -- and yes, I'll go
7 back and reread and reread until I go cross-sighted
8 too like Aunty Rita.

9 So my bottom line is, yes, you guys did a
10 lot of work, but there's still a lot of work to be
11 done.

12 Also, I'd like to know, these are guidelines
13 for the state -- what about people that are doing
14 their own personal energy projects at home? And what
15 are the repercussions if the state chooses to just
16 totally ignore all this research and suggestions that
17 you've done, what are the repercussions from that?

18 Will the government still be funding the
19 state for the projects that they know are the worst
20 projects when it comes to environmental impact?

21 How much support are they going to receive
22 Federally?

23 So, anyway, thank you.

24 (Applause)

25 MR. CAMPANIANO: Would there be anybody else

1 who would like to offer comments?

2 MR. BOND: I don't need that, I just want to
3 add one more comment.

4 Please don't be confused by the small number
5 of people that are here tonight. Any time anything
6 important comes down and we think we're at risk,
7 you're going to find the entire population of Molokai
8 is going to be out to stop you. And that goes for
9 the cable and that goes for anything touching
10 Molokai. Thank you.

11 MR. CAMPANIANO: Further comments?

12 You have until -- what was it -- July 17 to
13 offer your comments. And again, on one of those
14 charts back there it shows you how to log on, where
15 to send your snail mails and the like.

16 So, on behalf of the Department of Energy,
17 again, and DBEDT, we are going to really thank you
18 for taking the time to come out and offer your manao
19 to us. Thank you very much. Mahalo!

20 (The public comments period was concluded.)

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1 STATE OF HAWAII)
 2) ss.
 3 CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU)
 4

5 I, KATHRYN PLIZGA, RPR, CSR No. 497, State
 6 of Hawaii, do hereby certify:

7 That on May 19, 2014, the above-mentioned
 8 proceedings were contained;

9 That the proceeding was taken by me in
 10 machine shorthand and was thereafter reduced to
 11 typewriting by me;

12 That the foregoing represents, to the best
 13 of my ability, a full, true and correct transcript of
 14 said proceedings.

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

18 Dated: Honolulu, Hawaii, June 10, 2014.
 19
 20

21 _____
 22 KATHRYN PLIZGA, RPR
 23 Hawaii CSR No. 497
 24
 25