U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

RE: HAWAI`I CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Thursday, September 20, 2012
6:00 - 7:48 p.m.
James B. Castle High School
45-386 Kaneohe Bay Drive
Kaneohe Hawai`i
APPEARANCES

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MR. HARRIS: My name is Robert Harris. I'm the director of the Sierra Club Hawaii chapter. We are in support of the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative goals of trying to achieve 70 percent renewable energy. We do believe that there are three primary methods to accomplish this. First, energy efficiency; second, through distributed generated renewable energy; and third, through centralized renewable energy. We believe that any capability to achieve Hawaii's goals will need a healthy mix of all three. We do believe that the state should prioritize energy efficiency first, and then distributed generation second, followed by centralized renewable energy.

Turning to energy efficiency, we encourage the state to look at the various methods to achieve our energy efficiency goals, including passing regulations to require energy efficiency. This might be the cheapest and most environmentally friendly and economical way to achieve our renewable energy goals.

Second, we do believe distributed generation needs to be aggressively pursued, including making investments into our grid to ensure that we can
handle distributed generated power. This is the
so-called smart grid and the modern trend of most
cities.

Turning to centralized renewable energy,
we believe that the programmatic EIS should be
analyzing primary locations as to where renewable
energy can be generated, and in analyzing these
locations, should be looking to the biological,
environmental and cultural impacts that occur with
projects moving forward in those areas. If at all
possible, attempts to prioritize the areas that would
have the minimum environmental impacts as the ideal
locations to move forward.

I'll conclude with: Thank you for the
opportunity to provide comments.

MR. LLOYD: Actually, the court reporter
has my testimony already. So thank you very much. My
name is Allen Lloyd. I've spent 30 years working for
Maui Electric and Hawaiian Electric. I used to run
their marketing department.

Well, customers are hurting. That's why
I'm here today. We have a magnificent opportunity
that has only been lightly touched on, and the
chairman's welcoming statement in the paper is what
got me out here. Thank you for the invitation.
Bottom line is this: Have an article right here which points out that the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has suddenly stabled and is trending down. Big surprise. Nobody predicted this. Why? Because of new drilling techniques, the United States has become the Persian Gulf of natural gas. The price of natural gas has dropped like a big pohaku and it presents a magnificent opportunity for the island of Oahu.

I have a formal written testimony on this, but basically it comes to this, it says: Summed up rather neatly by Governor Abercrombie in his letter to Hawaiian Electric, he says move forward with plans to include natural gas in Hawaii's energy portfolio in the near term. Amen. For example, natural gas on the mainland is now going for about three bucks a million Btu. That's equivalent to $18 a barrel. Hawaiian Electric is paying $135 a barrel. You wonder why electric rates here are four times higher than they are on the mainland.

We have got to get off oil. We've got to look for ways that don't involve spending a billion dollars to put a very complex DC power cable from here 52 miles at 2500 feet depth to the west end of Lana'i. We have an opportunity. The opportunity is that we can get natural gas for Oahu. Oahu electric load is
big enough to consider an LNG unloading facility. Natural gas is developing all over the mainland. It is a magnificent opportunity and it has caused the CO2 in the atmosphere to drop. It is the cleanest fuel available, and my written testimony explains all this.

If we wanted to -- Maui County hopefully will have a geothermal resource. They're exploring for it. Keep your fingers crossed. But in case they don't, or even if they do, Maui has got the best wind reserves in the state, on Lana`i particularly, especially down at the Pailolo Channel. You can run cables across the Lahaina roads, plain old AC cables. You don't have to have these big fancy DC inverter stations, big switching stations, and you have to design that to resist tsunamis. That's the lesson of Fukushima Daiichi, watch out for the tsunamis. Lahaina is much more -- much better place.

So the basic thing is if you're going to really utilize wind on Maui and if geothermal doesn't come through on Maui, then what we need is to consider a pump storage hydro plant. There are many places on Maui where pump storage hydro can make wind useful for utility of that size. And please refer to my written testimony for more details on that. Thank you.

FACILITATOR CHANG: Thank you, Mr. Lloyd.
Next is Representative Thielen and then Lisa Bail and after Lisa is Henry Curtis.

REPRESENTATIVE THIELEN: Thank you again for holding this hearing, and I've submitted my testimony in writing. I'm just briefly going to talk about wave energy and the Department of Energy's recent report that showed that Hawaii has vast more power in the ocean than was previously anticipated.

Each island can provide 100 percent of its power needed by tapping into the surge in the ocean and using the wave energy converters. Oahu, though, can only tap 80 percent of its needs. But it's a powerful source. We have support from the Department of Energy for the Marine base, which is putting in the wave energy hub where companies will be able to pay to come and hook up and test their devices, creating jobs in our economy and also providing power from the natural sources of the ocean.

So with partnership with the Department of Energy, I believe that we're on the right track. We do not need a billion dollar cable coming from Lana`i. We don't need to make that island a wasteland for Oahu's energy needs. We have our energy right surrounding our island.

The other testimony that I put in that
will be part of the record is a long-time passion of mine, industrial hemp, where we can use our agricultural lands to grow hemp and make our building materials right here, without having to import those materials. And the hemp buildings that are put up all over the world, except for the United States, are energy dreams. They -- the testimony goes in much more detail about that, but I would like to see us resume our research on industrial hemp. We planted it for three years and we can go back and do that and I think provide good sources of renewable energy for our state.

Thank you very much again for being here.

FACILITATOR CHANG: Thank you. Lisa?

Lisa Bail, Henry Curtis and Daniel Cooper. Henry Curtis? Daniel Cooper and after Daniel will be John Floyd.


I want to thank the Department of Energy for coming here. I want to give a little bit of the historical background on the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative. It came out, true, in 2008 as four
parties came together, Hawaiian Electric, which wanted
to figure out how to financially survive through
various methods, through financial mechanisms; the
Department of Energy, which wanted smart grid
technology testing; DBEDT, which wanted to go from an
information and data collection system to actually
creating policy; and the governor, who wanted to give
political payback to two wind company -- people who
wanted to install large wind systems.

So the four parties came together to
create the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative without
defining clean energy. And the Department of Energy
brought somebody out in 2008, like a deputy assistant,
associate, secretary or something, and I asked him at
that point a question about the Hawaii Clean Energy
Initiative, and his response was, "If you ask
questions, you don't care about saving the planet for
your grandchildren." So initially we were somewhat
skeptical of the Department of Energy.

In addition, the Hawaii Clean Energy
Initiative set up a number of committees, one on
energy efficiency, one on transportation, one on
generation, to look at different aspects of clean
energy. All of these committees met in private and
their membership was sealed. Now, we went to DBEDT
and asked for a list of the members of the committee and were denied several times. So we had to file a state Freedom of Information Act, Hawaii Revised Statute 92 F request, which then the director of DBEDT said, "Why didn't you just ask for that information?"

But we got a list of who was on each of the committees and we then began talking to the individual members of the committee to discover that they had no idea what was going on in their own committees, they were just there because it was nice to meet and the DBEDT and the Department of Energy were making the key decisions from top.

One of the interesting ones is the smart meter's smart grid approach. The utility opened up a smart meter regulatory proceeding with the Public Utilities Commission. We were accepted as a party and they kept dragging their feet and dragging their feet, and the PUC, the Public Utilities Commission, closed out the docket.

I'm winding up.

So the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative first killed off the integrated resource planning process, the process where stakeholders get together with the utility and figure out what the utility is planning on doing. That process was killed off for
four years. And the smart meter/smart grid concept, rather than going through the regulatory process of going before the Public Utilities Commission, of having input, of having public discussions on whether it was wise to move that direction, that, through the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative and through the federal government, began testing smart meters and testing smart grids on the different islands without the public involvement.

FACILITATOR CHANG: Can we wrap it up, Henry?

MR. CURTIS: Yes, we can wrap it up. As you can see, our cultural monitor here wants to --

FACILITATOR CHANG: Be fair.

MR. CURTIS: -- be fair and that's why she represents one side.

FACILITATOR CHANG: Next person is Daniel Cooper and John Floyd and then after John Floyd is Robert Harris.

MR. COOPER: Aloha -- (spoke in Filipino) -- for all the Filipinos out there.

Okay. My question is how much influence is your advice going to have on the policy decision-making? Is it going to have more or at least as much as Hawaiian Electric?
Also, I'm wondering if part of your investigation will consist of investigating the factual basis behind the claim put forth by Hawaiian Electric that they don't have the money to upgrade the grids enough to allow everybody who has solar panels into the grid. I'm wondering if you see the potential bias behind such a statement, seeing as that would probably lose money for Hawaiian Electric.

I am under the impression that they have to have a deal where they buy cheap -- the crudest type of oil and then because they're a monopoly, I'm sure they have no competitors, so they can sell it for kind of a relatively arbitrary price. So I agreed with the -- very much with the Filipino aunty who was very concerned with Hawaiian Electric, and so I'm just wondering how much you're going to focus on them.

That's all I can think of right now.

Thank you.

FACILITATOR CHANG: We have John Floyd and then Robert Harris. And then after Robert, Marissa.

MR. FLOYD: This is actually addressing my frustrations trying to find out the costs -- the cost that HECO and MECO and HELCO are charging us. Back in 2006, MECO contracted with First Wind to
purchase power from their Kaheawa 1 plant at 8 cents a kilowatt hour, and this was 70 percent of the power they purchased was at 8 cents a kilowatt hour. The remaining was based on avoided costs, which is basically the cost of oil. They built in a 1 1/2 percent inflation factor there, and this is from their own Web site. Now, a few years later, we're looking at close to 23 cents a kilowatt hour, both on Maui and on Oahu.

I've tried contacting the PUC. I've been trying to contact -- I'm sorry, basically the PUC to find out a justification to this increase in cost and got nowhere, and they're supposed to be looking after us. So I hope somewhere in this you folks are going to be looking at the cost and financial impacts on the citizenry here.

FACILITATOR CHANG: Thank you. Robert Harris, Marissa and Larry Tool.

MR. HARRIS: I gave my comment to the reporter already.


MR. TOOL: You'll have to forgive me. I'm going to read this. I'm a little shaky this
evening. Thank you to the DOE for the -- I'm Larry Tool from Molokai. Thank you for the opportunity to speak and thank you for opening up this public process.

Hawaii does need a real statewide energy plan, one that considers all possibilities and picks the smart ones. Destroying Molokai and Lana`i to bring inefficient wind power to Oahu is a spectacularly dumb idea. But why are we stumbling backwards into a state energy planning process? Why don't we have already have an island-by-island inventory of present and projected energy needs, of opportunities for conservation, of renewable resources and the relative costs of each?

I'll tell you. It's because our state government has become the servant of the electric monopoly and not its master. Because when it comes to energy in this state, the tail is wagging the dog. As Senator Solomon said last May, Hawaii ratepayers, quote, need to be liberated from this bondage, unquote. I know it's not part of your task, but we desperately need an independent, public, financial and engineering audit of all the HECO companies so we know if they can even make the changes we need. We don't know that today.
If you take our input seriously, you'll see that the good choices are pretty obvious. It took you eight meetings on six islands to canvass this small state because Hawaii is a separate mountain tops, eight very different islands, separated by huge underwater canyons. Island by island energy self-sufficiency is the obvious cost-effective choice. One big grid is unaffordable, hugely destructive and unlikely to work.

Conservation should be our first priority. One example: Why are all the air conditioners on Oahu set to accommodate a sweating tourist just getting off the plane from Chicago while thousands of locals have to wear coats to work? Geothermal makes sense for those islands that have it. Rooftop solar, distributed solar and liquefied natural gas makes sense for those that don't.

Land here is scarce and sacred to the locals. The ocean is both food source and playground. Scenery and wildlife bring tourists. Are we really willing to trash all this in the name of going green?

By now you should have a fair idea of each islands' priorities. You might find it useful to compare your list with that of Mr. Henry Curtis in a recent publication called Wayfaring. Projects that
tread lightly on the land and the pocketbook are pono, those that don't, aren't. It's just common sense.

In a real democracy, public policy should reflect the collective wisdom of the people. If you don't believe that, then you're simply not a democrat. Because you are listening to all of us, I have faith that your guidelines will reflect that wisdom. The tough question is will your guidelines be followed? That depends on whether our state government can start putting the people's needs ahead of the wishes of HECO. If it can, then Hawaii should be able to transition gracefully to affordable renewable energy. If it can't, then we may soon be facing a statewide ratepayers revolt. Mahalo.

FACILITATOR CHANG: I have Kanohowailuku Helm, Luwella Leonardi, and then Stacie Koanui Neflar.

MR. HELM: Aloha, everyone. My name is Kanohowailuku Helm. We've been following these guys around, the Department of Energy, from island to island. You guys put a lot of work in it. I bet you guys are exhausted. So last meeting, you know, I hope all the voices were heard, and I hope you guys can, you know, go home, soak it in, but get a good rest first. So mahalo.

The organization that I represent is I
Aloha Molokai, and it's an organization that was put together to oppose the giant wind farms that are proposed to be put on the west side of -- northwest side of Molokai and the undersea cable.

You know, I'd just like to say I think some people view us, and maybe Lana'i, as, you know, selfish because this whole thing was portrayed like, you know, our ohana in Oahu needs the power and we need the help of other islands to power us over here. But that's not the case. You know, if you come to Molokai, you realize that, and you go to Lana'i, you realize that they're some of the most hospitable people in the world. They'll take you into their homes and they'll feed you and they'll take care of you, you know, to the max. And it's the same thing if you come to Molokai as well.

My mom was born and raised in this district, in Kaneohe. All my family down here. We actually have a street named after my ohana, Alualani Street, yeah. So the case about, you know, not sharing energy or our resources, that is ridiculous. This billion-dollar cable that they're proposing is very unnecessary, you know. If anybody can answer me, you know, what's the status of the Kahuku wind farm as of today, as of right now, with all that investment,
zero. It's not functioning. Not functioning at all. So we looking at investing billions of dollars into running a cable, running intermittent power, and on the very island they're proposing to run their power to, a wind farm cannot even function today. It's not functioning.

I just want to say that, you know, of course we're going to be submitting testimony, but I think first thing first, you know, conservation is the first thing we have to look at. I'm not a scientist, but I know this: We shut out the lights right now, shut off all the fans, we all would still be alive. Okay. You know, I like to see walking towns. You know, maybe we can create walking towns here on Oahu.

Another idea, possibly if we can create a task force to look at people who have common jobs in districts where, you know, maybe they can swap jobs so people no need be driving across the island. So like if there's a waiter down in Waianae going to his job and a waiter in Kaneohe and they driving across the island to go to work, you know, it's a common enough job to where they can just swap positions. So if the state can look at something like that where they can start doing that, I think that's a good idea. That way we not wasting fossil fuel sitting in traffic not
driving. Because a lot of our fossil fuel is being wasted sitting in traffic. I experienced that today.

And just one more thing, too, is I like to see in many of our businesses and our schools that we set up our buildings in a way that we can make use of the natural environment around us, set up our buildings in a way that can keep the people cool. I have a grove of neem trees that I've planted by our house up in Ho`olehua on the west side. The neem tree is a type of mahogany and it's known to lower temperatures.

So, I mean, if we can plant more trees and, you know, just take care of our environment and, you know, take care of the climate and the buildings and the places where we got to live, then, you know, that's a plus. Conservation first. Okay, mahalo.


MS. LEONARDI: Okay, three minutes. I don't know how I'm going to do this in three minutes. I'll give it a try.

About Gregory Jaczko, I mean, my dear friend for two years, I mean. Anyway, Gregory, you know, it was so sad. I mean, I'm heartbroken. My
climax with Gregory Jaczko -- and I'm not talking about sex, I'm talking about the climax of the world -- was Fukushima. That didn't -- how in the world did that change? You know, that was a change for nuclear isotopes in the Pacific. The guy -- up at the top, that's -- you know, that's a thing that's up there. We should have solved that problem before it even happened. So I don't know about this ocean thing. We need to learn more about the ocean.

These maps are for free. It's on the table there. Anyone can take -- you can make more. There's lots more if you want to take it home. You're more than welcome to take it. These maps is -- Liliuokalani was our queen. She was still alive when these maps was produced. This was produced by America. Okay? So as a cartographer, I have a BA in cartography and GIS, so this is a pretty good map. I highly recommend it.

I'm not saying this is the map that we are using, but for now it shows all the mokus. It also shows the currents within the islands. So that is your ocean current, okay. Right now scientists want to use that ocean current as a climate change study ground. So the reason why I have this map and I'm showing it to you because we've been through so
many meetings, major, major meetings. Coastal zoning management, that's major meeting. If you haven't attended that or know about it, you need to know about it. That's the reason why these maps came about. We want mokus, not ahupuaa. We want mokus. All islands so far, a lot of people participated in that wants the mokus.

So the other one is PLUC. That's another major meeting that all of you -- if you're interested in this particular meeting should be interested in that one too.

Okay. So what I want to say here is my kupunas, my kupunas out in Waianae, they're suffering because they tapped into the solar system -- I mean, the solar energy, and they did a lot of other utility savings thing and it's really sad. They did it by strong arm. They were strong armed into it. They live in Hawaiian Homestead. Department of Hawaiian Homestead, Bishop Estate, sorry. OHA, today, ten years later, walking into my community with the sheriff department, 30 men, gun point, and evicting my kupunas while we're all at work. It's really sad. It's true. It's happening.

So now we're looking at can we participate in this program? We want to live here in
Hawaii. We don't want to be foreclosed. We don't want to live houseless. We want to live here and raise our children. We don't want to be looking down at a barrel, and that's exactly what's going on in my community, and I -- I just wanted to leave that with you tonight. Thank you.

FACILITATOR CHANG: Appreciate that.

After -- I have Stacie, and is it Noni, I'm sorry, if I'm pronouncing it wrong. Nomi and then Malia.


I'm originally from Waimanalo, Oahu, and I've lived on Lana‘i for almost 20 years. My maternal ohana goes back several generations on Lana‘i. I've testified at the McKinley, Lana‘i, Molokai and now Kaneohe scoping meetings and have expressed my opposition to the massive wind farms and undersea cable for Lana‘i and Molokai. But I am in favor of an energy project which will not destroy our land, ocean and air.

We had community members attend the Kauai, Kona, Hilo and Maui meetings as well, and found that at each meeting there is that same opposition. Each island needs to be self-sufficient according to its own needs and we need to make Hawaii a sustainable
state. We should practice conservation and not consumption. We need to be mindful and cautious of corporations, big businesses, unions, and government officials who aim to make a lot of money either from the project itself through the company establishing the project, or through taxes or incentives. Money tends to make people greedy and do things not pono for its citizens.

I beg and ask my Oahu cousins to help join us to preserve the last two undeveloped islands from further destruction, so you may have a place to run away to and visit when you need to get away from the hustle and bustle and back to the way Hawaii used to be.

For the gentleman that talked about the kilowatt hours, I pay 45 cents per kilowatt hour. My current bill is $343. Back in January it was 429. And there's five of us in the house. So Monday through Friday, nobody's home during the day. Seven hours of electricity used Monday through Friday and we're home on the weekends. Mahalo.

FACILITATOR CHANG: Thank you, Stacie. Momi, I'm so sorry, I really do apologize.

MS. SUZUKI: No problem.

FACILITATOR CHANG: After Momi is Malia
and then after Malia is Sarah.

MS. SUZUKI: My name is Momi Suzuki, like the car. Thank you for having me speak this evening. I'm also just going to read this.

While I am an enthusiastic advocate for energy conservation and reducing our dependence on imported fossil fuels, I am also an advocate for preserving the increasingly vanishing parts of Hawaii that are so fundamental to who we are as a population.

Further, I am concerned that the project costs for these projects so far outweigh the economic benefits and will wind up costing the taxpayers and ratepayers an outrageous amount of money that could be much more productive invested in less intermittent, more productive alternative renewable energy.

Lana`i is a very special place. Very, very special. Now, I can go back eight generations on Lana'i. And it is very small, about 3,000 people that live there. It is the last intact plantation town in Maui County, with a small population, like I said, of about 3,000 people. And many of these families, you know, feed and hunt from hunting -- from axis deer, mouflon sheep, and freshly caught fish.

One of the major sources of those self-sufficient food sources is the same area targeted
by this industrial wind power plant. As you know, 170 towers, each as tall as Honolulu First Hawaiian Bank building, 410 feet tall, could be built on one-quarter of Lana`i's 89,000 acres, totally destroying our ecological culture and historical resources and significantly impending or outright destroying the hunting and fishing activities on Lana`i.

I have a rental unit that I've run since 1992 after leaving Wahiawa, and I depend a lot on hunters. They come back every year to my place, and if it wasn't for the hunting, I would be really out of business.

You know, please support our state efforts to reduce our dependence on imported oil. Please support efforts to have conservation of electricity drive our daily lives, and please support alternative energy. But please know and do not support this Oahu industrial wind power plant on Lana`i and Molokai that is too expensive and has a negative cost-benefit to taxpayers, ratepayers, and all Hawaii residents. It's an example of green greed that benefits the developers through artificial government tax credit and not the people that we so love on Hawaii. Mahalo.

FACILITATOR CHANG: Mahalo. Nomi, I have
Nomi, and then after that is Malia and then after Malia I have Sarah.

MS. CARMONA: Aloha. My name is Nomi Carmona. I'm here representing the office of Councilman Tom Berg, District 1. That's Waianae coast.

There are a number of concerns with our state energy crisis, and among them I wondered why do we have these fans on when we could open those windows up there? We have plenty of wind. Is there an option to turn off those outside lights and only use the central, only using the central? If the school is operating, can they turn off these other two rows of fans if they're not necessary, maybe put one row? We need to start looking at options like that. All the little things that we can do to balance our carbon footprint are very important.

And with that said, I would like to say that as the executive secretary for the district I get a lot of phone calls about HECO. I get a lot of calls about energy bills. I get constituents crying because they cannot afford their energy bills. I get people who are stuck on the bus on top of the bus cuts who literally tell me they cannot afford to plug in their icebox. They're crying, grown men crying because they
cannot afford to even take care of their own food or resources, much less cable or Internet or anything to upgrade their job or increase their resources. So that's very much a concern of mine.

Also, the smart meters, get a lot calls about that too. People are having to chain up their smart meters -- I mean, chain up their old meters so that smart meters aren't installed against their permission. We have a couple of pieces of legislation in the works right now, 12-130 is -- I'm sorry, 12-170 is the first one that I'd like to review with you on behalf of District 1 and Councilman Berg, and that is urging the legislature to prohibit the use of smart meters on Oahu. I'm just going to read this for you because the legislation speaks for itself.

Whereas, jurisdictions in the US and Europe have been installing smart electric meters, which are electronic devices that track and record customer's energy usage in intervals of an hour or less and automatically communicate the information to the utility by wireless frequencies; and

Whereas, smart electric meters replace analog meters that measure electricity use and are read manually once a month; and

Whereas, the new meters are promoted as a
means by which consumers are provided with detailed
feedback on energy use and are encouraged to manage
electricity use by taking advantage of various pricing
options; and

Whereas, however, concerns have been
raised over the possible long-term adverse health
effects on individuals and households who are
involuntarily exposed to the radio frequency radiation
emitted by the meters; and

Whereas, the International Agency for
Research on Cancer, a branch of the World Health
Organization, has classified certain radio frequency
electromagnetic fields as possibly carcinogenic to
humans; and

Whereas, the health officer of Santa Cruz
County, in a memorandum to the Santa Cruz County Board
of Supervisors on health risks associated with smart
meters, noted that there is no scientific data to
determine if there is a safe radio frequency exposure
level regarding its non-thermal effects; and

Whereas, the memorandum further notes
that government public health agencies should be much
more vigilant toward involuntary environmental
exposure because they are the only defense against
such exposure; and
Whereas, the Council finds that the benefits of smart meters are outweighed by the potential public health hazards the devices pose; and

Whereas, the State Public Utilities Commission is the body regulating electrical utilities in the state of Hawaii; now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the City and County of Honolulu that the legislature is urged to enact legislation that would prohibit the use of smart electric meters on Oahu; and

Be it finally resolved.

So I think that's incredibly important. People are chaining up their old meters, like I said. They feel very strongly about it. And it's rumored to have a thousand times the radiation emitted of a cell phone and some people are very sensitive to it. So I'd like you to consider that.

In addition, we have resolution --

FACILITATOR CHANG: Can you wrap it up?

MS. CARMONA: I can wrap it up.

This is the last piece of legislation I'd like to mention tonight, that's 12-62, supporting state legislation that would limit the ability of an electric utility company to own and operate both the means to produce and deliver electricity to the
Whereas, residential consumers in Hawaii pay more than three times the national average for electricity; and

Whereas, a report by the U.S. Energy Information Administration finds that the price for electricity (residential) in Hawaii is 36.56 cents per kilowatt hour while the natural average for electricity is 11.88 cents per kilowatt hour; and

Whereas, Hawaii has a regulatory system and a utility monopoly that were built for a time and public purpose that are in the past; and

Whereas, Hawaii's boundless renewable energy potential is bottlenecked in our archaic utility structure; and

Whereas, the utility's monopolistic control is often at odds with the public interest in the world beyond fossil fuels; and

Whereas, democratizing energy requires a creation of a free market in energy so we can deploy clean energy sources and our entrepreneurs can create new jobs; and

Whereas, Hawaii Revised Statutes 269-91 defines "electric utility company" as a public utility company for the production, conveyance, transmission,
delivery or furnishing of power; and

Whereas, Oahu's electric utility company
has an inherent conflict with respect to purchasing
electricity produced within the company or by an
affiliate versus purchasing electricity produced by an
independently owned and operated energy generation
company; and

Whereas, there is a need to facilitate
the development of competitive power generation
markets; and

Whereas, potential benefits of a
competitive power production environment includes
lower electricity prices, lessened reliance on fossil
fuel-based electricity --

FACILITATOR CHANG: Ms. Carmona, we've
really limited everybody to three minutes.

MS. CARMONA: I really appreciate that,
and I would like you to please read the handout that
I've provided for you and thank you for your time and
accepting my comments. Mahalo.

FACILITATOR CHANG: Appreciate that.
Malia, Sarah Meyers, and then Sandi Rabaca.

MS. PREZA: Hi. My name is Malia Preza.
I'm from Lana'i and I'm a student at HPU.

I'd like to express my opposition for the
proposed industrial wind project on Lana`i. As a native Hawaiian, I believe that well-being is integrally tied to the vitality and abundance of natural resources relied upon for subsistence and cultural practices. I'd like to impress the prospective that the land is not a commodity, it is the foundation of our cultural and spiritual identity as Hawaiians.

I'm against the destruction of the Ka`a ahupua`a by the development of a utility scale wind power plant on one-third of our island. It is important to me that places such as Ka`a are preserved so that my future children may be able to live and work their ancestral lands, to gain essential knowledge about their culture as to not just know about traditional practices but to experience firsthand what it means to be Hawaiian. And more importantly to develop an intimate relationship with the `aina so that it will foster a commitment to care for and protect Hawaii's resources for future generations.

Furthermore, there are many people in rural communities such as Lana`i's who continue to practice subsistence cultivation, gathering, fishing and hunting as a part of their livelihood. Rural life
skills and cultural and historic places should be protected and not undervalued due to their innumerable nature. The PEIS should identify lands to be excluded from industrial renewable energy proposals due to overwhelming and irrevocable negative impacts and not just mitigate such impacts by, for example, hiring conservation dogs to pick up dead endangered birds and bats killed by turbine collision like at the Kahuku facility.

Alternative options should also be explored along with the possibility of making each island energy efficient. We need to stress conservation. If Oahu could reduce its energy consumption, the need for industrial projects and expensive undersea cable could be eliminated so that rural, more sustainable communities will not be forced to sacrifice on behalf of wasteful over consumption.

The PEIS for our state should reflect Hawaiian values and principles that emphasize empowerment, self-sufficiency, cultural preservation and resource conservation and protection. Thank you.

FACILITATOR CHANG: Thank you. I have Sarah Meyers, Sandi Rabaca, and then Carole Kaapu.

MS. MEYERS: Good evening. My name is Sarah Meyers and I'm from Lana'i. I am not against
renewable energy; however, I'm strongly opposed to the current plan. Constructing the windmills in Ka`a will cause it become an industrial wasteland. There's just too much to be lost. It is ridiculous that this project will take up one-fourth of the entire island. It is a large sacrifice for the people of Lana`i and it will only benefit others who are driven by greed and ignorance.

Why must such a small island give up so much? What do we on Lana`i have to gain? Nothing, but we have much to lose. I ask that you please try to understand how much this land means to me and my fellow Lanaians. Some of my favorite childhood memories took place in Ka`a, the place you choose to dump the windmills. Ka`a is the Lana`i I know, that I grew up in. It is the Lana`i that I want my children and the future generations to know.

It is some of the best country left in Hawaii because it is untouched by developers. Why ruin this immaculate land? It has been recognized that over 200 historic and culturally significant sites lie in Ka`a, so why does this place continue to be an option for the site of the windmills? And why construct windmills when it also been identified that wind power is old technology? What about the native
plants and animals that have thrived for centuries and made Ka`a their home? What will become of them?

If the windmills are built, they would damage the land beyond repair and it would be devastating to see Lana`i, to see the area Lana`i thrives on be changed forever. Many people hunt and fish in this area. For generations people have used this area for hunting fishing and recreation.

Building these utility-sized giants changed that. Lana`i's supplying Oahu with energy should not be the answer. Each island should be self-sufficient and self-reliant. Why must Lana`i sacrifice for the needs of others and why must we change our country lifestyle because others demand more energy? Thank you.

FACILITATOR CHANG: Thank you. I have now Sandi and then Carole Kaapu and then Christine Costales.

MS. RABACA: Aloha. My name is Sandi Ku'uleinani Rabaca. I am from Lana`i. I am a product of that land and so are those people over there in the back table.

Windmills on Lana`i to power Oahu will lead to the destructive of lands and its people. The reason against developing windmills on Lana`i are many. Firstly, they will negatively impact the
tourism industry as well as the lifestyles of all Lanaians. The island's historical and sacred sites will also be destroyed.

There are two five star hotels located on the land as the main source of revenue for its residents. The tourists who travel to Lana`i come to see a land untouched, left alone by big city life, technology and people in general. They come to see sacred grounds important to Hawaiians and natives of Lana'i. If the windmills are to be built in the proposed area of Ka`a, tourists will no longer be able to look out, enjoy the view of the white sandy beach, ocean and surrounding islands. Lana'i's natural, untouched beauty will be destroyed forever and the local tourist economy struck into a downward spiral of nothingness.

The ahupua`a is still a place where Lanaians frequently visit to harvest food by hunting and fishing. With the recent decline in the economy, purchasing food has been difficult. Therefore, more and more Hawaiians are driven to catch their own food. My family is one of the many. Gigantic windmills put up throughout this significant piece of land will ultimately prevent Lana`i to be sustainable.

Power that the windmills produce will be
sent to Oahu via undersea cable. Home to Honolulu, Hawaii's biggest city, Oahu is the island that has already been converted to city life and Americanized into an industrial wasteland. Lana`i hasn't been. So in a sense, an undamaged, self-sufficient island is being changed to feed a city that cannot stop its need for power. This just doesn't make sense and is not fair. Tell me why should Lana`i be the one to suffer?

Lana`i has numerous documented historical and sacred sites, many of which are within the area of Ka`a. These will no longer be able to be seen or access to for religious practices or educational purposes because they will be demolished in the process of developing windmills. How can a new green technology wipe out areas of archaeological value and cultural significance? This is not a good thing.

Yes, it may be old, but it's culture and shows heritage and ways of life. It's the history of Lana`i put into the earth and now out of blind sight, taken away and ruined forever by windmills.

In conclusion, I am strongly against the development of windmills on Lana`i, my home, because it directly affects myself, my family, and the spirit of Lana`i. If this project is pursued, then Oahu will get power and the Lanaians lose their identity.
Mahalo for this opportunity.

FACILITATOR CHANG: Thank you very much.

I have Carole Kaapu, Christine Costales and Martha Evans.


As I was looking through the posters over there, I came across the alternative transportation fuels and modes poster. I was rather shocked to see that there's no bicycles or pedestrian options on that poster. We're talking about very useable ways of transportation, but they're not even being considered. When I lived in Asia, bicycles were everybody. Everybody took a bike. I saw a family of five, groceries and an umbrella on a bicycle.

We can use bicycles. I live in town. I travel. I commute about five miles each way. I'd love to ride my bike. I'm afraid to. I'm afraid to be run over. Many of my friends who do have bikes have had multiple accidents.

And so I'm asking that you would consider, as you're doing your study, to include those transportation. We don't have winters. In Japan they don't care, they ride their bikes in the winters, but we don't have winters. We have very nice weather.
It's a perfect place to bike, but it's very dangerous. So thank you.

FACILITATOR CHANG: Thank you very much.
Christine Costales. And after Christine, I have Martha Evans. After Martha is there -- and then after Martha is Laulani Teale.

MS. COSTALES: Mahalo. I just want to say thank you for Jane and the panel. You know, I followed them only three areas, was McKinley last week and then on Lana'i and here. And the first meeting she was very bright, but on Lana'i she -- I think she looked exhausted. Anyway, I just want to give you guys a big hand for dealing with, you know, of the people.

But the thing is you see a lot of angry people ever since the kingdom was taken away. So I don't want to say my whole thing again. My family back there said you should say it, it's a different crowd. The only -- I will read one part, so that you will feel what Lana'i is about and where this windmill will be built.

Within Ka`a is a place called Polihua, the largest sandy beach of Lana'i, where Pele ate the delicious flesh of the sea turtle, where history of a Hawaiian village of heiaus, burial sites and koa
fishing shrines still remain; where an anthem was
written confirming the use of manewanewa as a lei
plant: "Ohuohu Polihua I ka Manewanewa, Ka lei
kaulana o ka ʻaina. Polihua adorned with manewanewa,
the celebrated wreath of the land." At Nanaʻi, child
Kaʻula, honored is the lei manewanewa, magnificent on
the chest when worn. On the sacred breast of Wakea's
child. Manewanewa is found nowhere else on the island
except at Polihua. Polihua continues to be a place
where the people of the island gather their food.

Keahiakawelo, a place that is so
breathtaking, a place where we can view our sister
island, Molokai, and a place where our spirits connect
to the land. Can you feel it? This is what you will
destroy forever.

Wiliwili trees flourish in the hidden
ravines of Kaʻa, as do other native trees such as the
naio, olopua, ahakea and medicinal plants like the pua
kala.

Lanaʻi is home to many endangered and
threatened species, such as the Hawaiian petrel, where
it no longer exists on Oahu, but genetics testings
have revealed that Lanaʻi's Hawaiian petrel was
closely related to Oahu. Will they and other birds
species populations that use Lanaʻi as a fly-by be
driven down by these ridiculous, monstrous machines?
Is it right to compromise a take of these species?

And I wanted to say that I work on Lana`i, and I work with the endangered and threatened species there. I band birds, I monitor them, and I also do watershed restoration. And we started the discovery, the rediscovery of the Hawaiian petrel on Lana`i in 2006.

When they wanted to install the meteorological towers to measure the wind, I have to say that, you know, companies do that, they do it because they want to do it, and when they're told don't do it yet, they still go out and do it. They had built the met towers. They weren't given the permission to do that anyway, and I was sent down there to go and check on, you know, if they had sent somebody there to monitor it. For two weeks I would leave my house at 5:00 in the morning and make sure that that person was there before sunrise.

So anyway, you know, one person at the first meeting said that the state and the legislatures, they go parallel, so they make all these rules, and it's -- I'm figuring it out; they're making rules for corporations. Anyway, incidental take permits, I'm trying to understand this. You said, I'm
following these meetings, that if a project is not a federal project, like don't get federal funding, so they don't follow these -- or this guideline, right? So here's Kaheawa on Maui, it says non-federal activity. Am I correct? If it says non-federal activity?

FACILITATOR CHANG: Christine, this is the comment one.

MS. COSTALES: Okay.

FACILITATOR CHANG: Great comment, put it in the comment.

MS. COSTALES: I'm trying to understand it. I followed this. This is the last meeting and I'm trying to understand it.

The incidental take on Kaheawa on Maui does not include, I think, pueos, Hawaiian stilts, whereas I think the Kahuku windmills covers pueos and Hawaiian stilts. So I'm rather confused as incidental takes, if the state gives a permit for that or if the federal gives, it's under the federal incidental take? So, you know, help me to understand that.

I would think that all endemic and threatened birds or endangered birds would be on an incidental take permit, and I'm trying to -- I'm trying to get some answers here. So be sure that all
endemic birds of Hawaii, native endemic birds and species are included in this incidental take permit. That's what I'm trying to understand. Thank you.

FACILITATOR CHANG: We have Martha Evans and then Laulani Teale.

MS. EVANS: Aloha ahi ahi. My name is Martha Ann Napuaokalani Haia Evans. I have this for you.

I was born and raised on the island of Oahu and I was a resident of Lana`i for 35 years. Two years ago my husband and I returned to Oahu because Lana`i could not provide for the medical care that my husband was in need of. Now I mention that because you need to know that when this whole thing came up about the wind farm and Lana`i having to have a wind farm to take care of the electrical needs of Oahu, I was told that I should basically grin and bear it because Oahu provided for my family's medical care. Now, where's the logic in that? And I do mention that because I think that there is no logic in this entire project.

So anyway, I want to thank you for allowing me this opportunity to share my thoughts and concerns. Now, at the McKinley meeting I talked to you about my concerns for Lana`i. What I brought with
me tonight are copies of Na Honua Mauli Ola, and I'd like to share that with you because I believe you're looking for guidelines to incorporate.

In 2002, the first edition of Na Honua Mauli Ola, which is the culturally healthy and responsive learning environments, was published. A few years ago the document was updated. Tonight I would like to call your attention to several of those pathways which I believe address the intent of the PEIS and which I hope will be considered for inclusion in the guidelines set for this process.

Now, there are a number of cultural pathways here and I'd like to talk about several of them. The relationship and cultural identity pathways state that "we envision generations who walk into the future with confidence in their cultural identity and a commitment of service to akua, `aina, and each other. We are challenged to perpetuate native Hawaiian cultural identity through practices that strengthen our knowledge of language, culture and genealogical connections. And you heard all of that tonight from my fellow Lanaians. These pathways remind us that we are generationally tied to the spirit, the land and each other. As this process to discern what is best for Hawaii plays out, I urge you
to employ a distinctly Hawaiian cultural lens and not one that views the world through a western focus. The `aina and kai through which these projects will trespass is sacred to those of us with ancestral ties as well as to all who truly embrace what we know as Hawaii.

The sense of place pathway states that "we envision generations who accept kuleana for our honua. As keiki o ka `aina, we take seriously our responsibility or kuleana to preserve the delicate balance of life and protect it for generations to come. We do accept the responsibility to care for our honua. As an aside, do you understand the meaning of the place name Ho'omoepili? My ancestors knew. They knew that the wind there was so strong that it made the pili grass go to sleep. Is this where you'll place your windmills? How will the construction of monstrous towers with enormous concrete bases that gouge our `aina and the placement of undersea cables in pristine waters demonstrate care for our home? Where is the justice and care of and for our honua?

The world view pathway states that "we envision generations who flourish and inspire local and global communities through a culturally Hawaiian perspective that honors all things - past, present,
and future." We are tasked with providing a solid grounding in a Hawaiian world view that promotes contributions to our local and global communities. How does this project measure up when viewed from both a local and global standpoint? And where is the Hawaiian viewpoint? Is this more about addressing man's ever growing demand for convenience? What is the real focus of this project?

Please, take the time to think carefully about what you have heard at all of these hearings. Remember that you are talking about Hawaii and we are ma`a to this land. Consider who and what we have presented and understand that our home is precious to us. Listen to what we are saying. Thank you.

FACILITATOR CHANG: Thank you very much. I have Laulani Teale.

MS. TEALE: Aloha, everyone. My name is Laulani and I'm an Oahu person. I've never been to the island of Lana`i, and as far as I know I don't have any family there, so I am speaking as an Oahu person.

Even though I've never been to the island of Lana`i, what I do know is that all of us kanaka who have ancestry that goes back to the beginnings of time are connected and that all of us are related and that
what happens on one island in one place affects us all. And that's true not only in Hawaii but everywhere in the world, but particularly in an island environment we need to have those connections. Even those that we don't know of, that we don't remember, they need to be cared for and I don't want the connections between myself and my brothers and sisters of the island of Lana`i to be a cable that's laid there at the bottom of the ocean, the bottom of the sacred ocean to bring energy from people who don't want windmills on their land to my land so that it can power some good things, I'm sure, but some things that I'm not sure how much we need.

Honestly, we know, we who have been here for thousands of years, we know what we really need to survive. We know what it really takes to be happy and to be healthy and we know that energy coming from the island of Lana`i, piped in a wrongful way to the island of Oahu is not going to really make our lives better. It may power some stuff, but it's not really going to give us anything that we really need.

In speaking of ohana connections, I think in the bigger picture, too, we need to realize that as Pacific people we're connected to lands throughout the Pacific, across the Pacific.
the Pacific to the continent of the moku honu, or
commonly known as the United States, and I met with a
man named Preston J. Arrow-weed. He's fighting a
very, very large wind project on his land, the Quechan
people are fighting a huge, huge wind project on their
land. And they -- they've blocked it with their
bodies, they have stood in protest with a lot of
people, you know, native and non-native have stood
together and stood against that development. The
development still has gone forward and they've
conducted ceremonies and, you know, some of the best
pictures they have, and you can look this out on
Facebook, they have these pictures of all of the
equipment of the wind project is stuck in mud because,
you know, when it comes down to it, the land is with
us, is with what is right, is with sustaining life, is
with doing things the right way.

I know I'm out of time, so I'd just like
to say one more thing. My family is strongly
connected to the pueo and in California wind projects
have decimated 70 percent of the raptor population, 70
percent. You know, as a pueo person, it breaks my
heart that my `aumakua, I hardly see my `aumakua
anymore. You can't find them, and just for one pueo
to die in -- you know, by the blades of a windmill is
not okay. It's not worth all of that electricity
that's being sent from one island to the other island
without the fundamental permission of the people who
have the responsibility to guard the well-being of the
land. Mahalo.

FACILITATOR CHANG: Thank you very much.
Could you just state your name.

MS. ARAKAKI: Aloha. My name is Hilary
So I was moved tonight to share this last
meeting in the hopes that what's been shared hasn't
fallen on deaf ears and minds that have already been
made up. I grew up here on Oahu. I've experienced
aloha within the communities of people from Molokai,
from Lana‘i, from the Leeward side, from this side,
from all the moku that have shared tonight about all
of their stories, and I felt it was important to go
ahead and talk about this. So share my mana'o.

What they shared about the wahipana, the
puuhonua that they come from, I hope people remember
it's not just myths and legends, but it's a history of
a people, and that kuleana that aunty talked about
that those of us that are coming up are taking on
isn't taken lightly and recognizing that there is
energy efficiency efforts and energy conservation
efforts and awareness out there within communities. And it's not just about sharing here, but sharing within the people that aren't here, because realistically you already know what's going on because you're the ones that are here. It's the ones out there that may not know and they need to be educated. And for those people that are making the decisions, I ask that they make those decisions that may be the hard decision to make, not the popular decision to make, because there's a recognition that there are bureaucracies that happen and there are things that are happening in the political world. Nobody is blind to that, but the reality is it's not just going to affect us today. It's not just about the 45-cent kilowatt hour that somebody is paying, it's about a history and a lifeline that's going to track not just that ancestry and history that they talk about, but every one of us here, regardless of whether or not we can find that history to these islands or not.

HCI is supposed to go ahead and lay a foundation for Hawaii. Please, please, please, please do that homework, make sure that the numbers are right, and take not just the stories of these people, but take what is shared on the global level about what
has worked in other places, because what may work there, may not work here.

And I say this -- I share this also knowing that I have had a fortunate opportunity to sit at tables with decision-makers and with people that are in the energy world and recognize that many of them have too much on their plates. So help guide them to help make those decisions, because whether they've been doing it for two months or they've been doing it for a lifetime, there's things out there they aren't reading and there may be points in their life where they've been disconnected to listening to what not just this `aina is telling us, but the world is trying to tell us in making those decisions. So mahalo for your time.

FACILITATOR CHANG: Mahalo. Do we have -- after this gentleman, do I have anybody else that wants to make a comment? Please state your name.

MR. WOOD: My name is Jim Wood, and I want to repeat what I said earlier. I do believe that you folks need to include the option of doing nothing in your analysis, because although a lot of the alternatives have impacts on us, the alternative of doing nothing, not just here in Hawaii but worldwide, is much, much more impactful than a lot of the options
that we're considering, and I think you need to include that as part of your analysis. Thank you.

FACILITATOR CHANG: Thank you very much. All right. With that, I greatly appreciate everybody's participation. You have up until October the 9th to submit your comments. There was a slide, you can fax your comment, email it, go on to the Web site where you can see these -- Jane's presentation as well as the poster boards, but please submit your comments.

I really appreciate everybody who has followed us along the way. Obviously this is a very important issue for us. I really do believe all of your comments will be considered, get them in, encourage other people to submit comments as well, but mahalo nui loa for all of your participation, and this is the last meeting. But, again, you have up until October the 9th to submit your comments. So, again, mahalo nui loa. Aloha.

(Off the record at 7:48 p.m.)
STATE OF HAWAI'I  

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) ss:

CITY & COUNTY OF HONOLULU  


I, JESSICA R. PERRY, do hereby certify:

That on September 20, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. the public hearing was taken down by me in machine shorthand and was thereafter reduced to typewritten form by computer-aided transcription; that the foregoing represents, to the best of my ability, a full, true and correct transcript of said public hearing.

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

DATED this 26th day of September, 2012, in Honolulu, Hawaii.

______________________________

Jessica R. Perry, RPR, CSR No. 404  
Notary Public, State of Hawaii