

Merz, Jeff

From: noreply@hirep-wind.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 6:36 PM
To: Johnston, Douglas; Merz, Jeff
Subject: [HIREP Wind EIS] New Comment

A New Comment has been Submitted

March 1, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Stacy Takekawa. I am a second year law student at the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa and I am the president of University of Hawaii chapter of the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund.

I am interested in the Hawai'i Interisland Renewable Energy Program for several reasons, but I write today to emphasize the importance of both a detailed study of the impact on the native bird populations of Hawai'i and how they will be impacted by the proposed wind farm projects and the impact on the marine life that will be impacted by the proposed undersea cable.

The Department of Energy's Notice of Intent to Prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Hawai'i Interisland Renewable Energy Program: Wind, published in the Federal Register on December 14, 2010 (Vol. 75, No. 239), stated that the EIS will include an analysis of the impact on "Threatened and endangered species, special status species, and related sensitive resources such as the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary." I commend the Department of Energy for committing to a review of the impact on these species, but I would ask that the EIS not be limited to only species of a special status. The potential longevity of the project requires a review of the long-term impact on species. Perhaps there is a species of bird that will be affected by this project that are not currently endangered, threatened, or of special status, but that might potentially become so if the project negatively affects the population over many years. Potential areas of study include bird migration and flight patterns, breeding and nesting habits, and seasonal changes in the birds' behavior.

Additionally, the potential fallout from a detrimental impact on Hawai'i's marine life, including the coral reef itself, could be far-reaching and unrecoverable. The vast ecosystem that starts in the ocean right off our island shores is extremely precious to island living and if irreversible damage is done to this ecosystem, the islands' energy needs could be quickly overshadowed. Native Hawaiian cultural sustainability, ecotourism, and fishing are only a few of the areas that could be irreversibly damaged by an ailing marine life in the islands.

I hope that your Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for HIREP will include an assessment of the impact on all of the animals, especially avian populations and marine life, that could potentially be affected by the project.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and your consideration of these matters.

Regards,

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Submitted on Tue, Mar 01, 2011 / 06:36PM HST by Stacy Takekawa

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