

Merz, Jeff

From: noreply@hirep-wind.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 2:35 PM
To: Johnston, Douglas; Merz, Jeff
Subject: [HIREP Wind EIS] New Comment

A New Comment has been Submitted

The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii is the Hawaii Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC), an international private, non-profit organization. Our mission is to preserve the plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the places they need to survive. TNC has reviewed the programmatic EIS and submits the following comments.

Impacts on native biodiversity, including native plants, seabirds, and marine natural areas, should be minimized as much as possible. Any development of infrastructure, access routes, and land-based operations should be planned to protect and preserve sensitive ecological habitat. Further, placement of the inter island underwater cables should be designed to ensure the minimum possible negative impact on important marine natural resources. We look forward to the opportunity to review, from a marine science perspective, specific plans for cable placement as they become available.

With respect to specific wind-farm plans on Lanai, TNC has the following general comments, but intends to provide further comment on a site-specific EIS, as it becomes available. TNC has held a Conservation Easement at Kanepu`u, Lanai since 1991. The Kanepu`u Preserve was created to protect and enhance the dryland forest community that is now rare across the islands. Road access to development in the area should be routed around the Preserve to avoid potential negative impacts. The EIS currently does not include an explicit evaluation of invasive species impacts. Well trafficked roadways are well known to be a primary conduit for the transport and introduction of invasive species, and the EIS should address mitigation to prevent proliferation of current invasive plant species found within the affected area and to prevent introduction of new invasive species to the affected area. Further, specific fire prevention measures should be implemented along roadways to protect the neighboring Preserve.

Submitted on Tue, Mar 01, 2011 / 02:34PM HST by Jody Kaulukukui

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