

February 28, 2011

To: Dept. of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
Strategic Industries Division/Renewable Energy Branch  
*Attn:* Mr. Allen G. Kam, AICP, HIREP EIS Manager

From: Melissa Uhl, Maui County resident, William S. Richardson School of Law student

Re: **Hawai'i Interisland Renewable Energy Program: Wind – Environmental Impact Statement**

Dear Mr. Allen Kam and HIREP team,

Thank you for receiving and considering the public's viewpoint in preparation for such an important project. I ***strongly support*** the Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative's goals. Hawai'i needs such ambitious foresight.

As someone born and raised in Maui County, HIREP Wind is a big deal. As someone studying Environmental Law, I seriously hope that this Programmatic EIS, along with all the other steps taken with the implementation of this project, are done correctly.

After reviewing the materials provided online and at the Honolulu Public Scoping Meeting on February 1, 2011, I have a few comments:

1. ***Please reconsider***, or provide realistic alternatives, to the proposal of laying the undersea cable THROUGH A MARINE SANCTUARY. As you know, the National Environmental Policy Act requires agencies to take a hard look at their actions and provide alternatives to proposed projects. Humpback whales are unique, culturally, and economically important to Hawai'i's, and Maui County specifically. I would like to see a meaningful analysis of the impacts of laying an electric cable through the prime breeding ground of this important resource.
2. ***Please insure***, that the important cultural and archeological aspects of the Kaheawa plain are adequately researched, documented, and handled. A Cultural Impact Assessment, as required under Act 50 and the Hawai'i Supreme Court's decision in Ka Pa'akai, is an important component to the planning and EIS process.
3. ***Please compensate*** the residents of Lana'i and Moloka'i. It is hard to believe that the community will not be compensated for the huge sacrifice they are enduring for the benefit of the rest the state. The environmental justice issues surrounding this situation are obvious.

**Mahalo for your hard work and honest consideration!**