

Merz, Jeff

From: noreply@hirep-wind.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 8:48 AM
To: Johnston, Douglas; Merz, Jeff
Subject: [HIREP Wind EIS] New Comment

A New Comment has been Submitted

I have been a visitor to Lanai many times since my initial visit in 1973. I attended the informational meeting last January. I have the following comments:

1. Any wind project should maximize green energy potential and minimize adverse impacts for island residents. The company's plan would deny access to almost one quarter of the island, and would do so by placing windmills in areas that are rated as "marginal" by the DOE. According to George C. Munro (see "The Story of Lanai") the area where the company plans to put windmills (the uplands of Ka'a) is also the area of greatest Hawaiian settlement in ancient times. Loss of access to this area, with its rich historical and cultural background, should not be permitted, especially because this area is not rated as particularly high in wind potential by the DOE.

Windmills should be limited to the area of highest wind potential, which according to the DOE wind maps, is a narrow strip along the pali on the west coast, at the north end of the island.

2. Any wind project should maximize Hawaii's ability to wean itself from fossil fuels. And for the island of Lanai, that means that the wind project and the underground cable to Oahu should connect Lanai City (and the solar array in Palawai Basin) to a statewide grid. The main problem with solar and wind is that they are intermittent. While Lanai has solar, it is still dependent on ancient diesel generators when the sun is not shining. Linking Lanai to a statewide grid will lessen that dependence because, even when the wind is not blowing and the sun is not shining on Lanai, there may be sources producing power elsewhere in the state.

Submitted on Tue, Mar 01, 2011 / 08:48AM HST by Roger W. DuBrock

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