



MAUI TOMORROW

Protecting Maui's Future

February 2, 2011

Hawaii Inter-Island Renewable Energy Program: Wind Final EA/EISPN

Maui Tomorrow Foundation supports alternative energy and the state's efforts to reduce our dependence on imported oil but Lanai's windfarm alone would be ten times larger than Kahe'awa at Ma'alaea so questions must be addressed.

1. Federal and State environmental impact laws require a study of alternatives, yet this one (Hawaii Island Renewable Energy Project) studies "Big Wind" and "No action." Nowhere in the document does it suggest a study of wave, geothermal, OTEC (ocean thermal energy conversion), solar or other renewable energy source.
2. Regarding the undersea cable:
 - Who will own it? Originally, the State said that it would own it. At a recent Legislative Information Briefing session, the state indicated that it is considering a shared ownership between the State and a private investor such as Castle & Cooke. Were that the case, a privately-held company would own both the supply and the delivery system for ten percent of O'ahu's electricity.
 - What will it cost? Originally estimated at one billion dollars (\$1,000,000,000), some estimates expect it to double, while DBEDT now talks about lowering the cost. Will redundancy be required for the undersea cable, and if so, how many and what will they add to the cost?
 - How will it be paid for? Will the Legislature be asked to authorize bond funds? Will it be funded directly by taxpayers and ratepayers? How much will the Federal government provide in loans and/or grants? What is the military's (currently the largest HECO customer on O'ahu) role in this project?
3. The EIS/EA PN refers to "decommissioning". How far will the developer be required to "decommission?" Will they be required to remove the 1100 cubic yards of cement in the foundation, and the 60' diameter holes be re-filled and re-planted?
4. Will this EIS/EA study the reduction of demand/conservation by the Oahu users of this power – including O'ahu businesses, residents and military?
5. There have been, as reported at the recent Legislative Information Briefing, a number of very relevant reports prepared but not released to the public, including a National Renewable

Energy Lab study, done by Booz-Allen, of the financial implications of this project. When will these be made available to the public?

6. Will this study include an analysis of the impacts on the Kanepu'u Dry Land Forest Preserve? On the highly endangered Hawaiian monk seals who regularly haul out at Polihua Beach where the Lanai end of the undersea cable will come ashore? On the also endangered Hawaiian Petrel whose flight path will directly intersect with the vast blades of the proposed 170 wind turbines?
7. Why does the EIS/EA PN suggest only "limited field studies" of the impacted area? Will this study rely primarily on literature review rather than a thorough analysis of the area, an area known to be populated with Hawaiian cultural and archeological sites.
8. If Molokai is unable or chooses not to participate in this industrial wind power plant, will the project still happen? Will the State contract with only one supplier of neighbor island wind?

Please address these questions and the community's concerns before moving forward. Mahalo for considering these issues,

Irene Bowie



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