



Date: December 10, 2025

To: Chair Chang and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources

Re: Agenda Item D-14 — Support for Acceptance of the Final EIS for Kaheawa Wind Power I

Aloha Chair Chang and Board Members,

My name is Gabe Amey, founder of the Hawaii nonprofits RiseHI and Our Kūpuna, and I am writing in strong support of Kaheawa Wind Power I (KWP 1) and the acceptance of its Final Environmental Impact Statement.

For nearly 20 years, KWP 1 has been one of Maui's most reliable and cost-effective renewable energy resources, generating 30 MW of clean power and serving approximately 17,000 households since 2006. As one of Maui's lowest-cost generators, it has saved residents millions of dollars each year and provided stability for families facing a high cost of living.

With MECO retiring major fossil-fuel units between 2028 and 2030, Maui faces a serious risk of energy shortages and increased reliance on costly temporary diesel generation. KWP 1 sits in one of the strongest wind resource areas in the country and produces renewable energy day and night, filling critical gaps when solar is unavailable. Continuing this project is essential to maintaining reliability and advancing the state's clean energy goals.

The project also provides meaningful cultural and environmental benefits, including endangered species mitigation that improves wildlife habitat, archaeological monitoring, and long-standing support for Maui Cultural Lands' stewardship activities such as native planting, invasive species removal, and Heiau protection.

Equally impactful is the proposed \$300,000 per year community benefits package for the next 20 years—triple what was previously required. After meeting the TerraForm team at a RiseHI event, I saw firsthand their responsiveness and genuine commitment to Maui. If their actions are any reflection of their future stewardship, the community stands to benefit greatly.

KWP 1 is a proven, community-minded, culturally responsible project that Maui urgently needs. I respectfully urge the Board to accept the Final EIS, allowing the project to secure a new PPA and continue providing reliable, affordable clean energy for the next 20 years.

Mahalo for your consideration and leadership.

Mahalo Nui,

Gabe Amey
Founder, RiseHI & Our Kūpuna

Dec. 8, 2025

To: Chair Chang and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources

Subject: Support for Kaheawa Wind Power I EIS

Aloha,

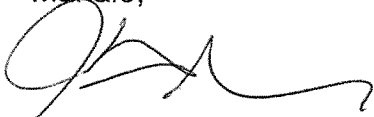
I am pleased to support Tetra Tech in its continued operation of the Kaheawa Wind I wind generation facility for an additional 20-year period, providing a much-needed source of renewable energy on Maui.

Tetra Tech is also an enthusiastic supporter of our communities, helping our local students through our Leadership Exploration Inspiration (LEI) events and the ClimbHI Service Excellence Certificate. Many HIDOE students have benefitted from these workforce development programs, empowering them to pursue their dreams here in Hawai'i.

We appreciate that the proposal includes \$300,000 per year to invest back in Maui, allowing the community to guide what initiatives matter most to them.

We encourage your acceptance of the draft Environmental Impact Statement submitted by Tetra Tech.

Mahalo,



Julie Morikawa

President, ClimbHI

Email: Julie@climbhi.org

Mobile: (808) 206-2853

www.climbhi.org

Subject: Agenda Item D-14, Support for Kaheawa Wind Power I EIS

Dear Chair Chang and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Mark Harmer, on behalf of Harmer Radio and Electronics, Inc. (Harmer Communications) and I am submitting this testimony in **support** of the acceptance of the Environmental Impact Statement for Kaheawa Wind Power I.

My Company has been involved with Kaheawa Wind Power I in many ways. We conducted the initial wind study on the Kaheawa ridgeline, installed the data backhaul for Maui Electric, and installed and currently maintain the data backhaul for Kaheawa Wind I of which provides internet, telephone and remote monitoring of the Windfarm operation.

By granting this EIS acceptance, the wind farm can continue operating as it is today and will continue to deliver a lower cost of electricity and a more reliable electric grid for Maui residents and businesses for the next 20 years.

Furthermore, the Windfarm provides employment for several Maui residents and also provides revenue streams to many Maui based contractors providing a variety of services like my company.

Maui's businesses and residents continue to experience high electricity costs and uncertainty about the island's energy future. Kaheawa Wind Power I has been a longstanding and essential contributor to Maui's clean energy goals. If the project were taken offline, the island would be forced to rely on additional fossil-fuel generation, resulting in greater environmental impacts. With a significant amount of Maui's existing fossil-fueled generation expected to retire in the coming years, the island cannot afford to lose any of its current renewable energy resources.

Moreover, a significant benefit of the project is a \$300,000-per-year program that will be reinvested in Maui for the next 20 years, providing direct support for community-driven priorities and allowing the community to determine what initiatives matter most to them.

I urge the BLNR to approve the EIS and allow Kaheawa Wind Power 1 to continue to produce clean energy without interruption. Without this existing resource, Maui will face increased electricity costs, further worsening the cost of living.

Sincerely,

Mark E. Harmer, President



December 8, 2025

Dawn N.S. Chang, Chairperson
Department of Land and Natural Resources

RE: REGARDING THE ACCEPTANCE OR NON-ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) FOR THE KAHEAWA WIND 1 CONTINUED USE PROJECT BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES MEETING, DECEMBER 12, 2025, LOCATED IN UKUMEHAME, WAILUKU AND LĀHAINĀ, ISLAND OF MAUI...

Aloha Chair Chang and members of the Board,

My name is Ana Tuiasosopo. I am the District Representative and Trustee for Operating Engineers Local 3. I and the members of Operating Engineers Local 3 **support the acceptance of the final Environmental Impact Statement for the Kaheawa Wind Power (KWP) continued use project.**

Our members build, operate, and maintain the infrastructure that keeps Maui running. For many years, KWP has provided steady, skilled employment for operators, technicians, and maintenance personnel on the island. These are good union jobs with family-sustaining wages, health coverage, and retirement benefits. Extending the life of this project helps keep those jobs in place and supports apprenticeship and training opportunities for the next generation of local workers.

Affordability is also a core concern for our members. Many of them are raising families on Maui while facing high housing, transportation, and food costs. Electricity bills are a major part of that burden. By continuing to provide low-cost renewable power and reducing the island's dependence on imported fossil fuels, KWP I help keep electric rates more stable and manageable for working people and retirees alike.

The project is beneficial in many aspects. It uses an existing site and infrastructure, preserves long-term operations and maintenance jobs, and contributes to a more resilient and diversified energy mix for Maui. As the island faces the retirement of aging fossil-fuel units and uncertainty around new projects, keeping proven facilities like KWP I online is an important way to protect both energy reliability and economic security for our members.

Mahalo,

Ana Tuiasosopo
Hawaii District Representative, Trustee - Hawaii Operating Engineers Local 3



SENATOR GLENN WAKAI
HAWAII STATE SENATE

December 2, 2025

Chair Dawn Chang and Members
Board of Land and Natural Resources
Department of Land and Natural Resources
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 130
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Chang and Commissioners:

Re: December 12, 2025 Meeting – Kaheawa Wind Farm I EIS

As Chair of the Senate Committee on Energy, I am writing in support of the Kaheawa Wind I project and to respectfully request the Board's favorable consideration of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) at your December 12 meeting. Kaheawa Wind I has operated safely and consistently for nearly twenty years. The EIS fulfills the purpose of Hawai'i's environmental review process by disclosing potential impacts, identifying alternatives, and outlining mitigation measures to support informed agency decision-making. The project involves the continuation of an existing facility with no proposed expansion of the footprint or impacts.

Much of the island's fossil-fuel units are retiring, and Hawaiian Electric has stated publicly that Maui faces a near-term blackout risk as existing resources decline faster than replacement capacity can be added. Several renewable projects have recently been terminated or on hold due to the Utility's financial condition and the loss of federal tax credits. Rooftop solar installations have also slowed, narrowing the range of resources available to support the island's grid.

The Kaheawa Wind I provides operational benefits by complementing solar output and reducing reliance on a single technology. Maintaining an existing, proven resource supports near-term grid stability at a time when few alternatives exist. For these reasons, I respectfully request your timely consideration of the EIS and the important role this facility plays in meeting the residents of Maui's energy needs. Thank you for your time and careful review.

Warmest Aloha,

Glenn Wakai
Senator
Senate Majority Floor Leader