



HAWAII LABORERS-EMPLOYERS COOPERATION AND EDUCATION TRUST

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January 20, 2026

To: **Board of Land and Natural Resources**
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 132
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: **Agenda Items C-3 and D-4: Kaheawa Wind HCP, ITL and Lease, January 23, 2026**

FOR HEARING ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2026, 9:00 AM AT MAUI ARTS & CULTURAL CENTER

Aloha Chair and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

The **Hawaii Laborers & Employers Cooperation and Education Trust** (Hawaii LECET) is in strong support of the new Kaheawa Wind Power 1 (KWP1) project, and respectfully requests acceptance of their HCP, ITL and Lease.

Hawaii LECET's mission is to create jobs, promote quality, develop our local workforce, and expand infrastructure. We connect high-quality construction projects with a trained local workforce, ensuring that development in Hawaii is carried out safely, efficiently, and in a way that strengthens the economic foundation of our communities. KWP1 represents a significant infrastructure investment that will rely on skilled labor, modern construction practices, and the partnerships that Hawaii LECET has spent decades building between laborers and responsible employers.

This initiative provides extensive opportunities for training and upskilling local workers. These opportunities are essential for keeping Hawaii's construction workforce competitive and prepared for the next generation of energy security and other infrastructure projects.

In addition to its workforce value, the **Kaheawa Wind Power Initiative** supports long-term affordability and reliability for Maui residents by continuing a low-cost, and clean energy resource. This benefits the broader community, including the families of the workers we represent.

KWP1 also makes efficient use of an existing site with already existing infrastructure. Hawaii LECET asks the Board for your consideration to accept the HCP, ITL and Lease. We are certain the KWP1 project will deliver long-lasting value to the people of Maui.

Mahalo,

**Hawai'i Laborers & Employers
Cooperation and Education Trust**

ROJAC Construction, Inc.

150 Pakana Street, Wailuku, Hawaii, 96793

Subject: Agenda Item C-3 and D-4, Support for Kaheawa Wind Power I

Dear Chair Kanaka'ole and Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am submitting this testimony in support of the final approval for the Habitat Conservation Plan and issuance of the Incidental Take License (agenda item C-3) and to grant a long-term lease (agenda item D-4) for Kaheawa Wind Power I.

These actions by the Board will allow the wind farm to 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.

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 reinvest 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 HCP and grant a long-term lease so that Kaheawa Wind Power 1 will continue to produce clean energy without interruption. Without this existing resource, Maui will face increased electricity costs, further worsening the cost of living.

Sincerely,


Aaron Ringstad
ROJAC Construction, Inc.



Written Testimony for

**STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA**

Friday, January 20, 2026

State of Hawai'i
Board of Land and Natural Resources
1151 Punchbowl St. 1st Floor Room 132
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Agenda Item Kaheawa Wind HCP, ITL and Lease, January 23, 2026

C-3. Decision Making Regarding 1) Kaheawa Wind Power I's Request for Approval of its Habitat Conservation Plan and 2) Issuance of an Incidental Take License for Kaheawa Wind Power, LLC, for 25 years.

D-4. Decision Making Regarding Disposition of Tax Map Keys (TMKs) (2) 4-8-001: portion of 001 and (2) 3-6-001: portion of 014 Kaheawa Wind Power, LLC

Aloha Chair and Members of the Board,

My name is Ana Tuiasosopo. I am the District Representative and Trustee for Operating Engineers Local 3 (OE3). We are the largest Construction Trades Local in the United States. I and the members of OE3 would like to express our strong support for allowing the new Kaheawa Wind I to move forward. For our members, this project represents something Maui urgently needs, immediate on island construction jobs that pay sustainable wages that keep working families here at home.

Repowering a wind farm is not routine maintenance. It is a full-scale construction effort. These are the types of jobs our members train for and depend on to sustain long-term careers. When a project of this scale happens, not only do our workers see direct benefits, but we contribute to the ongoing economic flow.

Maui needs low-cost clean resources that help stabilize the fragile and sometimes unreliable grid. The cost of housing and necessities continue to climb, and many of our members are negatively affected by the high cost of energy. This project creates a surge of solid employment that allows laborers to stay in the community where they were raised, rather than relocating.

For these reasons, OE3 respectfully supports this project and respectfully requests your approval for C-3 and D-4.

Mahalo,

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



SENATOR GLENN WAKAI
HAWAII STATE SENATE
Ka 'Aha Kenekoa

January 20, 2026

Chairperson and Members
Board of Land and Natural Resources
Department of Land and Natural Resources
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 130
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: C-3. Decision Making Regarding 1) Kaheawa Wind Power I's Request for Approval of its Habitat Conservation Plan for Operating its Wind Energy Facility at TMK(s): (2) 4-8-001:001 and (2) 3-6-001:014 and 2) Issuance of an Incidental Take License for Kaheawa Wind Power, LLC, for 25 years for incidental take of Hawaiian Hoary Bat (*Lasiurus cinereus semotus*; 'Ōpe'ape'a), Hawaiian Goose (*Branta sandvicensis*; Nēnē), Newell's shearwater (*Puffinus auricularis newelli*; 'a'o), Hawaiian petrel (*Pterodroma sandwichensis*; 'ua'u), Band-rumped storm-petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*; 'akē'akē), and the Yellow-faced bee (*Hylaeus assimulans*; Nalo Meli Maoli) at TMK(s): (2) 4-8-001:001 and (2) 3-6-001:014; and

D-4. Decision Making Regarding Disposition of Tax Map Keys (TMKs) (2) 4-8-001: portion of 001 and (2) 3-6-001: portion of 014:

1) Issuance of a Revocable Permit with a Right of Entry to Kaheawa Wind Power, LLC, OR Issuance of a Direct Lease to Kaheawa Wind Power, LLC for the Continued Operation of Kaheawa Wind Power I, Ukumehame and Wailuku Districts on the island of Maui Identified by TMKs (2) 4-8-001: portion of 001 and (2) 3-6-001: portion of 014.

As Chair of the Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs, I am writing in support of the Kaheawa Wind I project and to respectfully request the Board's favorable consideration of the Habitat Conservation Plan, Incidental Take License and to issue a direct lease. Kaheawa Wind I has operated safely and consistently for nearly twenty years. Approval of C-3 and approving a lease under D-4 with commercial terms that enable financing of the equipment improvements are necessary to ensure the continued operation of an existing and critically important renewable generating resource serving Maui.

Many 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 are 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 viable alternatives available or planned. For these reasons, I respectfully request your timely approval of these matters and the important role this facility plays in meeting the residents of Maui's energy needs. Thank you for your time and careful review.

Mahalo,



Senator Glenn Wakai
Majority Floor Leader
Chair, Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs
Hawai'i State Senate