

# HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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JOSH GREEN, M.D.

GOVERNOR

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MARK B. GLICK

CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

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## Testimony of MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

### before the BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

January 23, 2026  
9 a.m., Maui Arts and Cultural Center  
1 Cameron Way, Kahului, HI 96732

Subject: Agenda Item #D-4, Issuance of a Direct Lease to Kaheawa Wind Power, LLC for the Continued Operation of Kaheawa Wind Power I.

Dear Chair:

The Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on the importance of the Kaheawa Wind Project and encourages the issuance of a new direct lease to Kaheawa Wind Power I. HSEO's comments are guided by HSEO's statutory purpose under H.R.S. §196-71. Hawai'i is uniquely exposed to fuel supply risks and price volatility, impacting electricity costs and energy affordability throughout the state. Local renewable energy resources directly mitigate these risks, as these renewable projects are secured through long-term (e.g., 20-year) power purchase agreements that provide fixed electricity pricing. These PPAs not only stabilize customer costs but also reduce overall energy expenditures over time by avoiding dependence on imported fuel.

HSEO testifies to the critical importance of the KWP project for Maui's overall electric grid stability and resilience, as well as the energy costs. In 2024, wind comprised about 16% of Maui's total energy generation; KWP-1 produced 79,792 MWh, enough power to supply around seven thousand households.<sup>1</sup>

HSEO is particularly concerned about maintaining resource adequacy on Maui and elsewhere in Hawaiian Electric's service territory due to the current reliance on aging infrastructure and generation assets that are beyond their useful life. On Maui, generation concerns are substantial and escalating as the system approaches critical resource conditions; the 2025 Adequacy of Supply Report shows that Maui's Energy Reserve Margin will fall below required levels as early as 2029 due to the required retirement of Kahului units, the end-of-service for multiple Mā'alaea units (due to legacy equipment and unavailability of replacement parts), and the expiration of existing resources like Kaheawa

<sup>1</sup> Energy Information Administration. Form 923. (2025)

Wind. These findings underscore the importance of timely repowering of existing generation assets and advancing replacement projects to avoid significant reliability risks. Further, as planned projects are delayed or are cancelled due to tariffs or increased project costs, maintaining existing system resources becomes more critical. Concerns are further exacerbated by delays to the 40-MW ‘Ūkiu firm energy project—the power purchase agreement application docket has been suspended after the Commission found the application incomplete and required additional environmental review, creating uncertainty around one of the key replacement generation resources.<sup>2</sup>

The Kahului power plant will be retiring at the end of 2027. There is expected to be some new generation, but continued generation, such as KWP 1, is essential to fill in for this lost power. Mā‘alaea units are expected to function until 2029, although they may come offline sooner if maintenance is necessary and parts are unavailable.

Hawaiian Electric has indicated that if planned projects do not come online, the utility may need to issue voluntary calls for conservation. In the worst case scenario, the utility would need to deploy costly diesel generators as an emergency measure to maintain resource adequacy—an action that would negatively affect both public health, greenhouse gas contribution, and the cost of electricity.

The reliability and cost-effectiveness of wind energy, coupled with its ability to complement increasing energy demand and support the clean energy transition, underscore why immediate action is needed to sustain continued production of this critical renewable energy resource.

Finally, TerraForm has consistently demonstrated its role as a responsible and committed partner in advancing renewable energy in Hawai‘i. The company has made significant efforts to address the requirements of the Habitat Conservation Plan, showcasing its commitment to prioritizing environmental impact mitigation and its ability to follow through on projects, thus underlining its capacity to deliver on the next steps as the project moves forward. The willingness demonstrated to remain a constructive partner with the state speaks volumes about their ability to meet project obligations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Mark B. Glick  
Chief Energy Officer

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<sup>2</sup> Hawai‘i Public Utilities Commission. (2025, November 12). *Order No. 42090: Suspending the docket and addressing HRS Chapter 343 compliance (Docket No. 2025-0356)*. Hawai‘i Public Utilities Commission Decision and Order.



# LiUNA!

## Written Testimony for

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

**PETER A. GANABAN**  
Business Manager/  
Secretary-Treasurer

**ALFONSO OLIVER**  
President

**JOBY NORTH II**  
Vice President

**TONI FIGUEROA**  
Recording Secretary

**MARTIN ARANAYDO**  
Executive Board

**ORLANDO PAESTE**  
Executive Board

**JOSEPH YAW**  
Executive Board

**ESTHER AILA**  
Auditor

**RUSSELL NAPIHAA**  
Auditor

**MARK TRAVALINO**  
Auditor

**YUGAN HOTTENDORF**  
Sergeant-At-Arms

Friday, January 23, 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,

The Laborers International Union Local 368 represents 5,000+ members working in construction, environmental remediation, maintenance, food service, healthcare, clerical, and other occupations, as well as in state, local, and municipal government jobs and as mail handlers in the U.S. Postal Service across the State.

Laborers International Union of North America Local 368 (LiUNA) would like to express our support for allowing the new Kaheawa Wind I to move forward. This project is urgently needed in Maui and will provide immediate on-island construction jobs that offer sustainable wages, ensuring that working families remain in the community.

Repowering a wind farm is not routine maintenance; it is a comprehensive construction endeavor. These are the types of jobs our members train for and rely on to sustain long-term careers. When a project of this magnitude occurs, not only do our workers experience direct benefits, but we also contribute to the ongoing economic vitality.

Maui requires low-cost clean resources that assist in stabilizing the fragile and occasionally unreliable grid. The cost of housing and necessities continues to escalate, and many of our members are adversely affected by the high cost of energy. This project generates a surge of stable employment, enabling laborers to remain in the community where they were raised, rather than relocating.

For these reasons, LiUNA Local 368 respectfully supports this project and respectfully requests your approval of C-3 and D-4.

Respectfully,

Peter A. Ganaban

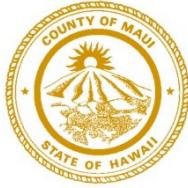
Business Manager/Secretary Treasurer  
Laborers International Union of North America - Local 368  
1617 Palama Street  
Honolulu, HI 96817

LiUNA Local 368  
1617 Palama Street  
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*Feel the Power*

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.  
Mayor

JOSIAH K. NISHITA  
Managing Director



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET  
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January 22, 2026

Ms. Dawn N.S. Chang, Chairperson  
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
DLNR Boardroom, Kalanimoku Bldg.  
1151 Punchbowl St., 1st Floor Room 132  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha e Chair Chang and Member of the Board,

I am writing to express my support for the continued operation of Kaheawa Wind Power I (KWP I) and to acknowledge the thorough work presented in the project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). I view this effort not only as an energy project but as an important commitment to Maui's long-term stability, economic well-being, and environmental stewardship.

Maui's residents continue to face volatile fossil-fuel costs that contribute to the uncertainty surrounding the island's clean energy future. With aging fossil-fuel units scheduled for retirement, maintaining existing clean energy is important for preventing reliability challenges and avoiding dependence on costly fossil fuel-based backup generation. KWP I has provided dependable energy to an estimated 17,000 Maui households for nearly two decades and has done so as one of our island's most cost-effective sources of electricity. Preserving that contribution is in the clear interest of our community.

The County also recognizes the broader value this project brings to Maui. The proposed 20-year continuation includes a \$300,000 annual community benefits program, direct support for local nonprofits, and investments in local jobs and technical expertise. These commitments come at a critical time when Maui is actively working to strengthen its economy and expand opportunities for residents.

KWP I represent a renewable energy project that supports grid reliability, cost stability, environmental protection, and long-term community benefit. I respectfully request the Board's consideration of the approvals necessary for the project to continue providing uninterrupted service to Maui.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Richard T. Bissen, Jr.  
Mayor, County of Maui



**The Senate**  
**Ka 'Aha Kenehoa**

STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

January 22, 2026

Interim Chair Ryan Kanaka'ole and Members  
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 130  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: Regarding Kaheawa Wind EIS, ITL and Lease**  
**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 Board of Land and Natural Resources,

As the State Senator for District 6, which includes Lahaina, I am writing to request your favorable consideration of the HCP, ITL and a commercially viable lease for the Kaheawa Wind facility during your meeting on January 23, 2026. Kaheawa Wind has a long record of safe and responsible operation. This effort simply continues the operation of an existing important wind facility.

Maui's energy landscape is becoming increasingly strained. Several of the island's fossil-fuel generators are set to retire, and the slowdown in rooftop solar installations has further reduced the range of options available to keep the grid reliable. Additionally, Hawaiian Electric has publicly warned that Maui could face blackout risks soon as older resources leave the system faster than new ones can be brought online. At the same time, many renewable projects have been canceled or put on hold due to the utility's financial challenges and the loss of federal tax incentives.

Senator Angus L. K. McKelvey  
Senate District 6 – West Maui, Mā'alaea, Waikapū, South Maui  
415 South Beretania St., Room 221  
Honolulu, Hawai'i • 96813  
Phone: (808) 586-6070 • Email: [senmckelvey@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senmckelvey@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Being in operation for nearly two decades, the Kaheawa Wind Farm has a track record of grid stability, lower electrical cost to consumers and community investment. In this environment, Kaheawa Wind Farm remains an essential part of Maui's energy mix. Its wind generation helps balance solar production and diversifies the island's renewable resources, reducing dependence on any single technology. Preserving this proven facility is one of the few immediate steps available to help maintain grid stability during a period of limited alternatives.

For these reasons, respectfully, I urge the Board to act promptly on these matters in recognition of the vital role this facility continues to play in supporting Maui's energy needs. Please feel free to contact my office with any questions or concerns at (808) 586-6070 or via email at [SenMcKelvey@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:SenMcKelvey@capitol.hawaii.gov).

Sincerely,



Angus L.K. McKelvey  
Hawai'i State Senator