## **MEETING NOTES**

## Kahikinui Wind Energy Project

## **Beneficiary Informational Meeting**

Paukūkalo Community Center July 13, 2015 • 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm

The Department presented a powerpoint presentation (see Attachment A) that covered:

- The purpose of the meeting
- Background information on Kahikinui
- Background information on the Proposed Kahikinui Wind Energy Project

The meeting was then open to public comments and questions which were as follows:

- 1. There seems to be a lot of interest in this project–will you extend this meeting beyond the 2 hours if people are still lined up to testify?
  - a. If people sign up to testify before 9:30 pm, we will hear their testimonies.
- 2. Let's assume that the HHC approves the project, can you explain the process the project needs to go through in order to begin construction?
  - a. If the HHC approves the Right-of-Entry permit and the long-term General Lease, NextEra would still need to secure a number of permits and approvals before it could construct. For instance, compliance with Chapter 343, HRS means a full disclosure of all social, environmental and cultural impacts (along with mitigation measures) that could result from the project. NextEra would also have to secure a power purchase agreement with MECO which would then be submitted to the PUC for its approval.
- 3. Some people don't know what you're talking about—you're talking about NextEra—for \$175K, you should be getting \$150M. I'm kanalua about why DHHL thinks this is going to be a revenue generating project.
- 4. I would think that if you moved the project to Auwahi, it would lessen the impact since Auwahi already has wind turbines there. In Kahkinui, it's like you're desecrating another pristine site. These are sacred areas.
- 5. Can you tell us something about the company Boulevard—track record, etc.
  - a. Boulevard is a holding company, where the independent power producer is under the subsidiary banner. Boulevard is a completely independent producing company. NextEra Energy Resources is a non-regulated entity; utilities are regulated industries
- 6. Is it possible for a line to go underground?
  - a. It is possible and even preferred by the community.
- 7. In the next month, will you look at the financial and physical part of the project? Is one month enough time to approve a project?
  - a. The Right of Entry Agreement begins the due diligence process which will address details in finance and construction.
- 8. The 26 -27 mile marker is the only area that is accessible to fishermen. Now you're dumping wind mills on the fishing community. It's going to pit the fishing community against Kahikinui.
- 9. Should watch how you talk about this project; it's whether it is beneficial to future generations.

- 10. We want transparency in everything, contractors, etc. We also want to include other moku that might be impacted too.
- 11. DHHL should seek mana'o from the 'Aha Moku Council.
- 12. HECO or MECO can't take the power that is generated; you're adding 60MW, now you're going to have to improve all infrastructure to handle the energy you're generating. This expense is going to be incurred by existing rate payers.
  - a. Last year MECO took 21% of load from wind, they were willing to buy 10% more wind when the target was 40% energy independence; but now that it's 100%, they can buy more.
  - b. Consumers end up paying for the costs.
  - c. If you're talking about benefits, so far we haven't seen any benefits.
- 13. If we put our questions in the testimony, who is going to answer the questions?
  - a. The questions we can answer, we will answer, but some questions are outside our purview.
  - b. At a later date, a list of Frequently Asked Questions will be posted on our website regarding this project.
- 14. How can we testify when you're not answering the questions?
  - a. Even your questions provide input to the Department/Commission
- 15. Why are we submitting testimony when you sound like you're going ahead with this?
  - a. The only decision that has been made is who would be the renewable energy producer—that would be NextEra/Boulevard Associates. But the decision on the energy producer doesn't mean they can go out to Kahikinui and start producing wind energy. The big decision is whether or not the Commission will approve the Right-of-Entry and General Lease. Your testimonies tonight and at the Public Hearings will help the Commission make its decision.
- 16. Throughout the night we heard the process of how to submit testimony. Who and when will DHHL respond back to us?
  - a. DHHL doesn't respond to testimonies presented at Public Hearings. Public Hearings are conducted by the Hawaiian Homes Commission and the hearings provide opportunities for people to present their questions, comments and concerns directly to all Commissioners.
- 17. HHLs should be here to help us. What is DHHL doing for the beneficiaries in terms of fishing sanctuaries, land, etc., because it looks like DHHL has crossed the line regardless of what we say in our testimonies.
  - a. We're trying to find money to pay for roads, utilities that the county is not taking...not just in Kahikinui, but all homesteads.
- 18. I understand Kahikinui is affected, but we're all affected by the project. Where is the human element? It seems you only care about the money.
  - a. We have to make the best decisions with the information we have at hand.

- 19. Ka 'Ohana o Kahikinui asked to be on the table with NextEra and HHLs, but we have not been included...it seems like it's a done deal.
  - a. There were legal reasons why the community couldn't be on the table. We've done this in other communities...there's confidential information...but we will see how we can include them on the table.
- 20. It was mentioned by Doug that NextEra doesn't know what MECO is doing...what is your plan to mitigate some of the shortcomings of MECO? They have said that the power can't be used at night, because there's battery limits.
  - a. As we have discussions with MECO, we'll look at other technologies (batteries, pump storage); our proposal will produce energy—this discussion about storage is another step in the process.
- 21. What is your (William Aila's) answer...what do you think about this project?
  - a. I know that oil prices are not going to go down; the only reason it's down now is because Saudi Arabia wants to show that they are the best. The reason why the Governor changed the renewable energy goals from 40% to 100% is because he knows that this is going to happen. This way, we can at least guarantee the price of energy for 20 years. If we don't do this, we are going get zero; we won't have another opportunity to figure it out.
- 22. Doug, we hear about equipment longevity—what is the longevity of equipment you will use? a. Normally we assume 20-25 years.
- 23. When a project goes down at end of 20 years, who takes it down?
  - a. NextEra has to take it down or whatever is agreed upon in the lease conditions.
- 24. I'm not a mechanical or electrical engineer, but I can read—I've read that wind mills is not the best way to capture energy. Why aren't you looking at an alternative energy model that includes other forms of renewable energy?
- 25. Kahikinui has the last remaining koa forest and there's a lot of endangered plants and birds—how much money is set aside for mitigation of taking these birds?
  - a. Through studies, they estimate how many birds they are likely to take. From that amount, they determine what the company has to pay for the taking. The funds go toward propagating more birds and/or creating habitat for the birds.
- 26. I'd like to request a consultation meeting vs. a public hearing.
- 27. We're dealing with the Public Land Development Corp. I don't know who is monitoring this, but I see something going on between the HHC and the PLDC.
  - a. HHC is appointed by the Governor and they serve the beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act.
- 28. You're talking about DHHL, but there's too many people in the stew...negotiating deals with people that are not beneficiaries; they just want money.
- 29. How many testimonies will it take for HHLs or NextEra to step down from this project? If a majority of people testifies, will they be heard?
- 30. I've been standing here listening to mana'o and getting the sense that people want to get maximum coverage because they think the public hearing is the end all; that's not going to happen. Once HHC approves, then NextEra has to do studies, so people should stay tuned. Be consulted in the process. The public hearing and commission decision is not the only

Note: The sub-point "a." identifies the Answer/Response

thing...all of the studies has to be economically viable for the company...bottom line. If not, they're not going to do it. We've heard all this about fishermen, endangered species, etc., but not one person supported Ka 'Ohana o Kahikinui-and they've been doing this from day 1. This is an opportunity for them to get on the table—we should be helping them move forward. What Kahikinui did –started working with developer from day 1—has never been done before. They initiated working together. The purpose of this meeting and the public hearing, is so that the HHC can see whether or not we will support Ka 'Ohana o Kahikinui.

- 31. We need a beneficiary consultation meeting. It's not that we don't support Ka 'Ohana o Kahikinui, it's that we heard Aimoku say that he wasn't allowed on the table. The same thing happened with Kamehameha Schools at Paukukalo. Two- days is too short for public hearings. Beneficiary means everyone on the list, not just a chosen few. You need to take into account the general public too. They're going to say in the future, why can't we fish over there? Why is our access cut off?
- 32. Can we defer decision-making to have more time?
- 33. I'm not a native Hawaiian, I'm a maka'ainana—talking about consultation is only on the commission. We're footing part of the bill. So we need the numbers...what are we going to make?
  - a. They haven't negotiated the power purchase agreement with MECO.
- 34. Today a lot of people are installing rooftop solar because the people are suffering with high electric bills. The wind farm is going to add to the suffering.
- 35. When is the HHC scheduled to make their decision?
  - a. Aug 17/18—we'll take information back and see if there's any interest in deferral. Decision-making was extended until November.
- 36. Want to say to Harry and the 'Ohana, I'm not for or against this project that will benefit your community; I'm just against the location.
- 37. I would like to request a beneficiary consultation meeting prior to decision-making.
- 38. I came here for an informational meeting, but there isn't enough information and that hurts, and there's nothing on process. What is the process? We're here.
- 39. We have other processes that needs to be included in NextEra. Our community group has gone through a lot --what we're seeing now is more people stepping up to the plate. What we don't need is people coming in who are not invited. The first people who were Hawaiian Homestead settlers had to prove the program...it's because of them that we're here today. If we go forward, we have aloha for one another...and see how we can make it work; if it fits, then let's make it work. If it doesn't then move on.
- 40. The meeting on August 17 and August 18 is the meeting on whether or not to give a Right-of-Entry permit at \$175,000? Does it include the \$300,000 for beneficiaries?
  - a. It also includes the General Lease for 20 years with option for 5 more years. The \$300,000 for beneficiaries is included in the overall deal.
- 41. Could the HHC say we don't want to give you a General Lease right now?
- 42. I heard people asking for more information; they are going to go back and tell people what they heard tonight and they are going to raise additional questions. You might want to go back and check your notice to make sure you have 30-day notification for public hearings. Chapter 91, HRS.
- 43. We are beneficiaries, if we come together we're going to be really powerful.
- 44. Can we email DHHL to get more information?

- a. Yes you can email julie-ann.cachola@hawaii.gov
- 45. We've lived at Kahikinui for 16 years. Our kuleana was to restore the forest and put our people on the land. We helped build the road to Kahikinui so people could come up to Kahikinui. We have plenty of work to do---do you want to come help us? There are lessees like Kawika that can't get to their lots; 30+ lessees can't even get to their lots. We formed a nonprofit organization, we also have the Kahikinui Game and Land Management Organization. We're trying to keep our Makai pristine--there's over 1,000 historic sites down there. But this would help. There has been all kinds of companies that come in --Shell Oil proposed windmills and we said, "NO." We had Sempra and we said NO to all these companies in the past. They're going put windmills up there regardless. If we say NO, they'll go next door. We're ok, we have solar, wind, road, but a lot of our people can't access their lots. We need finances, this could be a way. We haven't talked to our beneficiaries yet. We're taking all your comments, but there's so much to be done on our 'aina and you're all invited to come and help. Thank you for coming and listening.
- 46. We're not into gating people out. What we're doing is for Hawaiians. We're trying to manage fisheries, so we move the gates around. The first thing I said was, this is prime fishing ground. The reason this area is not gated is because we said no—keep it open. We're not keeping people out, we're trying to bring people in. We were created for self-sufficient living—the cattle and fish are food for us. We're not keeping people out, we're trying to make it better. We have an opportunity here. I'm not saying this is the answer, because we haven't made our decision yet.
- 47. Listening to everyone's concerns, seems like this process is moving too fast—it should be going 10 mph instead of 40 mph.
- 48. Pua: one of the lessees that had to leave said she prefers the timelines move out. The Commission meets on Maui in August and November; maybe it can move to November.

  [post note: decision-making on the Right-of-Entry agreement and the General Lease has been moved to the November 2015 meeting]

Closing pule: Ke'eaumoku Kapu. Meeting pau at 9:22 pm

Note: The sub-point "a." identifies the Answer/Response