

Community Based Renewable Energy at Kawaihae
Virtual Beneficiary Consultation Meeting #1
December 8, 2020
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

CHAT BOX QUESTIONS, RESPONSES AND COMMENTS

ATTENDANCE

Kailapa Community Association: Jeanette Kaulukukui, Maka‘ala and Maha Kaneali‘i, Keala Drummondo, KS Drummondo (applicant), Amoo Kainoa, Jojo Tanimoto, Hooke ‘Ohana, Pualan iKealii Lincoln Maielua

HECO/HELCO: Jen Zelko, Director of Government, Community and Media Relations at Hawai‘i Electric Light Company and Mark Wong, Manager CBRE Programs, HECO

DHHL: Andrew Choy, Planning Program Manager; Julie-Ann Cachola, Planner

1. Does DHHL have monies for communities to apply for grants for this?
 - a. No, DHHL does not have monies for communities to apply for a grant to do a CBRE project.
2. Is it possible to move the project site to the harbor side, near Pelekāne Waterside so they can take care of erosion and allow for the Bypass Road?
 - a. We can look to see if the location of the project would affect the Bypass Road, however, if we were to move the location, we would have to do an entirely new solicitation process.
 - b. Post-meeting note: we checked with DOT and the Bypass Road is on hold right now, but the proposed location of the project would not interfere with the proposed alignment of the Bypass Road.
3. Is DHHL looking at solar only?
 - a. The solicitation for proposals did not specify the type of renewable energy project, however, energy maps indicate that the proposed site has good solar potential.
4. Who is the subscriber? Each lessee or the subdivision or subdivisions?
 - a. Subscribers are individual HELCO customers who subscribe to a CBRE project on the Big Island.
5. Can Community organizations apply as the developer or partner with a developer?
 - a. Yes, it is possible for any Community Organization to apply as the developer, or partner with a developer, to form a Subscriber Organization that would build/operate a CBRE project.

6. What would the typical bill reduction be for a subscriber in a project like this?
 - a. This depends on what the Subscriber Organization proposes with their proposed bill credit rate and fees. Roughly, a 10% bill savings with no up-front investment has been seen in similar community solar projects.
7. What happens if you already have photovoltaic panels on your roof? Can you still buy into the program?
 - a. If a HELCO customer has PV solar, the customer already participates in a Distributed Energy Resource program, so they are not eligible to participate in CBRE. The CBRE program is a means to expand the benefits of renewable energy to customers who have not been able to install PV panels on their rooftops or who live in apartment buildings and cannot install PV panels because they have no rooftop.
8. What if the home with PV does not have full coverage and is still buying power from HECO?
 - a. If a customer has a home with PV and participates in a Distributed Energy Resource program, they would not be able to participate as a CBRE subscriber.
9. Is the 3 megawatt cap sufficient to power an area like Kailapa?
 - a. CBRE is not tied to a particular geography. The energy a CBRE project produces goes into the electric grid allowing HELCO to provide power generated with a renewable energy resource.
10. If it excludes someone with a PV system, how does it benefit a lessee?
 - a. Bill savings will be directed to participating Subscribers in the CBRE project. Bidders into the CBRE RFP are required to have a community outreach plan where they must also describe project benefits to the community.
11. To make money, this developer has to sell to subscribers outside of HHLs.
 - a. The developer does not 'sell' its energy to subscribers. Through a Power Purchase Agreement, the developer agrees to produce a certain amount of energy and HELCO agrees to buy the energy it produces. The CBRE project does not necessarily have to sell subscriptions outside HHL because they can choose their Subscribers. Those Subscribers would receive bill credits sized to their interest and output of their CBRE project.
12. How would the infrastructure impact HHLs?
 - a. Since the parcel of land is currently vacant, the infrastructure would probably increase the value of the land.
13. I think this opportunity is fantastic and could potentially be a windfall for Kailapa and PuaKailima. It will take some work but exciting.
14. Do you feel the benefits of this project would out-weigh the benefits of Hawaiians being awarded these commercial lands to develop small businesses?
 - a. The DHHL benefits from this project because it secures lease rent from the developer for the use of the land and it benefits because DHHL beneficiaries who qualify as subscribers would get a reduction in their monthly electric bills.

15. Would the department allow more time to work towards this project proposal?
 - a. The solicitation dates were established in order to ensure that if a developer wanted to submit a bid to HECO for a CBRE project, that there would be enough time to go through DHHL's process to secure a site for their project, which HECO requires in order to submit a bid. Delaying the deadline for project proposals could affect the project's ability to secure land for their project. Delaying the deadline for project proposals could also result in DHHL having to rush beneficiary consultation meetings and public hearings that is required in DHHL's process.
16. When is the next consultation meeting?
 - a. If DHHL receives applications for the Kawaihae site and if a developer's project is selected by DHHL, a beneficiary consultation meeting would be scheduled to allow the developer to present their project to beneficiaries and to give beneficiaries an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments.
17. Is HECO thinking about placing a sub- station on this site ?
 - a. No, HECO is not thinking about a sub-station at this site.
18. Are there currently any energy producers interested?
 - a. DHHL has not received any applications or indication of interest by any energy producer.
19. Who does the conversion to PV? Ok I got that it's the developer.
20. Might help with current traffic at harbor. New plans if connector road could open.

Mark Wong referred everyone to their webpage for more information:
<https://www.hawaiianelectric.com/products-and-services/customer-renewable-programs/community-solar>