

HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING
Minutes of October 13, 2021 via Interactive Conferencing Technology (ICT)

Pursuant to proper call, the meeting of the Hawaiian Homes Commission was held via interactive conferencing technology - Zoom, and in person at Hale Kūhiō, 64-756 Māmalahoa Highway, Kamuela, HI 96743, moderated by Chairman William Ailā Jr., beginning at 11:00 a.m.

PRESENT William J. Ailā Jr., Chairman
Randy K. Awo, Maui Commissioner
Zachary Z. Helm, Moloka'i Commissioner (via ICT)
Michael L. Kaleikini, East Hawai'i Commissioner (via ICT)
Russell K. Ka'upu, O'ahu Commissioner (via ICT)
Pauline N. Namu'o, O'ahu Commissioner (via ICT)
Dennis L. Neves, Kauai Commissioner (via ICT)
Patricia A. Teruya, O'ahu Commissioner (via ICT)

EXCUSED David B. Ka'apu, West Hawai'i Commissioner
Zachary Z. Helm, Moloka'i Commissioner

COUNSEL Ryan Kanakaole, Deputy AG (via ICT)

STAFF Leah Burrows-Nuuanu, Secretary to the Commission
Andrew Choy, Acting Planning Manager (via ICT)
Kahana Albinio, Acting Land Management Division Administrator
Julie-Ann Cachola, Planner
Cedric Duarte, Information & Community Relations Officer
Michael Lowe, Information Specialist

ORDER OF BUSINESS

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ailā called the public hearing to order at 8:30 a.m. seven (7) members were present, two (2) in person, and (5) via Zoom at roll call.

Pursuant to the Governor's emergency proclamation, related to COVID-19 Delta Response, Hawai'i Revised Statutes ("HRS") Chapter 92 regarding public agency meetings and records are currently suspended through November 30, 2021, to the extent necessary to minimize the potential spread of COVID and its Variants.

The hearing is for the Department and the Commission to provide information and receive comments on a proposed community-based renewable energy project on DHHL land in Kawaihae, Hawai'i Island. Nexamp Solar, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, is requesting a Right-of-Entry Permit (for up to three years) for due diligence purposes and a long-term General Lease (25-years with options to extend) of 21 acres of land to develop a solar energy facility plus battery storage project that would generate up to 4 megawatts of energy.

The purpose of this hearing is to afford all interested persons opportunity to submit data, views, or arguments, orally or in writing on matters relevant to the issues identified in the Notice of Public Hearing, which was just read.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

PT-1 Bo Kahui – Asked that Nexamp work with the local homestead associations to develop a workforce plan and business opportunities that will help our native people with economic development. He also recommended that Nexamp meet with the community during the subscription process to make sure the community can benefit from the project. The amount to which Native Hawaiians will benefit. There are several non-profits in the homestead community that would benefit from assistance. He believed the 12% discount should be a starting point, but negotiable based on Nexamp's rate of return.

PT-1 Jojo Tanimoto – J. Tanimoto provided testimony not opposed to the solar project but opposed to the location of the solar project.

The Kawaihae Master Plan and the Island Plan both include the Kawaihae bypass road as an evacuation option out of Kawaihae. The County-Community Development Plan included this feature following Hawaiian Homes direction. The "tsunami zone" begins at the Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway intersection to Akoni Pule Highway at Hawaiian Homelands. Wind conditions are different in Kawaihae than they are in Kona. She again asked the Commission to consider relocating the project to another area.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on October 18 & 19, 2021, (ICT) Zoom

MOTION/ACTION

Moved by Commissioner Helm, seconded by Commissioner Neves, to adjourn the meeting.
Motion carried unanimously.


ADJOURNMENT

12:35 PM

Respectfully submitted:



William S. Aila Jr., Chairman
Hawaiian Homes Commission



Leah Burrows-Nuuanu, Commission Secretary
Hawaiian Homes Commission