



March 11, 2015

Raymond Young
Staff Planner, Community Plans Branch
City and County of Honolulu, Department of Planning and Permitting
650 South King Street, 7th Floor
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
rscopyoung@honolulu.gov

Re: Kawailoa Solar Farm

Dear Mr. Young,

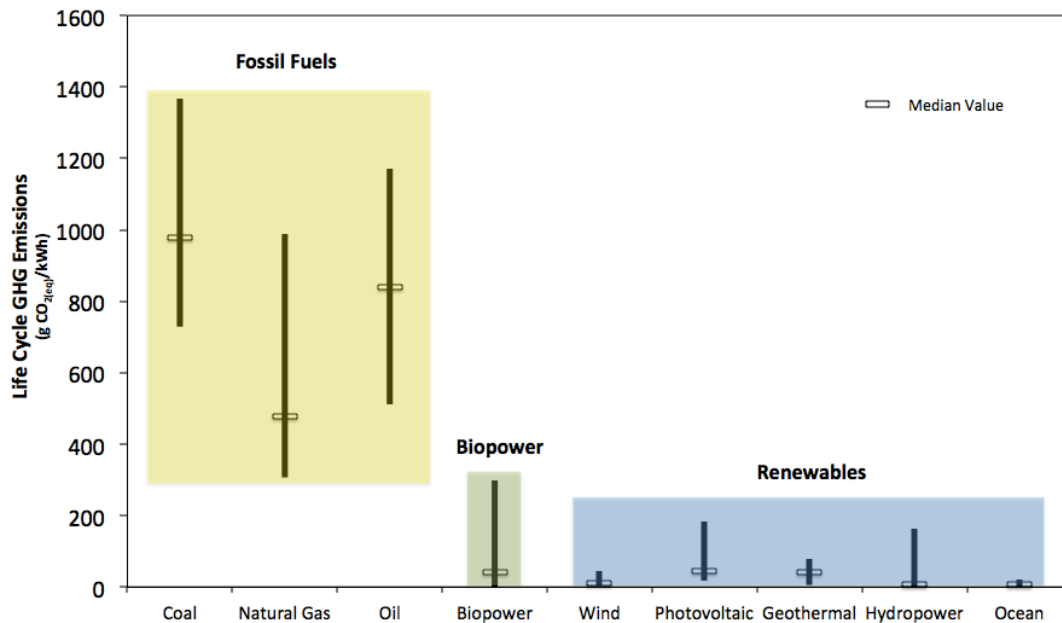
Blue Planet Foundation is Hawai'i-based nonprofit organization. We work to clear the path for local, clean, renewable power. We want to make our communities stronger, our energy more secure, our environment healthier, and our economy more robust.

In the past decade, Hawai'i has sent more than \$40 Billion out of the state to pay for imported fossil fuels like oil and coal. Thankfully, cost-effective renewable energy is slowing this drain. Solar projects like the proposed Kawailoa solar farm can supply power to Hawai'i's people for less than 13.5 cents per kWh – substantially better than the 22 cents per kWh we pay for oil in existing power plants. These savings benefit all residents and sectors.

New solar projects are also vital for achieving the state's clean energy goals and mandates. Our analysis indicates that O'ahu will require hundreds more megawatts of cost-effective solar power added to the grid, both as distributed rooftop generation and centralized utility-scale solar farms.

Timing is critical. Federal support for renewable energy projects is currently scheduled to terminate in 2016. If we fail to approve and install the pending renewable energy projects before that deadline, Hawai'i residents and businesses stand to lose hundreds of millions in federal dollars.

In addition to these broad economic benefits, using more solar power will mean cleaner power and a healthier environment. Life cycle greenhouse gas emissions analysis, accounting for emissions at each step of production, show that solar photovoltaic power is far cleaner than fossil fuel-fired power:¹



Solar energy projects enjoy a low profile, silent operation, and lack of significant moving parts. This can render solar projects appropriate for a variety of environments. Solar projects are also, by their nature, an interim use of land; unlike large power plant buildings, solar panels can be more readily removed at the end of their useful or contractual life.

The potential for dual-use of land also makes solar power a smart choice, because this strategy can protect the long-term value and possible uses of farmland. In the nearer term, dual-use energy generation can also improve the viability of land for agriculture by providing infrastructure

¹ These data were compiled by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) Harmonization project. NREL experts systematically reviewed thousands of estimates of LCA GHG emissions published between 1970 and 2011. LCA estimates presented consider emissions from all stages in the lifecycle of an energy source, from component manufacturing, to operation of the generation facility to its decommissioning, and including acquisition, processing and transport of any required fuels. Note that for natural gas, the methane leakage rate implied by these estimates is much lower than leakage measured by some scientists. Thus, the total climate impact of natural gas emissions may be even greater than reflected in this chart.

and subsidizing land costs for complementary agricultural uses. Together, these benefits can promote both food and energy sustainability.

We believe that these characteristics should render solar projects far less objectionable than large, polluting, fossil fuel generating stations. **Indeed, a recent poll of Hawai'i residents by the University of Hawaii Center on the Family found overwhelming support solar power. 92% of respondents favored solar power for Hawai'i, with only 4% opposing.**²

With aloha,



Richard Wallsgrove
Program Director

² See http://uhfamily.hawaii.edu/publications/brochures/9314e_14101012_COF_Renewable_Energy_Report-FINAL.pdf.

Young, Raymond

From: Luann Casey [luann@tinroofranch.org]
Sent: Monday, March 09, 2015 9:43 PM
To: Young, Raymond
Subject: Letter in Support of SunEdison's Special Use Permit Application

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Mr. Raymond Young
Staff Planner, Community Plans Branch
Department of Planning and Program
650 S. King St., 7th Fl.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Email: rcsyoun@honolulu.gov

RE: Letter in Support of SunEdison's Special Use Permit Application for Kawaihoa Solar

Dear Mr. Young,

We own and operate Tin Roof Ranch, an environmentally-friendly, organic, and sustainable farm located on the North Shore of O'ahu in beautiful Haleiwa. Tin Roof Ranch produces organic, pasture raised chickens, grass fed lamb, organic fruit, and veggies for purchase at local farmers' markets.

We also raise sheep and lambs that we sell to individuals, local butchers, stores and restaurants. Demand for lamb and sheep products is so high we cannot keep up with the requests and many times we have to turn down offers to buy our lamb and sheep products.

We support SunEdison's Special Use Permit Application because this project will open up more agricultural land for sheep farming and other agricultural activities. The solar energy operation will help to subsidize segments of the sheep farming operation including lease rent and fencing, making farming more cost-effective.

Sheep farming needs large tracts of land to be successful because sheep forage in herds within blocks of pasture and then are moved through cross fencing to other sections of the land to allow for regrowth of grass.

Because we pride ourselves on running a farm that utilizes sustainable practices, we also like the idea that our sheep operations would coexist with renewable energy and our sheep could help with grass maintenance for the solar panels.

We respectfully request that this application be approved as a show of support for renewable energy and farming.

Aloha,
Gary and Luann Gunder
Tin Roof Ranch
Haleiwa, Hawaii

March 27, 2015

VIA FACSIMILE: 768-643

Public Hearing held by the Planning Commission of the City and County of Honolulu
North Shore – State Special Use Permit – Kawaihoa Solar Farm

Date: April 1, 2015

Issue: Whether to grant a Special Use Permit pursuant to Section 205-6, HRS, for solar energy facilities on land with soil classified by the Land Study Bureau as overall master productivity rating Class A, B and C.

Aloha Planning Commission Members,

My name is Susan Gim, and I am currently a 3L at Richardson Law School. I am writing today to support the approval of the Special Use Permit for solar energy facilities. I write as a concerned citizen voicing my approval of the use of alternative energy sources in order to create a more sustainable way of living today and into the future.

Growing up in Hawaii as part of an immigrant working class family, the struggle to keep the lights on was, and is still very relevant in our lives. The cost of living in Hawaii continues to rise despite the stagnant wages and lack of opportunities. However, I feel blessed to be living in this state. We try to save money on bills by hanging clothes to dry outside in the hot sun, leaving the windows open instead of using an air conditioner, and reusing leftover water from rinsing rice to water the plants. Such small steps toward conserving energy have been ingrained in me since I was a child. Allowing more solar projects would help Hawaii residents save money in this beautiful but expensive state. This step towards increasing Hawaii's clean energy goals and reducing dependence on fossil fuels is something to be applauded and supported.

In addition to solar power, this specific Project proposes using the land for sheep farming or other agricultural uses. This dual-use, agri-voltaic project increases my support for the granting of the Special Use Permit since dependence on foreign meat will decrease and will help reduce the carbon footprint of certain food products. Further, with the end of the operational life of the Project, the land could be restored for agricultural use. Thus, granting the Special Use Permit would be a great benefit for Hawaii.

Mahalo,



Susan Gim
91-1136 Hoilili Place
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
susangim@hawaii.edu

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and PERMITTING
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Written Testimony in Support of Granting a Special Use Permit to Applicant

**Bryan Chee
4301 Sierra drive
Honolulu, HI 96816
bwhchee@hawaii.edu**

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**Applicant: Kawaihoa Solar, LLC
Landowner: Trustees of the Estate of Bernice Pauahi Bishop, dba Kamehameha Schools
Location: Kawaihoa, North Shore, Oahu
Tax Map Key: 6-1-005: Portion of 1 and 6-1-006: Portion of 1
Existing Use: Agriculture (pasture)
Existing Zoning: AG-1 Restricted Agricultural District
Land Area: Approximately 384.1 acres
Request: To construct a 50-megawatt photovoltaic (PV) energy generation facility and accessory uses and structures on lands rated Class A, B and C by the Land Study Bureau.**

My name is Bryan Chee and I am a student at the William S. Richardson School of Law. I am an advocate for sustainable alternative energy, particularly solar power. Kawaihoa Solar, LLC should be granted a special use permit because Hawai'i needs to diversify its sources of energy.

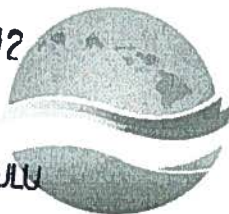
Hawai'i's imported energy costs are three times higher than the mainland. Hawai'i already has one of the highest costs of living in the world, and this high rate should not be augmented by unnecessary energy expenditures. Solar energy projects should be allowed because as an industry they are not economically feasible in the short run. There are high initial fixed costs that limit the extent that local firms can pursue solar energy as a business. However, by focusing only on operational profit margin, we do not consider the long-term capacity value, which leads people to undervalue the benefits of solar energy. After initial costs, a typical solar system could pay for itself within five years and could return a profit over four times the cost over its life.

Kawailoa Solar, LLC should be granted a Special Use Permit to install a solar farm at the proposed site. Solar energy projects face obstacles from established energy industries and steep fixed costs. However, almost every burgeoning industry in the United States has received some form of governmental support at the initial stages. In light of the high cost of living in Hawai'i and the abundance of available solar energy, Kawailoa should be granted their proposed Special Use Permit.

Public testimony is to be taken at the hearing. Fifteen (15) copies of written testimony should be filed with the Planning Commission at least two business days before the date of the public hearing. One copy may be faxed to 768-6743.

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HREA
HAWAII RENEWABLE ENERGY ALLIANCE

Directors

Jody Allione
Silver Ridge

Joe Boivin
Hawaii Gas

Warren S. Bollmeier II
WSB-Hawaii

Mr. Raymond Young
Staff Planner, Community Plans Branch
Department of Planning and Program
650 S. King St., 7th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Email: rcsyoung@honolulu.gov

Re: SunEdison Kawailoa Solar Project Application for a Special Use Permit

Dear Mr. Young,

The Hawai'i Renewable Energy Association ("HREA") is an industry-based, nonprofit corporation in Hawai'i established in 1995. Our mission is to support, through education and advocacy, the use of renewables for a sustainable, energy-efficient, environmentally-friendly, economically-sound future for Hawaii.

HREA supports the dual-use of agricultural activities and solar energy facilities on agricultural land as provided in the Hawaii Revised Statutes. We support dual-use as a creative approach to making the best use of available resources to meet Hawaii's clean energy goals while supporting a strong agricultural industry. At the heart of this concept is the goal of increasing Hawaii's Food and Energy Security.

HREA notes that the proposed SunEdison Kawailoa Solar Project meets the criteria stated above.

Sincerely,

Warren S. Bollmeier II, President
Hawaii Renewable Energy Alliance
46-040 Konane PI #3816
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Takara, Gloria C

From: Young, Raymond
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2015 11:03 AM
To: Arakawa, Bonnie K. N.; Takara, Gloria C
Subject: FW: Proposed SunEdison Kawaihoa Solar Project Application
Attachments: SunEdison Kawaihoa Solar Project SUP Application - HREA Comments.pdf

Glo/Bonnie:

Forwarding to you for April 15th continued hearing. Should be part of Planning Commission's and DPP's record.

Raymond Young
Staff Planner, Community Plans Branch
Department of Planning and Program
650 S. King St., 7th Flr.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ph. (808) 768-8049
Fax (808) 768-6743

From: Warren Bollmeier [mailto:wbollmeier@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 5:02 PM ✓
To: Young, Raymond
Subject: Proposed SunEdison Kawaihoa Solar Project Application

Aloha Mr. Young,

Please find attached, HREA's comments on the subject SunEdison Kawaihoa Solar Project.

Warren
Warren S. Bollmeier II, President
Hawaii Renewable Energy Alliance
46-040 Konane Place #3816
Kaneohe, HI 96744
808-247-7753 (Office) 808-392-7753 (Mobile)