

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD

20TH DISTRICT

KAPOLEI, MAKAKILO,
AND PORTIONS OF EWA, KALAELOA
& WAIPAHAU



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

CHAIRMAN
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

MEMBER
JUDICIARY & LABOR
EDUCATION
TRANSPORTATION & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

June 23, 2014

Mr. Daniel E. Orodener, Executive Officer
Land Use Commission
235 South Beretania Street, Room 406
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Mr. Orodener,

Aloha. I'm writing to express my strong support of the Ho'ohana Solar 1 Project ("Project") in Kunia.

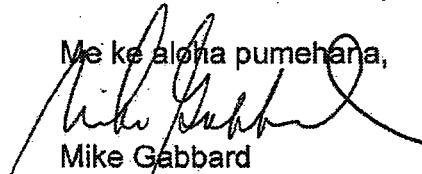
As the Chair of the Senate's Energy and Environment Committee, I'm convinced this Project will bring environmental, social, and economic benefits to the region and the state. It consists of a utility-scale solar farm that will produce 20 MW of energy. The Project will be sited on privately owned land that has been classified by the State Land Use Commission as Urban, and thus is an appropriate location for the solar farm. The Project is also consistent with all current land use regulations.

The power generated over the life of the Project will provide power to the equivalent of 7,000 homes per year. The Project will produce energy that is 100% clean, renewable, and sustainable. It will not use fossil fuels in its operation and will not generate harmful emissions, consistent with Act 234, which aims at reducing greenhouse gases.

Furthermore, Hawai'i residents pay the highest electricity costs in the nation. The average cost for residential electricity is 38.5 cents per kilowatt hour and rising, which is over triple the national average of 12.3 cents per kilowatt hour. The average price of electricity generated from utility-scale solar energy projects is roughly 20 cents lower per kilowatt hour and stable over 20 years versus the volatile price of oil. Hawai'i's location and climate are uniquely positioned to take advantage of its natural and inexpensive resources, such as solar energy. This Project can help our residents realize the benefits of these assets.

I encourage the Land Use Commission to consider these points in your deliberations on this matter.

Me ke aloha pumehana,



Mike Gabbard
Senator, 20th District

MG/rr
LR-0758