

Testimony of
Pacific Resource Partnership

State of Hawaii Land Use Commission
Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism



Docket A87-610
Waiawa Solar Power Project
Thursday, January 9, 2020

Dear Land Use Commissioners:

Pacific Resource Partnership writes in strong support of the Commission's timely approval of the Successor Petitioner's (Kamehameha Schools) Motion for Modification and Time Extension filed on October 21, 2019 and scheduled for further hearing on January 9, 2020.

The procedural history of this docket is well-documented beginning with the Commission's Waiawa Order filed on May 17, 1988 reclassifying approximately 1,395 acres of land at Waiawa, Ewa, Oahu from Agricultural to Urban land use. Per its subsequent Order, filed on November 26, 2014, granting an amendment to the Commission's May 17, 1988 Waiawa Order, this Commission expressly authorized the development of utility solar farms for a period not to exceed 35 years terminating as of November 26, 2049.

By way of its 2019 Motion for Modification and Time Extension, Kamehameha Schools now seeks limited modifications to principally extend the solar farm use period from November 26, 2049 to December 2059, along with other associated alterations. This requested time extension flows, in large part, from the difficulties experienced by the original developer's bankruptcy (Sun Edison) and to allow the solar project's new developer, Waiawa Solar Power LLC ("WSP"), the time needed to properly and responsibly permit, commission, operate and decommission the solar project. WSP is an affiliate of Clearway Energy Group, a well-known and trusted U.S. renewable energy developer with three existing solar projects operating in Hawaii.

Hawaii taxpayers look to and rely upon private landowners -- like Kamehameha Schools -- and renewable energy developers -- like Clearway Energy, to commit resources and align themselves to support Hawaiian Electric and the State of Hawaii's aggressive clean energy goals. Respectfully, this Commission should resist any request to burden this critical solar project with significant residential and commercial infrastructure requirements that are unrelated to solar farms, not contained within the Waiawa Order, and not before the Commission in the subject 2019 Motion for Modification and Time Extension.

In closing, Pacific Resource Partnership respectfully requests this Commission facilitate WSP, Kamehameha Schools, Hawaiian Electric and the State of Hawaii in meeting the state's clean energy goals by granting Kamehameha School's Motion and respectfully declining to impose conditions which would threaten, if not frustrate, the financial viability of this important project. We appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony on this matter of public interest.

