

October 1, 2020

LAND USE COMMISSION
STATE OF HAWAII

2020 OCT -2 P 4: 07

Jonathan Likeke Scheuer, Chairperson
Commissioners, Land Use Commission
State of Hawai'i Land Use Commission
State Office Tower, Leiopapa A Kamehameha Building
235 South Beretania Street, Suite 406
Honolulu, HI 96813
Email: dbedt.luc.web@hawaii.gov; riley.k.hakoda@hawaii.gov

Re: Docket No. A92-683 – Ho'ohana Solar 1, LLC's Motion for Modification and Time Extension

STRONG SUPPORT OF THE HO'OHANA SOLAR FARM

I am Richard Ha. I am a Vietnam Veteran officer, I have a BS in Accounting, Shidler College Hall of Honor, Distinguished Alumni, University of Hawaii, First chair of Hawaii Island Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce. And, I serve on various other non-profit positions.

I have farmed on the Big Island for nearly 40 years, primarily bananas and hydroponic tomatoes. We produced nearly 6 million pounds of bananas and 1 million pounds of hydroponic tomatoes annually. Most recently I was the CEO of Medical Cannabis Company Lau Ola. The growing facility was a completely controlled environment. Lights, temperature and humidity were precisely controlled, contributing to a significant cost of business. Several years ago we installed a 100 KW hydro electric generator on Waia'ama River on our 500 fee simple acre farm. Along the way we built a tissue culture lab.

I am now a renewable energy advocate. Around 2007 we noticed our input costs- petroleum based products such as plastic, chemicals and fertilizer starting to rise. I learned that the world had been using twice as much oil as it had been finding, for the previous 20 years. By 2009, the new shale oil, horizontal drilling and fracking started increasing production in the US. The characteristic of shale oil was that the wells are small and 90% depleted within four years. Years later and 70,000 wells later, we are about to reach the peak of shale production and prices will start to rise.


Since the 2008 oil spiked to \$147 per barrel, farming became harder. We found it necessary to stop our profit sharing program. Today Hawaii imports 85% of what we eat, petroleum prices will soon start rising again and we need to think about food and energy security in a different way.

Farmers do not need subsidies or tax breaks if they were able to control the cost of inputs such as energy. New regulations for food safety, refrigeration, warehouses for cleaning and storage and pumps for water wells are creating increased energy usage and increased costs, which will be unsustainable.

Ho'ohana Solar Farm will provide a significant affirmative impact in liberating Hawaii from fossil fuels helping consumers, businesses and farmers.

Observing how they are also supportive of the farming industry, this is a model project of energy and agriculture helping each other out.

I urge the LUC to approve the Motion for Ho'ohana, with the same conditions imposed in the 2015 order. Just as margins are thin for a farmer, the fixed rates offered by renewable solar projects, which cannot be revised, are built on thin margins. To impose the added costs towards the infrastructure of the Department of Agriculture Park as recommended by the Office of Planning, puts this project in jeopardy to the detriment of existing and future farmers.


Richard Ha

Hakoda, Riley K

From: Scott Fuji <s.fuji@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2020 11:28 AM
To: DBEDT LUC
Cc: Senator Michelle Kidani; Hakoda, Riley K
Subject: Testimony on Agenda Action item V
Attachments: 2020-1002 LOS for Hoohana Solar Farm Project.pdf

Aloha,

Please see the attached testimony for Agenda Action item V.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact our office at the information below

Mahalo,

Scott Fuji
Office of Senate Vice President Michelle Kidani
Phone: 808-586-7100

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Senator Michelle N. Kidani
Vice President of the Senate



Chair
Education

Member
Higher Education

Member
Ways and Means

The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

October 2, 2020

Jonathan Likeke Scheuer, Chairperson
Commissioners, Land Use Commission
State of Hawai'i Land Use Commission
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Re: Docket No. A92-683 – Ho'ohana Solar I, LLC's Motion for Modification and Time Extension

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE HO'OHANA SOLAR FARM

As the Senator representing Senate District 18, which includes Kunia, I urge the Land Use Commission to approve this Project. The project will be located in Kunia, 'Ewa, O'ahu. The land is classified as Urban, and this solar project solar is an appropriate interim use for this land.

The proposed utility-scale solar development will generate 52 megawatts of clean, renewable energy with battery, which is a viable alternative energy resource that can help our state achieve its policy goal of 100% renewables by 2045 and mitigate greenhouse gas.

The developer has been mindful of the community and its neighbors, which is why neighbors have been supportive of the development. This project will provide much needed low, stable cost of energy, cleaning up and securing the neighborhood, and giving back to the children by providing renewable energy curriculum, hands on educational tools and professional training for teachers. By also agreeing to provide water line improvements to the Department of Agriculture park, shows their understanding of the needs of the community and their commitment to responsible development.

I support that the LUC approve the Motion for Ho'ohana, with the same conditions imposed in the 2015 order.

With Aloha,

Michelle N. Kidani