



TESTIMONY BEFORE THE STATE OF HAWAI'I LAND USE COMMISSION

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY Special Use Permit – 2020/SUP-6 AES West Oahu Solar, LLC

Wednesday, June 9, 2021
9:00 a.m.
Zoom Webinar Virtual Meeting

Rebecca Dayhuff Matsushima
Director, Renewable Acquisition
Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.

Aloha Land Use Commissioners:

My name is Rebecca Dayhuff Matsushima and I am testifying on behalf of Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc. (“Hawaiian Electric”) with the following comments regarding the AES West Oahu Solar, LLC (“AES West Oahu”) project, and their application for a Special Use Permit. This renewable, dispatchable, solar plus energy storage project is unique because it is on state land, is in partnership with the University of Hawai'i, and because AES West Oahu proactively incorporated compatible agricultural activities on such land; specifically, beekeeping and cattle grazing for honey production/pollination and beef production, respectively.

This renewable, dispatchable solar plus energy storage project was selected through a competitive request for proposals process, resulting in a power purchase agreement (“PPA”) executed by Hawaiian Electric in February 2019. The PPA was approved by the State of Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission in August 2019. As the Land Use Commission may be aware, the state's renewable portfolio standards (“RPS”) law requires Hawaiian Electric to have an RPS of 40% by 2030, 70% by 2040, and 100% by 2045. The AES West Oahu project is estimated to contribute an annual average of 0.4 percentage points towards Hawaiian Electric's consolidated RPS through 2045.

In addition, the PPA is expected to result in numerous benefits to Hawaiian Electric's customers, including monthly bill savings, fixed pricing, reduced fossil fuel consumption and fuel supply reliability risk, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and grid stabilizing services. The current AES West Oahu project is a 12.5 MW solar facility paired with battery storage and is expected to generate enough renewable energy to serve roughly 4,600 homes.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the AES West Oahu project.