

February 15, 2022

Aloha, members of the Land Use Commission,

I am writing in support of using Miki Basin on Lānaʻi as a site for a renewable energy project, as HECO begins to evaluate projects that will bring renewable solutions to Lānaʻi.

Lānaʻi's current power grid runs on nine ultra-low-sulfur diesel generators, according to a recent report. Diesel is expensive. Our electricity bills are the highest in the state – Lānaʻi residents pay an average of 12-35 percent more than those living on the neighbor islands. Moreover, diesel is a fossil fuel, the primary cause of climate change. Diesel is unsustainable and continued reliance on it is unconscionable, with catastrophic consequences for our planet, consequences we are already seeing now.

Our island's future is bound with the state's and with other islands, such as Kauaʻi, as they move toward a sustainable future. And that future is renewable energy.

Pūlama Lānaʻi is building 150 homes, 51 percent of which will be affordable, that use renewable energy, a clear commitment to creating a sustainable future for our island.

I fully support using Lānaʻi's Miki Basin as the place where the island's renewable energy and its future begins.

Mahalo,

Nelinia Cabiles
Lānaʻi, Hawaiʻi