



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813



November 6, 2024

Dan Giovanni, Chair
State Land Use Commission
Leiopapa A Kamehameha, State Office Tower,
Room 405 235 S Beretania Street, Room 405,
Honolulu, Hwai'i 96813

Aloha Chair Giovanni and members,

Subject: SP21-412 Mahi Solar (O'ahu) Adoption of Findings of Facts, Conclusions of Law, and Decision and Order for SP21-412 (SUP No. 2020/SUP-7) application to modify. The subject area is approximately 620 acres in the Agricultural District.
TMK Nos. (1) 9-2-001:020 (por.), (1) 9-2-004:003 (por.) and 010 (por.)

I understand that Mahi Solar is looking to extend their initial 3 year deadline by an additional 3 years to establish the 120-Megawatt (mW) Mahi Solar Energy Generation and 480-mW battery energy storage facility. Due to pandemic era supply chain issues, they have not been able to establish the project within the initial three years. As long as Mahi Solar remains committed to the original premise of the permit and is only extending the deadline, I am in full support.

I recently had the opportunity to take a tour of Mahi Solar's Energy Generation Facility and personally witnessed the combined use of land as a solar farm and to produce agriculture. They have shown to fully support our local farmers, subleasing the land to interested farmers and providing the water and resources to do so. During my visit, I have also seen their commitment to ensuring our farmers' success through experimenting with crop viability. Through their research made available by the Hawai'i Agricultural Research Center, the farmers will have data on what crops grow best under and around the raised solar panels.

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I was astonished to learn of this type of project happening in our community and the efforts they have made to both increase our supply of renewable energy while also contributing to local agricultural production. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony, and please do not hesitate to contact me for further questions.

Sincerely,



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