June 8, 2020

The Honorable Chair and Members
of the Hawai‘i Public Utilities Commission
Kekuanao‘a Building, First Floor
465 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

Subject: Docket No. 2019-0178 – To Institute a Proceeding Relating to a Competitive Bidding Process to Acquire Dispatchable and Renewable Generation Paired with Energy Storage for the Islands of Moloka‘i and Lāna‘i Combining the Request for Proposals with the Community Based Renewable Energy Request for Proposals for the Island of Lāna‘i

Dear Commissioners:

The Hawaiian Electric Companies,¹ in consultation with the Independent Observer, propose combining the following request for proposals (“RFPs”):


The Companies present this proposal in line with the Commission’s guidance in its March 24, 2020 Statement from Hawaii Public Utilities Commission on COVID-19 Emergency, which stated: “[C]lean energy development can accelerate Hawaii’s recovery from the crisis. Therefore, the Commission invites creative proposals and new programs that can support and expand clean energy job opportunities.” Due to overlapping objectives, the Companies believe that combining these RFPs will allow the Companies to optimize the benefits of procuring renewable energy for the Island of Lāna‘i, spurring development and increasing the likelihood of success of the Community Based Renewable Energy (”CBRE”) Program on Lāna‘i. For

example, the unique land ownership aspects on the Island of Lāna‘i present a challenge for siting renewable energy projects. Combining the RFPs will allow the Companies to work with the majority landowner, Pūlama Lāna‘i, to designate a predetermined site to facilitate expeditious development of a renewable energy project that meets the objectives of both RFPs. Combining the RFPs would allow for economies of scale to reduce the cost of a project. It would also allow for one interconnection to the grid, which should reduce costs to customers versus having multiple projects each with their own point of interconnection. Finally, there were no projects proposed for Lāna‘i for Phase 1 of the CBRE Program. By combing the RFPs and providing a site for a project, the Companies believe there would be an increased chance of success for the CBRE Program.

A notice regarding the combined Lāna‘i RFP was made available to the public on Maui Electric’s website at www.mauielectric.com/lanaicompetitivebidding on June 8, 2020. Further details describing the benefits of this approach and the details of the RFP will be provided with the filing of the draft combined Lāna‘i RFP filing in Docket No. 2015-0389 on July 9, 2020. The Companies are excited for this opportunity to allow access to renewable energy benefits to a wider array of customers on the Island of Lāna‘i.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Dayhuff Matsushima
Director, Renewable Acquisition

cc: Division of Consumer Advocacy
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