

# Wildfire Safety Working Group

Wednesday, August 21, 2024

9:00am – 11:00am HST

MS Teams

## Attendees:

Alexander Gomera, HE	Haulani Kaleoaloha, KSBE	Mathew McNeff, HE
Ali Arabnya, Quanta	Henry Curtis, LOL	Matt Lee, FEP
Alin Peterson, West Maui Land	Henry Lee, HE	Matthew Wall, HIEMA
Amir Angha, FEP	Hiro Toiya, C&CH	Michael Walker
Amy Adrian, HE	Ian Morikawa	Miles Nagato, HE
Andrija Sadikovic, Quanta	Jacqui Hoover, HIEDB/HLPC	Nadja Turek, Alta Fiber
Andy Spanhak, T-Mobile	James Abraham, HE	Naomi Kuwaye, PUC
Audrey Newman	Jamie Suzuki, HE	Natalie Epenesa, HE
Bernard Sadoulet, Kohala Ranch Firewise	Janet Yocum, FEMA	Nathan Todaro, HE
Bill Moore, Kohala Ranch Water	Jason Benn, HE	Raelynn Nakabayashi, BWS
Brad Ventura, MFD	Jeanne Johnston, FEMA	Ramzi Mansour, CoH
Brenda Iokepa-Moses, CoH	Jennifer Zelko-Schlueter, HE	Randall Shiro, HE
Brian Van Blommestein, T-Mobile	Jerry McAdams, HWMO	Rick Pinkerton, HE
Camryn Shigaya, HDR	Jim Kelly, HE	Riley Ceria, HE
Candice Lucas, HE	John Bravender, NWS	Riley Saito, CoH
Cassandra Smith	Jonathan Chin, HSEO	Robb Tanaka, HE
Christine Wang, FEP	Julian Vadera, Hi Tel	Rod Aoki, RSA Law
Colin Yost, PUC	Kahikina Burgess, HE	Rudy Tamayo, HE
Colton Ching, HE	Kainoa Stafford, Marriott	Ryan Otsubo
Corey Shaffer, Verizon	Kandice Kubojiri, HE	Sarah Harris
Craig Anderson, Maunakea Resort	Katy Christiansen, NREL	Scott Boone, DCCA
Craig Clouet	Kauilehuamelemele Kauhane, QHS	Scott Winecoff, T-Mobile
Craig Uchimura	Kawika Uyehara, DWS	Sean Mastin, Alta Fiber
Daelynn Judd, FEP	Keith Okamoto, DWS	Shari Ishikawa, HE
Daniel Masutomi, Hi Tel	Keith Yamanaka, DOD	Sharri Thornton, HE
Daniel Volpe, HFD	Kekoa Kaluhiwa, KSBE	Shayna Decker, HE
Danielle Canfield-Jones, HE	Ken Aramaki, HE	Shayne Agawa, CoM
Darwin Okinaka, CoH	Keola Siafuafu, HE	Sherilyn Hayashida, DCCA
David Kurohara, HE	Kevin Dasso, Quanta	Stephanie Donoho, KCRA
David Mattice, PUC	Kevin Waltjen, HE	Stephen Green, Cal Water
David Tester, HE	Kristen Okinaka, HE	Taesun Kim, PUC
Debby Shin, PUC	Kurt Tsue, HE	Thao Tran, HE
Duke Oishi, HE	Kyra Howe, PUC	Tom Yereance
Elizabeth Pickett, HWMO	LeeAnn Silva, QHS	Tracie Black, HE
Elizabeth Songvilay, AT&T	Lisa Dangelmaier, HE	Trevor Manago, T-Mobile
Erik Takayesu, Monarch Energy	Lydia Mertyris, HE	Troy Uyehara, HE
Gina Yi, HE	Madeline Krueger, CCSR	Vanita Chhabra, Quanta
Glenn Kobashigawa, Hi Tel	Marc Asano, HE	Yumi Miyata, WMWP
Gregg Lemler, Quanta	Marc Miyaki, HE	
Hanale Lindo, MFD	Marcey Chang, DCCA	

## Agenda

- Working Group objective to support the development of Hawaiian Electric's Wildfire Safety Strategy (WSS), to inform and engage stakeholders on various aspects of the Company's strategy, and to afford stakeholders and partners opportunities to provide their knowledge, feedback and input to the strategy
- Today's objectives:
  - Discuss future operations strategies and PSPS enhancements
  - Presentation from National Weather Service (NWS)
- Recap of August 14, 2024 Working Group Meeting
  - The goal of the Working Group to support the development of Hawaiian Electric's Wildfire Safety Strategy (WSS)
  - Reviewed wildfire mitigation process and types of ignitions risks on the grid
    - Discussed types of mitigations under consideration to reduce ignition risks, such as, undergrounding, covered conductor, pole replacements
    - Mitigation prioritization will consider risk reduction, feasibility, and cost effectiveness
    - Sought feedback on qualitative and quantitative factors to consider in prioritization
  - Webpage has been established to host Working Group materials
    - Link: [Wildfire Safety Working Group Documents | Hawaiian Electric](#)
- Hawaiian Electric will be sending a survey to obtain written feedback on the topics covered in the first three Working Group meetings
- Email Marc Asano to participate in a deep dive conversation of the risk model in late September
- Working Group Meeting #4: Metric and Performance Tracking has been rescheduled for Sept. 5, 2024

## Discussion – Operational Strategies and PSPS Enhancements

- Stakeholder: I have a question regarding DWS service during PSPS. My understanding is there will be no water due to DWS pumps being disabled during the outage. Is that true and is there an update on that?
  - HE: We are working with DWS in the 3 counties that Hawaiian Electric serves to mitigate the impacts of PSPS events. Discussions include how to conserve water during PSPS, water reserves, etc.
- Stakeholder: During a PSPS event that knocks out power to a community – will multiple rooftop solar systems that export electricity result in the line remaining hot?

- HE: DER systems will either shut down in a PV-only system or continue to operate serving only the home/business if they are designed for islanded mode.

### **Discussion – Enhanced Production during Grid Disturbances**

- Stakeholder: Will undergrounding create power quality issues for circuits with large amounts of IBR? Will sectionalizing be implemented to minimize extent of outages?
  - HE: We are trying to identify areas that make sense to sectionalize, but we have not seen/identified any areas with power quality issues with IBR. We will take into account specific circuits and apply the best materials/practices based on that system.
- Stakeholder: Are there timelines/milestones or schedules for these various initiatives/action items?
  - HE: Current state and near-term deployments are ongoing efforts. Potential future enhancements will be laid out in Wildfire Safety Strategy (WSS) once we have a better idea of how these efforts fit with other mitigation efforts. Feedback on schedule, milestones, etc. is helpful for us to know.
- Stakeholder: Have these been installed on all islands?
  - HE: Fast Trip has been implemented on Oahu, Maui, Hawai'i Island, and Moloka'i. Not every circuit, we are targeting high risk areas.
- Are these fast trip devices installed along transmission lines? If yes, will it result in power outages in other areas where there is no wildfire risk?
  - HE: This slide mainly applied to distribution systems (neighborhoods, feeding houses/businesses). The existing transmission protection schemes were already designed to clear faults quickly.

### **Discussion – PSPS: Short-term Capabilities for 2024**

- Stakeholder: Will large customers (DoD installations for example) need to re-do short circuit coordination studies and settings for their protection system?
  - HE: If infrastructure changes are made, like undergrounding a circuit, then a review might be necessary. Customers with their own distribution infrastructure should review their equipment and settings to evaluate ignition potential due to their equipment.
- Stakeholder: How often do these 45/45 (wind speed/relative humidity) conditions occur in Hawaii? Red flag warnings have been issued four times in the past 12 months, correct?
  - HE: Decisions will be based on deployed weather stations. NWS can provide additional information.

- NWS: 45 (mph wind)/45 (% relative humidity) is infrequent. No red flag warnings have been issued yet this year. Red flag warnings in past 12 months were all in 2023. Refer to NWS presentation deck for additional information and figures.
- Stakeholder: Do you have a population estimate for Oahu for the number of customers in light shaded areas and the number in darker shade areas?
  - HE:

Island	Without Sectionalizing	With Sectionalizing
Oahu	9,612	2,772
Maui	26,171	24,452

For Hawai'i Island, 18,784 customers are in the PSPS area. Sectionalizing was performed for other grid stability purposes, but does not reduce customers affected.

- Stakeholder: In response to the earlier question about water supply, Hawaii Water Service serves Waikoloa, Kaaanapali, Kapalua, Kukio, and Kalaeloa. In general we have enough emergency generators at the wells to meet average water demand. Of course with PSPS we will continue to upgrade the emergency backup systems.

### Discussion – 2024 Situational Awareness

- Stakeholder: Do you have a portal that will be used during PSPS event?
  - HE: We have deployed 52 weather stations across the service territory and plan to retrofit stations with additional sensors for soil, fuel, moisture and temperature in the future. We are also planning to deploy additional weather stations in 2025.
- Stakeholder: Can you provide the database site?
  - HE: Here is the website: [MesoWest](#)
- Stakeholder: Is access to the cameras secure? Dept. of Defense is sensitive to cameras on our installations.
  - HE: We have the capability to add privacy screens. We have already applied pixelation in neighborhoods and residential areas. If there are other areas that need privacy screens, please provide feedback and we're happy to partner with you to address that need.

### Presentation by NWS

- Stakeholder: Can we get these slides?
  - HE: Yes, they will be available on the Wildfire Safety Working Group Documents page.

- Stakeholder: Hawaiian Telecom has some interest in adding cameras and/or weather stations to their buildings. Would you recommend adding weather stations?
  - NWS: It depends on where the weather station will be sited to get the best data, but more information is better to make informed decisions. Weather stations need to be calibrated on a schedule and maintained, so that's something to consider.
  - HE: Cameras are helpful and we're actively looking for partners. Weather stations need to be unobstructed, so Hawaiian Telecom poles may be a good place, but further discussion is needed.

#### **Discussion – PSPS Enhancements Beyond 2024**

- Stakeholder: There's a need to reestablish service once a PSPS event is initiated. We understand the need to make the timely decision to initiate the event, but there needs to be a similar focus to restart the system once the event is over.
  - HE: Agree, it's currently in our plan to address this. We know it's important to get power back up as soon as possible, while accounting for safety.
- Stakeholder: How will PSPS communications be integrated into Gov. Green's new climate action task force? Subcommittee has been meeting, so is Hawaiian Electric providing your plan to them?
  - HE: Hawaiian Electric will use social media and direct communications to customers beginning when there is a PSPS alert, not a shutoff. We are working with county agencies, first responders, state agencies, etc. to make sure communications are robust and aligned. Hawaiian Electric has met with the climate action task force group and are working to keep efforts aligned.
- Stakeholder: Thank you for the robust engagement. During planning we discussed how PG&E is offering rebates for customers related to backup power source. Is there an opportunity to do a program like this here? What would be needed to get this done?
  - HE: This question falls under the Customer Generator/Battery Programs idea for future consideration (refer to slide 21). We are considering something like this and learning how other utilities have successfully implemented programs like this.