



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
Division of Consumer Advocacy

DCCA News Release

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CONSUMER ADVOCATE CALLS FOR PUC TO OPEN INVESTIGATIVE DOCKET INTO STATEWIDE POWER OUTAGE, BEGINS SEARCH TO HIRE INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT

HONOLULU – In a letter today, the state’s Consumer Advocate requested that the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) open an investigative docket to examine whether the HECO Companies acted reasonably and in the public interest prior to and during the statewide power outages on October 15.

The Consumer Advocate will also retain its own energy expert to assist in evaluating the HECO Companies’ responses to the statewide blackout.

On October 15 and 16, 2006, the HECO Companies experienced lengthy power outages over significant portions of their systems, including system-wide outages on the islands of Oahu and Maui.

“While we appreciate the efforts by the HECO Companies to provide our office and the PUC with detailed information about the outages, we still have many detailed questions about the events following the statewide power outages that left hundreds of thousands of consumers in the dark,” said Consumer Advocate Catherine Awakuni. “Since we believe that such investigative work would best be done in a formalized process, we are respectfully requesting that the PUC open an investigative docket. In addition, we believe that a review of the HECO Companies’ actions, done by a consultant who is devoid of any allegiances to HECO, will ensure not only an independent assessment of Companies’ statements and actions, but the protection of Hawaii consumers, as well.”

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