

New Public Testimony

From webmaster@hawaii.gov <webmaster@hawaii.gov>

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To DBEDT LUC <dbedt.luc.web@hawaii.gov>

Name
William Haughey
Email
ZIP / Postal Code
96756
Representing
Self
Agenda Item
Docket No. SP26-416 Kaawanui Solar, LLC
Position
Support
Attachment (if any)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">SP26-416-Kaawanui-Solar-LLC-LUC-letter-of-support-05.08.25-WH.pdf
Testimony
Please find attached written testimony in support of Docket No. SP26-416 Kaawanui Solar, LLC.

May 8th, 2026

Transmitted via email: dbedt.luc.web@hawaii.gov

William Haughey

To: The Honorable Members of the State of Hawai'i Land Use Commission

RE Docket: SP26-416 for Kaawanui Solar, LLC to construct and operate a solar utility facility on lands located on the mauka side of Kaumualii Highway in Makaweli, directly across of the Makawweli Post Office Facility, further identified as Tax Map Keys: (4) 1-7-006:006 (Por.) and 010 (Por.), and containing a project area of approximately 269 acres = KAAWANUI SOLAR LLC.

Subject: Written Testimony in Support of Land Use for the Kaawanui Solar Project

Aloha Chair and Commissioners,

I am writing to express my strong support for the approval of the land use for the proposed Kaawanui Solar Project. This initiative represents a significant step forward in Kaua'i's ongoing commitment to clean, sustainable energy, economic growth, and environmental stewardship. As a resident of Kaua'i, I believe this project brings needed benefits to our community and supports local grown energy sustainability.

The Kaawanui Solar Project will provide substantial benefits to our island. Over its 25-year lifespan, it is projected to prevent the consumption of more than 179 million gallons of fuel and avoid 2,350,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent—helping Kaua'i meet its renewable energy and climate goals. The project will deliver reliable power at a low, stable, and fixed price, offering energy that is less expensive than current fossil fuel prices and providing ratepayers with long-term economic stability.

Importantly, the project supports grid stability through the construction of the new Kaawanui Substation and the deployment of stored solar energy from the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) whenever needed by KIUC. This infrastructure will ensure a resilient, modern energy grid for Kaua'i. The Kaawanui Solar Project will generate approximately 17.5% of Kaua'i's energy needs, powering the equivalent of over 16,000 homes annually with clean, locally produced energy.

Additionally, the project is expected to create significant local economic and workforce opportunities by providing jobs, increasing tax revenues, and driving sales of local goods and services with an estimated economic output exceeding \$200 million.

I appreciate that the project's land use is temporary; at the end of the 25-year contract, all infrastructure will be removed and the land will be restored to its previous or comparable condition. This responsible approach ensures the long-term integrity and sustainability of our island's natural resources.

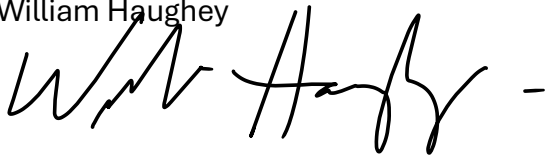
Furthermore, the project's partnership with a local, Kaua'i-based farming company to co-locate agricultural activities on-site demonstrates a commitment to supporting Kaua'i's 100% renewable energy vision while also contributing to West Kaua'i's long-term food security and agricultural vitality.

For these reasons and based on both my professional experience and my personal connection to Kaua'i, I believe Kaawanui Solar offers lasting benefits for our island. This project is an investment in Kaua'i's future—a future defined by clean energy, economic opportunity, and environmental sustainability.

Mahalo for your time, your service, and your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

William Haughey

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Haughey", followed by a horizontal dash.