MICHAEL P. VICTORINO Mayor MICHELE CHOUTEAU MCLEAN, AICP Director JORDAN E. HART Deputy Director



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING COUNTY OF MAUI ONE MAIN PLAZA 2200 MAIN STREET, SUITE 315 WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793 April 15, 2020

Dr. Keith Kawaoka, Acting Director Office of Environmental Quality Control Department of Health, State of Hawai'i 235 S. Beretania Street, Room 702 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Dr. Kawaoka:

With this letter, the County of Maui Department of Planning (Department) on behalf of the Maui Planning Commission (Commission) is transmitting the Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice (EISPN) for the Auwahi 2 Wind Farm Project, located within Tax Map Key (TMK) (2) 1-9-001:006 (and multiple other TMKs) on the island of Maui.

It has been determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is likely to be required for the Project, and thus the Department on behalf of the Commission authorized the developer Auwahi Wind 2, LLC with its consultants to prepare an EISPN, pursuant to Hawaii Administrative Rules Section 11-200.1-14(d)(2). The information and files required for publication, including an electronic (pdf) copy of the EISPN, have been provided via the OEQC online submission platform. The Department requests publication of the EISPN in the April 23, 2020, edition of the Environmental Notice.

Please contact Staff Planner, Kurt Wollenhaupt, by email at kurt.wollenhaupt@mauicounty.gov or at (808) 270-8205 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

muhh

MICHELE MCLEAN, AICP Planning Director

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Dr. Keith Kawaoka, Acting Director April 15, 2020 Page 2

Attachments: (Submitted via OEQC online submission platform) Clayton I. Yoshida, Planning Program Administrator (PDF) xc: John S. Rapacz, Planning Program Administrator (PDF) Kurt F. Wollenhaupt, Staff Planner (PDF) Lauren Huff (PDF) Kauanoe Batangan (PDF) Mike Munekiyo (PDF) Gwen Hiraga (PDF) Alicia Oller (PDF) Lisa Kettley (PDF) Marie L. VanZandt (PDF) State Office of Planning (PDF) Land Use Commission (PDF) MCM:KFW:lk K:\WP DOCS\Planning\RFC\2020\0028 Auwahi2WindFarm\Revised\_Auwahi2\_ Transmittal Letter to OEQC.docx

80-848

From:	webmaster@hawaii.gov
То:	HI Office of Environmental Quality Control
Subject:	New online submission for The Environmental Notice
Date:	Thursday, April 16, 2020 2:57:50 PM

### **Action Name**

Auwahi 2 Wind Farm Project

### Type of Document/Determination

Environmental impact statement preparation notice (EISPN)

### HRS §343-5(a) Trigger(s)

- (1) Propose the use of state or county lands or the use of state or county funds
- (2) Propose any use within any land classified as a conservation district

### **Judicial district**

Makawao, Maui

### Tax Map Key(s) (TMK(s))

Numerous

### Action type

Applicant

### Other required permits and approvals

Numerous

### **Discretionary consent required**

County Special Use Permit; Special Management Area Use Permit; Conservation District Use Permit; Incidental Take Permit/License

### Approving agency

County of Maui Planning Commission

### Agency contact name

Kurt Wollenhaupt

### Agency contact email (for info about the action)

kurt.wollenhaupt@mauicounty.gov

### Agency contact phone

(808) 270-8205

### Agency address

2200 Main Street, Suite 315 Wailuku,, Hawai'i 96793 United States <u>Map It</u>

### **Public Scoping Meeting information**

Thursday, April 30, 2020 at 5 PM. https://bit.ly/Auwahi2Wind

### Accepting authority

County of Maui Planning Commission

### Applicant

Auwahi Wind 2, LLC

### Applicant contact name

Marie VanZandt

### Applicant contact email

mlvanzandt@aepes.com

### Applicant contact phone

(619) 228-7340

### Applicant address

655 W Broadway, Suite 950 San Diego,, CA 92101 United States <u>Map It</u>

### Was this submittal prepared by a consultant?

Yes

### Consultant

Tetra Tech, Inc.

### **Consultant contact name**

Alicia Oller

### **Consultant contact email**

Alicia.oller@tetratech.com

### **Consultant contact phone**

(808) 441-6655

### **Consultant address**

737 Bishop Street, Suite 2340 Honolulu, HI 96813 United States <u>Map It</u>

### Action summary

Auwahi Wind 2, LLC is proposing to construct a wind farm with a generating capacity of up to 35 megawatts (MW), augmented with an energy storage system. In addition to wind turbines, the proposed Project would include a substation and 34.5 kilovolt (kV) generator-tie lines that are planned to be located adjacent to the existing Auwahi Wind Project infrastructure. The existing Auwahi Wind Project operations and maintenance facility, meteorological tower, and construction access route along existing public

roadways and pastoral roads (pastoral roads are collectively referred to as Pāpaka Road) would be used with minor modifications.

### Attached documents (signed agency letter & EA/EIS)

- Auwahi-2-EISPN-4-16-20.pdf
- <u>Revised\_Auwahi2\_Transmittal-Letter.pdf</u>

### Action location map

• <u>Auwahi2\_WindFarmSite.zip</u>

### Authorized individual

Alicia Oller

### Authorization

• The above named authorized individual hereby certifies that he/she has the authority to make this submission.

# Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice Auwahi 2 Wind Farm Project

'Ulupalakua Ranch, Maui, Hawai'i

Prepared for

Auwahi Wind 2, LLC

Prepared by

Tetra Tech, Inc.

April 2020

Project Name	Auwahi 2 Wind Farm Project		
Applicant and Project Owner	Auwahi Wind 2, LLC Marie VanZandt 655 W Broadway, Suite 950 San Diego, CA 92101 mlvanzandt@aepes.com		
Summary of Proposed Action	Auwahi Wind 2, LLC is proposing to construct a wind farm with a generating capacity of up to 35 megawatts (MW), augmented with an energy storage system. In addition to wind turbines, the proposed Project would include a substation and 34.5 kilovolt (kV) generator-tie lines that are planned to be located adjacent to the existing Auwahi Wind Project infrastructure. The existing Auwahi Wind Project operations and maintenance facility, meteorological tower, and construction access route along existing public roadways and pastoral roads (pastoral roads are collectively referred to as Pāpaka Road) would be used with minor modifications.		
Project Location	ʻUlupalakua Ranch; Makawao District; Maui, Hawaiʻi		
	Wind Farm Site: Private ('Ulupalakua Ranch)		
	Generation-Tie Lines: Private ('Ulupalakua Ranch) <sup>1</sup>		
Land Ownership	Substation: Private ('Ulupalakua Ranch)		
	Pāpaka Road: State of Hawaiʻi, County of Maui, Private ('Ulupalakua Ranch), and Other Private (three parcels)		
	Wind Farm Site—(2) 1-9-001:006		
	Generator-Tie Lines—(2) 1-9-001:006, (2) 1-9-001:012, (2) 2-1-009:001, (2) 2-1-008:001, (2) 2-1-009:999		
Tan Mar Vara (TMV)	Substation—(2) 2-1-008:001		
Tax Map Keys (TMK)	Pāpaka Road—(2) 2-1-002:001, (2) 2-1-004:006, (2) 2-1-004:007, (2) 2-1-         004:016, (2) 2-1-004:018, (2) 2-1-004:049, (2) 2-1-004:071, (2) 2-1-004:106,         (2) 2-1-004:132, (2) 2-1-005-022, (2) 2-1-005:023, (2) 2-1-005:030, (2) 2-1-         005:045, (2) 2-1-005:055, (2) 2-1-005:057, (2) 2-1-005:077, (2) 2-1-005:090,         (2) 2-1-005:095, (2) 2-1-005:100, (2) 2-1-005:108		
	Wind Farm Site—approximately 1,466 acres with a permanent Project footprint of approximately 80 acres.		
Project Size	Generator-Tie Lines—approximately 9 to 10 miles long		
	Pāpaka Road—approximately 4.6 miles long		

## **Project Summary**

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The generation-tie lines would also cross Upcountry Pi'ilani Highway and Kula Highway, which are County of Maui and State of Hawai'i rights-of-ways, respectively.

	Wind Farm Site—Agriculture
State Land Use	Generation-Tie Lines—Agriculture
Designations	Substation—Agriculture
	Pāpaka Road—Agriculture, Urban, Conservation
	Wind Farm Site—Agriculture
Country Zoning	Generation-Tie Lines—Agriculture
County Zoning	Substation—Agriculture
	Pāpaka Road—Agriculture, Urban
Special Management Area (SMA)	Wind farm site and a portion of Pāpaka Road are within the SMA
	County of Maui Planning Commission
A	2200 Main Street, Suite 315
Approving Agongy/Accopting	Wailuku, Maui, Hawaiʻi 96793
Authority	(808) 270-8205
	kurt.wollenhaupt@mauicounty.gov
	Contact: Kurt Wollenhaupt
	Tetra Tech, Inc.
	737 Bishop Street, Suite 2340
Project Consultants	Honolulu, Hawaiʻi 96813
	Alicia.oller@tetratech.com
	Contact: Alicia Oller
	Use of lands classified as conservation district (Pāpaka Road)
Chapter 343 Triggers	Use of state and county lands (Pāpaka Road and generation-tie lines highway crossings)
Determination	The approving agency (i.e., County of Maui Planning Commission), through its judgement and experience, has determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is likely required for the Proposed Action. As a result, they have directed Auwahi Wind 2, LLC to prepare an EIS beginning with the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice (EISPN).

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# **1.0 Introduction**

Auwahi Wind 2, LLC (Applicant) proposes to develop the Auwahi 2 Wind Farm Project (Project) to provide up to 35 megawatts (MW) of clean, renewable energy to the island of Maui. The Project would include wind turbine generators (WTGs) located within same parcel and west of the existing Auwahi Wind Project (hereafter referred to as Auwahi Wind), as well as other ancillary facilities that would also be located in close proximity to Auwahi Wind facilities; however, the Auwahi 2 Wind Farm Project would be considered a stand-alone project.

The Applicant submitted a proposal for the Project in response to the *Request for Proposals for Variable Renewable Dispatchable Generation and Energy Storage for the Island of Maui (Docket No. 2017 No. 2017-0352)*, issued by Maui Electric Company (MECO) on August 22, 2019. The Project was selected for the short-list in mid-January. Although MECO is not expected to announce the final selections until May, the Applicant is proceeding with preliminary permitting for the Project since the Project would need to meet the guaranteed commercial operation date (GCOD) outlined in Section 1.2.14.2 of MECO's RFP. As a result, the Applicant has decided to proceed with the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to ensure that they are in position to meet the GCOD if selected.

## 1.1 Purpose and Need

Collectively, the Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative and the State of Hawai'i's Renewable Portfolio Standard establish the need to reduce Hawai'i's dependence on imported fossil fuels and increase the amount of locally produced renewable energy. The need for development and implementation of renewable energy projects is further demonstrated by the commitments detailed in Hawaiian Electric Company's (HECO) Power Supply Improvement Plan and their associated RFP process (HECO 2016, 2019).

The purpose of the Project would be to provide clean, renewable energy for Maui. Implementation of the Project would contribute to Hawai'i's existing portfolio of renewable energy projects, as well as provide environmental and economic benefits to Hawai'i and the local community. The Project would also demonstrate how renewable energy can coexist with agricultural activities and ranching in rural Maui. After the Project is developed, 'Ulupalakua Ranch would continue to use the parcel for cattle pasture as it has done for decades.

Wind energy is an abundant, infinitely renewable resource. The Project's additional wind-generated energy would strengthen Maui's renewable power supply and would contribute to Hawai'i's energy independence and security, as well as help to meet the state's regulatory requirements and initiatives. Generation and integration of wind energy into the electric grid would decrease fossil fuel consumption, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions, particulate-related health effects, and other forms of pollution associated with coal or diesel fuel generation.

The proposed Project would also result in economic benefits, as it would contribute to the local economy, generate new jobs, and provide a stable, long-term source of tax revenue for Hawai'i.

# 2.0 Proposed Action

The Proposed Action is the development of a wind farm on the Auwahi parcel of 'Ulupalakua Ranch (Figure 1 and Figure 2). In addition to the wind farm, the proposed Project would include a substation and 34.5 kilovolt (kV) generator-tie lines that are planned to be located adjacent to the existing Auwahi Wind infrastructure.

## 2.1 Project Location

The proposed Auwahi 2 Wind Farm Project is located almost entirely on 'Ulupalakua Ranch, approximately 10 miles south of Kula, in the Makawao District of East Maui, Hawai'i. The proposed Project is comprised of four major components: the wind farm site, generator-tie lines, substation, and a construction access route. The location of each of these components is shown in Figure 1 and Figure 2 and is described below.

- The wind farm site would be located within the same Auwahi parcel of 'Ulupalakua Ranch and west of the existing row of eight Auwahi Wind WTGs (Figure 1 and Figure 2). The parcel is bordered by the Pacific Ocean to the south, upcountry Pi'ilani Highway to north, and state-owned undeveloped lands to the west and east.
- The electrical power generated on the wind farm site would be transmitted to MECO's existing electrical grid via new 34.5-kilovolt (kV) generator-tie lines. The generator-tie lines would originate within the proposed wind farm site and travel approximately 9 to 10 miles north and west on 'Ulupalakua Ranch property, crossing both Pi'ilani Highway and Kula Highway, and would generally parallel the existing Auwahi Wind generator-tie line (Figure 1and Figure 2).
- An interconnect substation would be constructed adjacent to the existing Auwahi Wind substation, approximately 1 mile east of MECO's existing Wailea Substation (Figure 1 and Figure 2). A battery energy storage system (BESS) for the Project would be installed adjacent to the existing substation .
- The construction access route would be used to transport equipment from Kahului Harbor to the proposed wind farm site (Figure 1 and Figure 2). The route is primarily comprised of existing State and County highways, as well as approximately 4.6 miles of pastoral roads between Makena Road and Pi'ilani Highway that were previously improved for Auwahi Wind. These roads would require some additional minor modifications and improvements as part of the Project. These pastoral roads are collectively referred to as Pāpaka Road, and are located both on 'Ulupalakua Ranch, as well as several privately and publicly owned parcels.

## 2.2 Project Components

The Project would involve construction of up to seven WTGs with a total generating capacity of approximately 35 MW. In addition to the WTGs and their concrete foundations, the Project facilities

at the wind farm site would include construction staging and equipment laydown areas and an electrical collection system. As described in Section 2.1, the Project would also involve construction of approximately 9 to 10-mile generator-tie lines and an interconnection substation, including a BESS, that would be located directly adjacent to the existing Auwahi Wind infrastructure. The existing Auwahi Wind operations and maintenance (O&M) building located at the wind farm site would be used for the proposed Project with minor upgrades.

## 2.2.1 Turbines

The Project would include up to seven WTGs. At this time, the final turbine model has not been selected. However, the maximum hub height for the turbines would be 390 feet with a rotor diameter of 531 feet, resulting in a maximum blade tip height of 656 feet. The turbine models would be selected for constructability, reliability, performance, and availability. WTG would be assembled in WTG assembly areas. The WTGs would be anchored to the ground using a spread foundation or rock anchor foundation type.

## 2.2.2 Access Roads

Internal access roads would be constructed within the wind farm site to accommodate construction, operation, and maintenance activities. The roads would include several switchbacks to reduce the overall gradient of the existing slopes. The estimated widths of the roads would range from 25 to 40 feet, depending on the usage. In total, the access roads would be approximately 2.5 miles long. All access roads would have a gravel surface and ditches and culverts installed to collect and convey stormwater runoff, as needed.

## 2.2.3 Underground Electrical Collection System

Power generated by each of the WTGs would be collected by a series of underground power cables (electrical collection). For each WTG, low-voltage power from a generator in the nacelle would be stepped-up to 34.5 kV through a transformer. The 34.5 kV power would run through underground electrical cables from WTG to WTG and ultimately connect to two above-ground pole-mounted circuits near the northernmost WTG. From here, the generation-tie lines would transport the power to the interconnection substation. The total underground electrical cable length would be approximately 3 miles.

## 2.2.4 Substation

The proposed 69-kV interconnect substation would be located next to MECO's 69-kV switchyard that connects to the existing Wailea and Kealahou 69-kV transmission lines. The substation would include two point of interconnections (POIs), including one at each of the transmission lines. The substation would be approximately 1 mile east of the existing Wailea substation adjacent to the existing Auwahi Wind substation. The existing Auwahi Wind substation area includes an existing 11 MW BESS that consists of ten 50-foot shipping containers of battery cells, inverters, step up

transformers, and a control system to meet MECO performance requirements. The BESS is designed to manage the ramp rate of wind power being injected into the MECO system to keep the ramp rate within specified limits. The Proposed Action would include installation of new container(s) of battery cells to provide up to 35 MW of additional BESS capacity. The MECO 69-kV switchyard would be expanded to allow the additional connections from the proposed substation.

## 2.2.5 Generator-Tie Lines

Up to two 34.5-kilovolt (kV) generation-tie lines would connect the wind farm site with the 69-kV interconnection substation at the POIs. The generation-tie lines would be constructed adjacent to the existing Auwahi Wind generator-tie line using wood poles or similar suitable materials. The poles would support two 3-phase, 34.5-kV lines (i.e., 6 conductors), associated insulators and accessories, and an overhead static ground wire with fiber optic core. All the required facilities would be approximately 9 to 10 miles long. The generator tie-lines would run parallel to the existing line offset by approximately 80 feet. The poles are anticipated to be approximately 60 feet tall, similar to the existing wood poles supporting MECO's Wailea-Kealahou transmission line and the existing Auwahi Wind generation-tie line.

## 2.3 Project Schedule

If the Project is selected as part of MECO's RFP (Section 1.0), construction would be expected to begin in April 2022 with operations beginning sometime between December 2022 and April 2023, depending on permitting and construction timelines.

# 3.0 Existing Conditions

This section briefly describes the existing conditions within the proposed Project Area (i.e., the wind farm site, generation-tie line, substation, and access roads) to provide the context within which the Project is being considered. In-depth due diligence surveys are being conducted throughout the Project area to characterize and evaluate the existing environmental resources. Additional detail, including the results of the due diligence surveys, would be included in the Draft EIS to support the impact analysis for the full list of resource categories listed in Section 7.0.

The Project Area is located in the lowlands of the leeward side of Maui. The topography in the Project Area is generally steep and rugged. The wind farm site ranges in elevation from approximately 1,600 feet above sea level (asl) on the northern edge to 200 feet asl on the southern edge, which equates to an approximately 14 percent slope. The slope is fairly uniform across the wind farm site, with the exception of Pu'u Hokukano which rises to approximately 1,460 feet asl near the center of the site, approximately 250 feet above the surrounding terrain. Pāpaka Road ranges from approximately 80 feet asl at its western end to approximately 1,780 feet asl at its eastern end.

The majority of the Project Area vegetative communities consist of dryland grassland, shrubland, and pasture. The vegetative communities in the wind farm site are characterized as dryland

grasslands, shrublands, and pasture. In general, the area is dominated by non-native plant species; however, remnant stands of dryland forest with native species (especially wiliwili trees [*Erythrina sandwicensis*]) are present. Vegetation is very sparse in areas of the wind farm site that contain lava substrates.

There are eight federal- and state-listed wildlife species known to occur or have potential to occur or transit the Project Area. These species are the Hawaiian hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus semotus*), Hawaiian petrel (*Pterodroma sandwichensis*), Newell's shearwater (*Puffinus newelii*), band-rumped storm petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*), Hawaiian goose (*Branta sandvicensis*), Blackburn's sphinx moth (*Manduca blackburni*), and two species of Hawaiian yellow-faced bees (*Hylaeus anthracinus* and *Hylaeus assimulans*)<sup>2</sup>. In addition, several federal- and state-listed plants species have previously been recorded in the Project Area or the immediate vicinity including awikiwiki (*Canavalia pubescens*), 'aiea (*Nothocestrum latifolium*), and ko'oloa'ula (*Abutilon menziesii*).

The windfarm site is located in the Lualailua aquifer subunit (aquifer code 60603) of the Kahikinui aquifer unit (aquifer code 606). The generation-tie lines and Pāpaka Road cross into the Kamaole aquifer (aquifer code 60304) of the Central hydrologic unit (aquifer code 603). Based on preliminary surveys of the Project Area, several erosional features or ephemeral features are present in the Project Area that may carry water briefly in response to heavy rain events. These drainage features were characterized as having low-volume, infrequent, or short duration flows and, because of the dry conditions in this region, these features do not have defined channels and ordinary high water marks. However, the Project would be designed to avoid these features, to the extent feasible.

The Project Area is located within the state agricultural land use district, although a small portion of Pāpaka Road is located within the state conservation district (Figure 3). The Project Area is located within Maui County agricultural zoning boundaries. The wind farm site and portions of Pāpaka Road are located within the Special Management Area (Figure 4).

## 4.0 Alternatives

A discussion of alternatives to the Proposed Action will be included in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS will address the no action alternative as well as reasonable alternatives that could attain the Project objectives (e.g., using the existing Auwahi Wind generation-tie line and substation).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> A Habitat Conservation Plan is currently being prepared for the Project to address potential impacts to listed species in the Project Area.

# 5.0 Permits and Approvals Required

A list of permits and approvals anticipated to be required for the Project follows:

Permit/Approval	Regulatory Agency	Status			
Fadaval	negatatory ngoney	Status			
rederal					
Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration (Form 7460-1)	Federal Aviation Administration	To be completed			
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Compliance <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	To be completed			
Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)/Incidental Take Permit	USFWS	In progress			
State					
HRS Chapter 343 Compliance	Maui County Planning Commission	In progress			
HCP/Incidental Take License	State of Hawaiʻi, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Division of Forestry and Wildlife	In progress			
Conservation District Use Permit	State of Hawai'i, DLNR, Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands	To be completed			
Right-of-Entry Permit	State of Hawai'i, DLNR, Land Division	To be completed			
HRS Chapter 6E Compliance (Historic Preservation Review)	State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD)	In progress			
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit	Hawaiʻi Department of Health (HDOH), Clean Water Branch	To be completed			
Approval of Power Purchase Agreement	Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission	To be completed			
County					
County Special Use Permit (CUP) <sup>2</sup>	Maui County Planning Department/Planning Commission	To be completed			
County Right-of-Way Approval	County of Maui, Department of Public Works	To be completed			
Special Management Area (SMA) Use Permit	Maui County Planning Department/Planning Commission	To be completed			
Community Noise Permit	HDOH, Indoor and Radiological Health Branch	To be completed			
Grading/Building Permit and Other Construction Permits	Various	To be completed			

### Table 1. Required Permits and Approvals

1. NEPA is triggered by a federal action, which is the case of this Project would be the issuance of an Incidental Take Permit by the USFWS.

2. Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR) 11-200.1-9 states that Chapter 343 review is required for an Applicant action that requires one or more approvals and includes one or more triggers identified in Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) 343-5(a). An approval is defined in HAR 11-200.1-2 as a discretionary consent required from an agency prior to implementation of an action. The Project will require several discretionary approvals (e.g., County CUP, Conservation District Use permit, SMA permit) that in combination with the use of state conservation district lands necessitates HRS Chapter 343 environmental review.

# 6.0 Determination and Reasons Supporting Determination

Based on the significance criteria listed in Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR) Title 11, State of Hawai'i Department of Health, Chapter 200.1, EIS Rules, § 11-200.1-13, and the description of the proposed Project presented in Section 2.0, the Approving Agency (i.e., County of Maui Planning Commission), through its judgment and experience, has determined that an EIS is likely required for the Proposed Action. An EIS level environmental review was previously conducted for Auwahi Wind (Tetra Tech 2010) and as the Proposed Action may have similar impacts as Auwahi Wind, preparation of an EIS for the Proposed Action is warranted. Per HAR § 11-200.1-14(d)(2), the Approving Agency authorized the Applicant to prepare an EIS, starting with the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice (EISPN). This EISPN has been prepared to meet the requirements of HRS Chapter 343 and HAR 11-200.1.

The purpose of the EISPN is to initiate the scoping process for an EIS under Chapter 343 and provide an opportunity for comment by reviewing agencies and the public to ensure the environmental concerns are given appropriate consideration in the decision-making process along with economic and technical considerations. Comments and materials received would become part of the public record and would be included in the Draft EIS.

HAR 11-200.1-9 states that Chapter 343 review is required for an Applicant action that requires one or more approvals and includes one or more triggers identified in HRS 343-5(a). An approval is defined in HAR 11-200.1-2 as a discretionary consent required from an agency prior to implementation of an action. The Proposed Action would require a County Special Use Permit (CUP) which is a discretionary permit requiring approval by the County of Maui Planning Commission. The Proposed Action also includes the following triggers for compliance with HRS Chapter 343: use of land classified as a conservation district by the State Land Use Commission (Figure 2) and use of state and county lands. Project components that will require the use of state and county lands are Pāpaka Road and the generation-tie line highway crossings, respectively. As the Proposed Action would require discretionary consent for the CUP and would involve the use of lands classified as conservation district as well as use of state and county lands, compliance with HRS Chapter 343 is required.

In accordance with HAR 11-200.1-7, Maui County Planning Commission was determined to be the approving agency for the purposes of HRS Chapter 343 compliance, because they would be the agency responsible for receiving and processing the request for an CUP. This EISPN has been prepared in compliance with HRS Chapter 343 and HAR 11-200.1 and submitted to the Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC) for publication in the *Environmental Notice*. Comments received during the required 30-day public review period would be incorporated into a Draft EIS, which would be provided to Maui County Planning Commission and published in the *Environmental Notice* for public review.

# 7.0 Anticipated Scope of Draft EIS

This EISPN provides a brief overview of the purpose and need for the Project, the Proposed Action, and potential alternatives. The Draft EIS would provide detailed information describing the purpose and need for the Project, a detailed description of the Proposed Action, a detailed description of the affected environment, a comprehensive analysis of the potential environmental consequences of the Proposed Action, and a detailed discussion of the alternatives to the Proposed Action. It will also disclose significant short-term, long-term, and cumulative impacts on the human, natural, and built environment. Relevant public comments would be sought on the Draft EIS in accordance with HAR 11-200.1-25. Those comments would be responded to and addressed in the Final EIS.

The following environmental resource criteria have been identified for analysis in the Draft EIS:

- Climate and Climate Change
- Geology, Topography, and Soils
- Surface and Ground Water
- Natural Hazards
- Hazardous Materials and Wastes
- Flora
- Fauna
- Historical and Archaeological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Air Quality
- Noise
- Visual Resources
- Land Use
- Transportation and Traffic
- Public Services and Utilities
- Socioeconomic Characteristics
- Secondary and Cumulative Impacts

# 8.0 Consulted Parties

This section identifies agencies, citizen groups, and individuals to be consulted as part of the EIS process. This EISPN will be sent to those agencies believed to have jurisdiction or expertise as well as those citizen groups and individuals reasonably believed to be affected by the Proposed Action. Agencies, citizen groups, and individuals to be consulted as part of the EIS process follow:

Table 2.	Agencies,	Citizen	Groups,	and	Individua	ls to be	Consulted

FEDERAL AGENCIES
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. National Park Service
U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Geological Survey
Federal Aviation Administration
STATE AGENCIES
State of Hawaiʻi, Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism
State of Hawaiʻi, Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, Energy Division
State of Hawai'i, Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, Office of Planning
State of Hawaiʻi, Department of Education
State of Hawaiʻi, Department of Health, Clean Water Branch
State of Hawaiʻi, Department of Health, Clean Air Branch
State of Hawaiʻi, Department of Health, Indoor and Radiological Health Branch
State of Hawai'i, Department of Transportation
Hawai'i State Energy Office
State of Hawaiʻi, Land Use Commission
State of Hawaiʻi, Department of Hawaiian Homelands
State of Hawaiʻi, Department of Agriculture
State of Hawaiʻi, Department of Human Services
State of Hawaiʻi, Department of Accounting and General Services
State of Hawaiʻi, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR)

DLNR, Division of Aquatic Resources
DLNR, Commission on Water Resource Management
DLNR, Division of Forestry and Wildlife
DLNR, Division of State Parks
DLNR, Historic Preservation Division
DLNR, Land Division
DNLR, Office of Coastal and Conservation Lands
University of Hawai'i Environmental Center
Office of Hawaiian Affairs
COUNTY AGENCIES
County of Maui, Department of Management
County of Maui, Department of Fire and Public Safety
County of Maui, Department of Environmental Management
County of Maui, Department of Parks and Recreation
County of Maui, Department of Transportation
County of Maui, Police Department
County of Maui, Planning Department
County of Maui, Office of Economic Development
County of Maui, Environmental Coordinator's Office
County of Maui, Public Works
County of Maui, Department of Water Supply
County of Maui, Department of Housing and Human Concerns
Office of the Mayor
ELECTED OFFICIALS
U.S. Senator Brian Schatz
U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono
Senator J. Kalani English
Representative Kyle Yamashita
Maui County Council

UTILITIES
Hawaii Electric Company
Maui Electric Company
LIBRARIES
University of Hawaiʻi Maui College Library
Hawai'i State Library, Hawai'i Documents Center
Legislative Reference Bureau Library
Nearest State Library: Kihei
ORGANIZATIONS AND INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS
Adjacent Landowners and Neighbors
Maui Tomorrow
'Ulupalakua Ranch
Maui Meadows
Aha Moku o Maui Island Council
Ka 'Ohana o Kahikinui
Kaupō Community Association
Kula Community Association
Makena Community Association
Kihei Community Association
Wailea Community Association

Public outreach and consultation are important components of the EIS process. Therefore, meetings will be held with community groups and key stakeholders throughout the environmental review and permitting process. Through outreach with these groups, stakeholder input will be obtained and incorporated into the planning process.

# 9.0 Scoping Process

Pursuant to HAR 11-200.1-23, upon publication of an EISPN in the periodic bulletin, agencies, citizen groups, or individuals have a period of thirty days from the publication date to provide written comments regarding the environmental effects of the proposed action. Based on a publication date of April 23, 2020, all comments on this notice will be considered if received or postmarked on or before May 26, 2020. Written comments and responses should be submitted to

the accepting authority, applicant, or consultant as detailed in the summary table at the beginning of this document. Written comments and responses to the substantive comments would be included in the Draft EIS pursuant to HAR 11-200.1-24. All comments received will be part of the public record. All personal identifying information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

Pursuant to HAR 11-200.1-23, an EIS public scoping meeting will be held on Thursday, April 30, 2020 at 5 PM. Based on current restrictions associated with the coronavirus pandemic, a virtual format will be used for the scoping meeting, including both phone-based and online-based options for participation. Interested parties can join the meeting by going to <a href="https://bit.ly/Auwahi2Wind">https://bit.ly/Auwahi2Wind</a> Participants can also dial in to 833-380-0624. The EIS scoping meeting will include a presentation by Project representatives, followed by a separate portion reserved for oral public comments; all oral comments will be audio recorded.

# **10.0 Further Information Contact**

For further information please contact: Marie VanZandt; 655 W Broadway, Suite 950, San Diego, CA 92101; mlvanzandt@aepes.com; (619) 228-7340.

# **FIGURES**



	Auwahi Wind Energy 2 Project Figure 1 Overview Map
	<ul> <li>Wind Farm Site</li> <li>Wailea Substation</li> <li>Existing Auwahi Wind Project Interconnection Substation</li> <li>Proposed Interconnection Substation</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Substation</li> <li>Existing Auwahi Wind Turbine Area</li> <li>Existing Auwahi Wind Project Generator-tie Line</li> <li>Proposed Generator-tie Lines</li> <li>Existing MECO Transmission</li> <li>Line</li> <li>Existing Gravel/Dirt Road</li> <li>Construction Access Route</li> <li>Highway</li> <li>Road</li> <li>City/Town</li> </ul>
	TETRA TECH
	Reference Map HAWAII
FOR CONSTRUCTION	KAHOOLAWE





