



Kihei Community Association

"e malama pono"...dedicated to protecting,
sustaining and enhancing our 'āina, kai and 'ohana

KIHEI COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION POSITION STATEMENT
ADDRESSING ELECTRICAL SERVICE
JUNE, 2015

Kihei Community Association (KCA) is concerned about the future of electrical service and infrastructure in southwest Maui. At present time, there are suggestions of a possible purchase of Maui Electric Company (MECO) by a firm from Florida and alternate plans for the County to purchase and manage the Maui electrical services from MECO. Our citizens desire electrical service that is safe, reliable, economical, sustainable, with aesthetic infrastructure, and without reliance on fossil fuel. Toward that goal KCA's position is as follows:

1. Support the individual use of clean, renewable energy for both residential and commercial properties. Integrating and recycling energy generation should be a top priority.
2. Make renewable energy from the main electrical power supplier a continuing goal for South Maui.
3. Discourage the use of new overhead electric transmission lines both for main transmission and for residential neighborhoods. Require new developments to underground electrical services. Existing overhead lines should be placed underground.
4. Advocate that the proposed underwater cable to Oahu not be constructed unless there is a clear benefit to the citizens of Maui.
5. Improve the use of all generated electrical energy by efficient energy storage systems.
6. Advocate against substantial profits gained by electrical utilities from leaving the island.
7. Advocate for smaller distributed power generation stations that could quickly be brought into service to pick up drops in wind and solar generation.
8. Perform investigation into the possible use of geothermal power generation.
9. Encourage the County to consider all alternates to MECO providing electrical power including but not limited to County ownership and other private utilities.
10. Encourage 100% renewable electrical power ASAP.
11. Establish a Maui PUC subcommittee whose goal is to advocate to the PUC issues at the state level that are directly associated with Maui's needs.
12. Advocate for electrical rates scaled to provide low-income families with "basic life-line services" based on an ability to pay.

Facts and Assumptions

1. Electrical energy and transmission is a critical item to the citizens for South Maui.
2. Maui's electrical costs are near the highest in the nation.
3. MECO report to the PUC in 2014, indicated that some (11%) of the wind generation was unused due to lack of adequate storage and adequate ability to bring main power generation on line when renewable generation dropped down.
4. Maui has plentiful sunlight and wind energy which is renewable and sustainable. Use of this energy rather than fossil fuel benefits Maui and aids in not increasing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.
5. The underground cable to Oahu does not appear to provide any advantage to the citizens of Maui. Oahu should be able to provide its own electrical energy without having to transmit the electrical power under the ocean.
6. The existing electrical power generation stations are slow in picking up a sudden drop in solar and wind electrical power generation. Small distributed electrical generation stations could allow for less waste of electrical power.
7. The MECO report to the PUC in 2014 indicates a use of geothermal power for generation of electricity. To date, they have not explored this renewable resource. It would be beneficial to research the viability of this source in advance of the electrical power need.
8. The profits from sale of electrical power should be scaled to a reasonable amount by the PUC.