

## KIUC Board Takes Actions To Proceed With Pu'u 'Ōpae Pumped Storage Hydro Project

*Līhu'e, Kaua'i, HI – 09/27/2017* – A west side project incorporating photovoltaic (PV) and pumped storage hydro technology that could provide 15 percent of the island's energy needs has moved closer to fruition following recent actions taken by the KIUC Board of Directors.

At its August meeting, the board approved land lease and associated agreements with two state agencies: the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL) and the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC). Yesterday, the board approved expenditures of up to \$350,000 for preliminary surveying, engineering and permitting work. KIUC has already commenced work on required diversion modifications and installation of gauging equipment.

A framework for the project was facilitated via a landmark settlement agreement, approved by the Commission on Water Resources Management in April 2017, which sought to restore appropriate stream flow in the Waimea River, while providing water for other needs such as renewable energy and agriculture. Parties to the agreement included KIUC, DHHL, ADC, the community-based group Pō'ai Wai Ola and the Kekaha Agriculture Association.

If the project completes development and is constructed, KIUC will invest millions of dollars in infrastructure improvements and ongoing maintenance on lands owned by state agencies. Improvements include the rehabilitation of the Pu'u 'Ōpae, Mānā and Pu'u Lua reservoirs, the repair and maintenance of the Koke'e Ditch system, the installation of a pressurized pipeline delivering Koke'e water to DHHL mauka lands and the Mānā plains, and improved roads.

“This partnership enables the state to provide proper stewardship for the river, while expanding agriculture, energy production and residential development on the west side,” said KIUC Board Chair Allan Smith.

Once completed, the pumped storage hydro project will generate up to 25 megawatts of electricity, and will substantially reduce the utility's carbon footprint by displacing 5 million gallons of diesel annually. Pu'u 'Ōpae will be a legacy generation facility, expected to serve Kaua'i's energy needs for 100 years or more at a cost per kilowatt hour that is comparable to KIUC's other renewable projects and lower than the current cost of diesel.

The full settlement agreement can be viewed at this link: [https://dhhl.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/20170418\\_Agreement.pdf](https://dhhl.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/20170418_Agreement.pdf)

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