



LIFE OF THE LAND

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LATE

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Malama Solomon, Chair

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

re SB 375 **FRACKING**

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Solomon, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committees

At the public hearing Life of the Land asserted

- (a) 20 companies were exploring geothermal opportunities in Hawai`i;
- (b) Geothermal resources are located in Hualalai, Ulupalakua and Waimanalo;
- (c) Fracking may occur now or in the near future.

Here is our documentation:

Maui News (May 27, 2011): The company that has delivered geothermal power to the Big Island for nearly the past 20 years is going to look for a place to create a similar plant on Ulupalakua Ranch land. Christopher Heaps, a representative of Ormat of Reno, Nev., told Kula residents for the first time publicly that his company would be searching about 8,000 acres of leased ranch land for suitable sites to dig wells that could produce at least two-dozen megawatts a day of energy for the Valley Isle."¹

¹ <http://www.mauinews.com/page/content.detail/id/549844/Geothermal-company-eyeing-Ulupalakua.html?nav=10>

Hawaii News Now (Oct 14, 2011) "Geothermal energy is energy that comes from the heat that boils and burns in the interior of the earth, and Hawaii is sitting on an oven. 'It is the one resource that we should be relying on,' said Robbie Cabral of Innovations Development Group. [] Cabral and co-worker Mililani Trask are confident a mother lode of geothermal energy is going untapped. Their opinion is based on research that pinpoints multiple hot spots on the Big Island and other islands. 'There's other hot spots such as on the island of Maui, in the area of Ulupalakua, Kula, and Kahikinui. Also on the island of Oahu, believe it or not,' Cabral said. She said temperature studies show Waianae and Waimanalo have geothermal potential, with Waimanalo being more viable. IDG is encouraged that lawmakers are now looking seriously at geothermal."²

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Civil Beat (Oct. 15, 2011): "Puna Geothermal would like to expand on the Big Island, and on Maui it's planning test drilling on the Ulupalakua Ranch. The company currently produces 30 megawatts of geothermal energy in the Puna district and is awaiting approval from state regulators to expand by 8 megawatts."³

Pacific Business News (Oct 21, 2011): "Puna Geothermal Venture recently announced that it has begun studying potential geothermal expansion sites on the Big Island, Maui and the Waimanalo area of Oahu."⁴

Hawaii Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC): Ulupalakua Geothermal Mining Lease and Geothermal Resource Subzone Modification Application EISPN (February 2012) "Ormat Technologies Inc. ("Ormat") is applying to the Hawai'i State Board of Land and Natural Resources) for (1) a geothermal mining lease of reserved lands occupied by Ulupalakua Ranch, Inc. [] "Drilling geothermal wells involves the transport, storage and use of diesel fuel, lubricants, hydraulic fluids and drilling chemicals (drilling mud, caustic soda, barite, etc.). (p. 21)⁵

Public Utilities Commission (Jan. 25, 2013): HELCO'S Proposed Final Request For Proposals For Renewable Geothermal Dispatchable Energy And Firm Capacity Resources Island Of Hawaii (January 25, 2013) "On June 22, 2011, HELCO issued a Geothermal Request for Information ("Geothermal RFI") to reach out to geothermal developers, landowners, and stakeholders to seek feedback on a go-forward geothermal strategy for the Island of Hawaii."⁶ "Twenty (20) respondents submitted

² Oahu company wants to tap more geothermal energy (Oct 14, 2011) By Jim Mendoza
<http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/15700419/company-wants-to-tap-more-geothermal-energy>

³ <http://www.civilbeat.com/articles/2011/10/15/13275-geothermal-push-makes-for-strange-bedfollows/>

⁴ <http://www.bizjournals.com/pacific/print-edition/2011/10/21/huena-power-plans-geothermal-project.html?page=all>

⁵ 2012-02-23-FEA-EISPN-Ulupalakua-Geothermal-Lease-and-Subzone-Modification.pdf

⁶ VOLUME 1 OF 2 (131 megabytes) In the Matter of PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION Instituting a Proceeding Related to a Competitive Bidding Process for 50 MW of Dispatchable Renewable Geothermal Firm Capacity Generation on the Island of Hawaii. Docket No. 2012-0092

PUC Document Management System <http://dms.puc.hawaii.gov/dms/> p. 1-7

information and answered questions posed in the Geothermal RFI.”⁷ “Mauna Loa Southwest Rift Zone: 125 MW. Hualalai: 25 MW.”⁸

Draft Requests for Proposals (RFPs): HECO 200 MW of renewable energy from any island.⁹ MECO Firm Renewable Energy

HECO-MECO-HELCO Integrated Resource Planning:¹⁰ Will evaluate three (3) undersea cable options: O`ahu-Lana`i, O`ahu-Maui, and O`ahu-Hawai`i.

We could find nothing in the rules that prevent hydraulic fracturing (fracking).

DLNR: “The selection of the types and weights of drilling fluids and provisions for controlling fluid temperatures, blowout preventers and other surface control equipment and materials, casing and cementing programs, etc., to be used shall be based on sound engineering principles and shall take into account apparent geothermal gradients, depths, and pressures of the various formations to be penetrated and other pertinent geologic and engineering data and information about the area.”¹¹

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DLNR: “Each application for a permit shall be made on forms provided by the department and shall contain the following: [] A description of the proposed drilling and casing program; and a plan or drawing showing the proposed work and vertical section of the well.”¹²

Just last year the DLNR was short-staffed for its geothermal department.

Big Island Now (March 8th, 2012): “The Engineering Division of the Department of Land and Natural Resources recently sought and received permission from the Land Board to hire geothermal experts as consultants to help guide the processing of mining leases and other geothermal-related development. [] ‘The Engineering Division currently has no staff in the Mineral Resources Section to address statutory responsibilities and coordinate numerous inquiries from potential geothermal developers in a timely manner as the quest for renewable energy sources, such as geothermal, becomes forefront,’ the DLNR said in a submittal to the Land Board.”¹³

Mahalo

Henry Curtis
Executive Director

⁷ Ibid. p. 1-8

⁸ Ibid. Exhibit 1-1 Island of Hawaii Geothermal Resource Potential p. 1-9

⁹ Docket 2011-0225

¹⁰ Docket 2012-0036

¹¹ Title 13 Department Of Land And Natural Resources. Sub-Title 7. Water And Land Development. Chapter 183 Rules On Leasing And Drilling Of Geothermal Resources. Drilling operations: HAR §13-183-57(b)(4) <http://hawaii.gov/dlnr/land/administrative-rules/CHAP183.pdf>

¹² HAR 13-183-65

¹³ <http://bigislandnow.com/2012/03/08/oramat-begins-study-of-a-maui-geothermal-plant/>

SB375

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for ENE/WTL on Jan 31, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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