

HAWAII PLANNING



American Planning Association
Hawaii Chapter
Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Hawaii Chapter of the American Planning Association

Neighbor Island News

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Maui

On November 12, the State Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) unanimously granted Kaheawa Wind Power II the land lease it needs to make way for 14 additional wind turbines in the West Maui Mountains mauka of Maalaea. Kaheawa II is a subsidiary of Boston-based wind energy company First Wind, which operates the existing Kaheawa wind power facility. The 30-megawatt facility has been in operation since mid-2006 and provides approximately 10 percent of Maui's electricity. The expanded wind farm, located in a line below the existing one, is expected to provide an additional 21 megawatts on 143 acres.

The Board's decision paves the way for Kaheawa II to clear brush and initiate the groundwork for the larger facility that will include an electrical substation, battery energy storage system, underground electrical collection system, overhead transmission line, meteorological-monitoring tower and service access roads. Work could begin as early as December. The project still requires permission from the state Public Utilities Commission and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service before full construction can begin. Kaheawa Wind II has developed a conservation plan in coordination with the state Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) as part of an application for an "incidental take" permit for endangered species.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently reviewing the project's permit applications, and the public can comment on the Draft Habitat Conservation Plan before Dec. 9. For more information on the Draft Habitat Conservation Plan and the USFWS review process, visit www.fws.gov/pacificislands/. For more information on the Kaheawa wind power facility, visit www.kaheawa.com/

Big Island

A Conservation District Use Permit (CDUP) is currently being sought for the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT), proposed to be situated on a plateau below the summit of Mauna Kea. If approved, the Thirty Meter Telescope could do much to enhance science, technology, engineering and mathematics as well as connectivity between Hawaii's cultural legacy of way-finding and 21st century astronomy. The telescope also has the potential to contribute significantly to education and economics for the Big Island of Hawaii and the State as a whole.

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Pursuant to HRS Chapter 183C, the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) is holding public hearings in Hilo on December 2nd and in Kona on December 3rd to receive testimony on the Conservation District Use Application (CDUA) for the telescope. Although the deadline for comments and requests for notification of determinations passed on November 23rd, DLNR will continue to make every effort to notify those interested in the subject CDUA. For more information, contact the Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands at (808) 587-0377. The CDUA has been posted in the Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC) bulletin and can be viewed here:

http://oeqc.doh.hawaii.gov/Shared%20Documents/Environmental_Notice/current_issue.pdf

For further information on the Thirty Meter Telescope, visit www.tmt.org.