



## **PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 7, 2014

### **Hawaii Public Utilities Commission**

#### **Invites Public Comment**

#### **On HECO Companies' Integrated Demand Response Portfolio Plan**

The Hawaii Public Utilities Commission ("PUC") is inviting public comment on the Integrated Demand Response Portfolio Plan ("IDRPP") filed by the Hawaiian Electric Companies ("HECO Companies").<sup>1</sup> The IDRPP was filed on July 28, 2014, in response to the PUC's "Policy Statement And Order Regarding Demand Response Programs" ("DR Policy Statement"), issued on April 28, 2014. The DR Policy Statement directed the HECO Companies to review their current demand response programs, develop detailed estimates of demand response potential, and consolidate their programs into a single integrated portfolio.

Demand response programs provide incentives to utility customers, usually in the form of payments or bill credits, to change how they would normally use electricity by "shifting" all or a portion of their usage to a different time period. For example, customers in demand response programs may elect to have the utility install controls on certain appliances, such as hot water heaters or air conditioners, that permit the utility either to limit their usage during times when electricity usage is at its peak, or to shift their usage to times when the price of electricity is lower.

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<sup>1</sup>The "HECO Companies" are Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc. ("HECO"), Hawaii Electric Light Company, Inc. ("HELCO"), and Maui Electric Company, Limited ("MECO").

Demand response programs can benefit the utility in a variety of ways. Use of demand response programs may delay or eliminate the need for new fossil fuel generating units, assist the utility in utilizing more renewable energy resources (such as solar and wind), and help the utility to operate its system efficiently (including ancillary services<sup>2</sup>) and at lower cost. These measures can help to lower customer bills and to achieve the State's renewable energy goals.

The PUC is seeking comment on whether the IDRPP as proposed will provide these benefits to customers, and/or what could be done to improve the IDRPP. Interested persons may review the DR Policy Statement, the IDRPP, and other related documents on the PUC's home page at the following link: <http://puc.hawaii.gov/>.

The deadline to file public comments is September 8, 2014. Submissions should clearly state that the comments are being filed in Docket No. 2007-0341, and are addressing the IDRPP. Filing procedures may be reviewed at the following link: <http://puc.hawaii.gov/filing/filing-docketed/>.

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<sup>2</sup>Ancillary services support the reliable operation of the electric system as it moves electricity from various generating sources to customers. For example, Automatic Generation Control is used to balance supply levels against second-to-second variations in demand.