



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

RANDALL Y. IWASE
CHAIR

LORRAINE H. AKIBA
COMMISSIONER

MICHAEL E. CHAMPLEY
COMMISSIONER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 3, 2015

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION APPROVES FOUR UTILITY SCALE RENEWABLE ENERGY SOLAR PROJECTS

HONOLULU – The Public Utilities Commission (“PUC” or “Commission”) approved power purchase agreements (“PPA”) for four (4) utility scale solar projects.

Combined, these four (4) projects will provide 137.2 megawatts (“MW”) of renewable energy. These projects and the approvals by the Commission are important steps towards achieving the goal of 100 percent renewable energy by 2045.

The four projects are:

1. EE Waianae Solar Project, LLC, Docket No. 2014-0354 (27.6 MW)
2. Kawailoa Solar, LLC, Docket No. 2014-0356 (49 MW)
3. Lanikuhana Solar, LLC, Docket No. 2014-0357 (14.7 MW)
4. Waiawa PV, LLC, Docket No. 2014-0359 (45.9 MW)

In evaluating each docket, the Commission was guided by 1) whether the project is cost effective and would result in lower rates to ratepayers; 2) whether it would negatively impact system reliability; 3) whether it contributes to geographic diversity of utility scale solar resources so that changing weather conditions do not impact all such projects in the same way.

The projects selected were based on the Commission’s determination that the projects represent the best likelihood of providing long term customer value and are reasonable and in the public interest.

To further ensure that the approved PPAs would more fairly balance the risk of the agreements between the Hawaiian Electric Company (“HECO”) and customers, the Commission 1) declined to approve any additional payments from ratepayers if the projects do not qualify for the federal investment tax credit; 2) capped the annual amount of compensable curtailed energy payments that HECO may recover from ratepayers at one (1) percent of the annual contract energy for such contract year and any payments above the one (1) percent threshold is subject to the Commission’s prior review and approval.

###

Media Contact:

Deborah Kwan
State of Hawaii Public Utilities Commission
(808) 586-2020
PUC@hawaii.gov
<http://puc.hawaii.gov/>