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Summary of Decision on Hu Honua's Motion for Reconsideration

On September 9, 2020, the Public Utilities Commission denied Hu Honua's Motion for Reconsideration of the Commission's July 9, 2020 Order denying Hawaii Electric Light Company's (HELCO) request for a waiver from the Competitive Bidding Framework for the Hu Honua biomass project (Docket No. 2017-0122).

Hu Honua filed a Motion for Reconsideration of the Commission's July 9th Order, arguing that the Commission erred in denying HELCO's request for a waiver from competitive bidding, and requesting that the Commission reconsider its decision. After carefully reviewing the record, including Hu Honua's Motion for Reconsideration, supplemental filings, and the responses of the docket participants, the Commission determined that Hu Honua's arguments do not meet the legal requirements for reconsideration.

Hu Honua continues to maintain that its project can provide many benefits to HELCO and Hawaii island; however, the Commission affirms its belief that the public interest will be best served by requiring Hu Honua's project to be evaluated alongside other potential renewable energy projects, where all of the project's benefits and costs can be comprehensively and fairly compared to alternatives. Based on the success of the first two rounds of HELCO's ongoing competitive bidding process underway since 2017, the Commission will direct HELCO to open a third round of competitive bidding, which will provide another opportunity for Hu Honua to advance its project for consideration.