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September 17, 2012

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PROMPT

Director
Office of Environmental Quality Control
Department of Health, State of Hawaii
235 S. Beretania Street, Room 702
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Withdrawing Environmental Assessment / Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice for the "Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Hawaii Interisland Renewable Energy Program: Wind," published in *The Environmental Notice* on December 8, 2010

Dear Director:

In accordance with the "Amended Notice of Intent (NOI) to Prepare the Hawaii Clean Energy Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement" (PEIS), published in the *Federal Register*, Volume 77, No. 155, August 10, 2012, the subject PEIS is a planning study, led by the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE), of a broad array of possible future programs or projects that are not approved, adopted, or funded.

Therefore, pursuant to Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS 343), the State of Hawaii no longer intends to prepare an Environmental Assessment / Environmental Impact Statement for the subject project, and therefore wishes to withdraw the subject Preparation Notice.

As stated by the USDOE during scoping meetings held in September, 2012, "No specific projects are proposed in this PEIS," "No specific locations or sites are proposed in this PEIS" and "This PEIS does not eliminate [the] need for project-specific environmental review" (<http://hawaiiicleanenergypeis.com/scoping-presentation/>).

The following are key differences between the original "Notice of Intent" published in the *Federal Register* on December 14, 2010, and the current "Amended Notice of Intent" published in the *Federal Register* on August 10, 2012:

- The level of environmental review has changed,
 - from a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Hawaii Environmental Policy Act (HEPA)
 - to a PEIS prepared pursuant to NEPA.
- The role of the State of Hawaii has changed,
 - from being a "joint lead agency" with the U.S. Department of Energy
 - to being a cooperating agency, with others, on the USDOE-led study.
- The scope has been broadened,
 - from "up to 400 MW of wind energy on the Maui County islands of Maui, Lanai, and/or Molokai and transmission of that energy to Oahu"
 - to "energy efficiency, distributed renewables, utility-scale renewables, alternative transportation fuels and modes, and electrical transmission and distribution."
- The project has been renamed,
 - from "the Hawaii Interisland Renewable Energy Program: Wind (HIREP) Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement"
 - to "the Hawaii Clean Energy Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement."

If there are any questions or additional actions required with respect to withdrawing the subject Notice, please contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Mark Glick
Energy Program Administrator

Attachments: *The Environmental Notice*, 12/8/10
Notice of Intent, the *Federal Register*, 12/14/10
Amended Notice of Intent, the *Federal Register*, 8/10/12