



The Senate
Ka 'Aha Kenekoa

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

April 16, 2024

Via Email

Honorable Chair and Members of the
Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission
Kekuanao'a Building, First Floor
465 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Investigation into Hawaiian Electric Reliability Issues and Proposed Solutions

Dear Commissioners:

The recurring blackouts on Oahu and the Hawaii Island are distressful. These unplanned rolling outages and calls for conservation showcase Hawaiian Electric's struggle to provide safe and reliable energy to customers. Even worse, HECO expects more blackouts in the months ahead, without any indication of when these energy reliability issues will be resolved.

On Sunday night, some 13,000 Oahu utility customers were without power for several hours and some continue to be without power. These outages have forced four East Oahu schools to close. The Department of Health reported some 237,500 gallons of sewage were released into the ocean due to a lack of power at the East Honolulu Treatment Plant. At the same time 21,500 customers on Hawaii Island experienced an outage, and HECO issued another alert to expect more.

The PUC has the statutory responsibility to regulate Hawaiian Electric proactively in the public interest and can use its investigatory powers pursuant to Section 269-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to ensure that electric utility services are delivered in a safe and reliable manner. The lack of reliability due to insufficient energy generation, HECO's aging equipment, unreliable oil-fired power generation, and immediate and long term solutions should be investigated.

We trust the PUC will look into this matter to clearly understand the nature, duration, and resolution of these outages. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Aloha,

Glenn Wakai
Senator

Lynn DeCoite
Senator

Jarrett Keohokalole
Senator