



STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
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PUBLIC UTILITIES
COMMISSION

HRD04/1548

November 4, 2004

Mr. Carlito Caliboso, Chairman
State of Hawaii Public Utilities Commission
465 South King Street, First Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: East O'ahu Transmission Project, 46kV Phased Project, Draft Environmental Assessment, Hawaiian Electric, August 2004

Dear Chairman Caliboso:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) is in receipt of your September 8, 2004, request for review and comments on a draft environmental impact assessment of the aforementioned project area, which is a proposal by Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc. to reconfigure and connect existing 46 kilovolt circuits from the Pūkele Substation with existing and new 46 kilovolt at the Archer and Kamoku substations. OHA apologizes for the delayed response and offers the following comments and concerns in the area of historic and cultural sites.

Historic and Cultural Sites

Given the proposed route of the project and the depth of trenching activities related to the proposed work, OHA recommends that an archaeological monitor be present during ground disturbing work along the corridor.

This is due to the fact that three relatively large unmarked cemeteries have recently been discovered in urban Honolulu at the Ke'eaumoku Walmart, Ko'olani Condominium, and Queen Street Extension projects. The likelihood of other unmarked cemeteries in the urban corridor is high, especially those associated with the smallpox epidemic of 1853.

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Furthermore, isolated burial sites may exist along the proposed route associated with previous habitation in the area. An archaeological monitor would help to ensure proper mitigation of any inadvertent discoveries of human skeletal remains and mitigate adverse impacts.

In the event human remains are identified during ground disturbing activities, all work in the immediate area shall cease and the county police department and the State Historic Preservation Division shall be notified.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kai Markell, Policy Advocate, at 594-1945 or kaim@oha.org. Once again, thank you for your patience during our review and assessment of this important matter.

‘O wau iho nō,



Clyde W. Nāmu‘o
Administrator

c. Ms. Lesley A. Matsumoto, Belt Collins