



CITY COUNCIL

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Hawaii's Energy Agenda Has Many Questions By The Local Community Not being Answered

Hawaii's Garden Isle has emerged as a flashpoint in the growing resistance against forced smart grid technologies. The American Academy of Environmental Medicine (AAEM) has called for a moratorium on smart meters in homes and schools based on the documented health hazards of radio frequency radiation from smart meters.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has also categorized radio frequency radiation as a Class 2B carcinogen. So far 55 local governments in California, representing almost 4 million people, have passed ordinances that make smart meter installations illegal in their jurisdictions.

Councilman Tom Berg recently introduced a Honolulu City Council resolution (12-170) urging the Hawaii State legislature to prohibit the use of "smart" electric meters on Oahu due to the evidence of health impacts.

Smart meters individually identify electrical devices inside the home and record when they are operated, causing invasion of privacy. They monitor household activity and occupancy in violation of rights and domestic security. Those with access to smart meter databases can review a permanent history of household activities complete with calendar and time-of-day metrics to gain a highly invasive and detailed view of the lives of the occupants.

Hawaii has the highest electric rates in the nation and has had a state-sponsored utility monopoly for most of Hawaiian Electric's (HECO) 100+ year existence. The utility has become a dinosaur with a status-quo mentality and continues to obstruct progress toward independence from foreign oil.

In response to widespread anger about the HECO chokehold, Councilman Tom Berg introduced City Council Resolution 12-062 supporting the "End of the HECO Monopoly." The council, unfortunately, never voted on 12-062.

The State Council on Revenues recently determined that the State is projected to have \$100 million dollars less to work with than previously expected due to the failure of the Legislature to check rampant abuse of Solar and Wind tax credits and shortfalls in projected income. This may likely cost the General Fund as much as \$721M over the coming seven years.

Nearly half a billion dollars may be siphoned from the pockets of Hawaii taxpayers and exported to mainland solar and wind companies, and the mainland banks, brokerages and tobacco companies which finance them.

In West Oahu, Kalaeloa solar farm projects, such as one by Hunt Corp make \$10,000,000 off of Hawaii tax-payers in Solar tax credits, along with Hawaii tax-payers paying HECO for the electric power lines. This is all profit going to Hunt Corp and HECO and all paid for by Hawaii tax-payers who will receive absolutely no benefit in reduced electric utility rates.

Hunt Corp's KREP (Kalaeloa Renewable Energy Park) uses 20 inverters. An inverter converts DC to AC. Using 20 inverters for a "Commercial System" means $\$500,000 \times 20 = \$10,000,000$. The HECO power lines are all part of the "East Kalaeloa Energy Corridor" which is an appropriation by the Hawaii legislature in 2012.

Hawaiian Electric Co. has stated that they must keep raising their ever increasing rates to Hawaii consumers to compensate for the amount of solar Photo-voltaic systems being installed. HECO as a profit making utility makes a huge return for their stockholders and has been increasing top executive salaries as electric rates climb.

Yet our political leaders have been telling us that the reason why massive amounts of Hawaii tax dollars are funding large scale PV farms is to lower our electric rates and dependency on oil. But actually what is going on is a massive transfer of public tax money to private corporations.

The undersea cable project is another huge raid on Hawaii tax funds benefitting big corporations. There has been no real analysis to back up the assertion that it will "stabilize" the island electric grid. On the US mainland, interconnection does not help stabilize the grid. It is simply a method of shuttling power from far-off locations and the undersea cable plays no role in this.

State politicians think we should build this, but aren't sure how they're going to use it, but have already decided that whoever does build it will be assured a profit by the tax payers and utility customers whether or not it ever carries a single Watt of electricity. This undersea cable reminds one of Honolulu's rail project, which stopped being about traffic relief and commuters years ago and got co-opted by developer and construction interests.

A damning report by the Inspector General of the US Department of Defense last year hit wasteful spending on solar energy projects on Navy and Marine bases in Hawaii and focused on solar contracts to install photovoltaic systems. The report found that for every \$1.00 spent on solar projects, less than \$0.51 of electricity will be produced over the life cycle of the projects.

Our community deserves an opportunity to weigh in on this array of energy projects, since we are in fact paying for all of them, and request further information about the supposed benefits from the principal governmental agencies and organizations involved in planning and permitting them. In this

regard I have been asking for a public meeting in West Oahu where so many of these projects are rapidly going in with very little input or information provided to the community.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "TOM BERG". The letters are bold and slightly slanted, with a casual, personal feel.

TOM BERG
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Ewa Beach, Kapolei, Waianae Coast

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