

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

----- In the Matter of -----)
)
 PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION)
)
 Instituting a Proceeding Related to)
 The Hawaiian Electric Companies')
 Electrification of Transportation)
 Strategic Roadmap.)
 _____)

DOCKET NO. 2018-0135

ORDER NO. 35527

OPENING THE DOCKET AND INVITING PUBLIC COMMENT

FILED
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PUBLIC UTILITIES
COMMISSION

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The Hawaiian Electric Companies')
Electrification of Transportation)
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OPENING THE DOCKET AND INVITING PUBLIC COMMENT

By this Order, the commission (1) opens this docket to serve as a repository for the Hawaiian Electric Companies'¹ Electrification of Transportation Strategic Roadmap ("EoT Roadmap"), and any filings and public comments related thereto; and (2) invites public comment on the Companies' EoT Roadmap. Comments should be filed with the commission by July 16, 2018, in accordance with the procedures set forth below.

¹Hawaiian Electric Companies (the "HECO Companies" or "the Companies"), refers to Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc. ("HECO"), Hawaii Electric Light Company, Inc. ("HELCO"), and Maui Electric Company, Limited ("MECO").

I.

BACKGROUND

In Docket No. 2016-0168, the commission considered the Companies' request for a ten-year extension of the Companies' pilot program for commercial public electric vehicle ("EV") charging facilities that operate within the Companies' respective service territories ("EV Pilot"). On June 2, 2017, the commission approved, subject to conditions, the Companies' alternative request for a five-year extension of the EV Pilot.²

During the course of the proceedings in Docket No. 2016-0168, the Companies stated their intent "to submit a programmatic filing with the Commission that will identify the value and various opportunities associated with increased adoption of EVs[,] " which "will lay the foundation for various levels of Company participation in the EV space, and identify the Companies' EV strategy."³

In Order No. 34592, the commission set a March 31, 2018 deadline for the Companies to file their "Electrification of

²In re Hawaiian Elec. Co., Inc., Hawaii Elec. Light Co., Inc., and Maui Elec. Co., Ltd., Docket No. 2016-0168, Decision and Order No. 34592, filed on June 2, 2017, at 67-69 ("Order No. 34592").

³Docket No. 2016-0168, the Companies' Response to CA-IR-8, filed on October 14, 2016, at 3; see also id. at 5 (stating, "[t]he Companies anticipate submitting such a filing in the late 2017 timeframe.").

Transportation" strategy.⁴ The commission also set out five issues to be discussed in the Companies' programmatic filing:

(1) [T]he intended extent of the Companies' participation in 'Electrification of Transportation' efforts in the Companies' service territory;

(2) [H]ow the Companies can foster opportunities within the Companies' service territory for third parties in the EV charging market;

(3) [H]ow the Companies' 'Electrification of Transportation' strategy and efforts will interface with the Companies' efforts related to demand response software, programs, and planning;

(4) [H]ow the Companies' 'Electrification of Transportation' strategy fits in with other dockets and related efforts, including dockets examining demand response (e.g., Docket No. 2015-0412) and distributed energy resources (Docket No. 2014-0192); and

(5) [H]ow the Companies can ensure that tariffs provide for adequate flexibility as technology, the market, and other factors evolve within the EV landscape.⁵

The Companies filed their Electrification of Transportation Strategic Roadmap on March 29, 2018, in Docket No. 2016-0168.

⁴Order No. 34592 at 68.

⁵Order No. 34592 at 59 (formatting altered).

II.

DISCUSSION

As the commission has previously recognized, the State of Hawaii has taken a variety of measures to support EV adoption and reduce Hawaii's dependence on traditional fossil fuel modes of transportation.⁶ In December 2017, the mayors of Honolulu, Maui, Hawaii, and Kauai counties jointly committed to transition to 100% renewable fuels in transportation by 2045.

With regards to EV infrastructure specifically, the Commission has observed that "developing the necessary infrastructure to further encourage the growth and viable development of the EV market [] is consistent with the State of Hawaii's [] overall policy of promoting the use of EVs as a viable option and alternative to traditional fossil fuel modes

⁶See Order No. 34592 at 43-47 (citing, among other things: (1) Act 156, Haw. Sess. Laws 2009 ("Act 156"), § 2 (establishing "[f]oster[ing] the research and development of nonfossil fuel and energy efficient modes of transportation" as a State policy (see HRS § 226-10(16)); (2) Act 156, § 6 (prioritizing the purchase of EVs in new vehicle purchases by the State and Counties (see HRS § 103D-412(b)); (3) HRS § 196-42 (regarding the development of alternate fuels and support for the attainment of a statewide alternate fuels standard); (4) the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative 2.0 (calling on signatories to "jointly pursu[e] innovative policies, technologies, and deployment strategies relating to . . . alternative fuels; . . . alternative fuel vehicles; and other forms of clean transportation"))).

of transportation.”⁷ The Commission has also noted that “[t]he use of EVs can [] assist with and be a tool for expanded demand response efforts and load control programs to help manage grid operations and distributed generation resources.”⁸

Overall, it appears that the Companies’ EoT Roadmap represents a comprehensive evaluation of the state of EV technology and the EV market, clearly identifies the Companies’ near-term and long-term priorities, and is well-grounded in related programs and regulatory proceedings. The commission notes that the EoT Roadmap is the result of the Companies’ outreach to stakeholders and assessment of initiatives in other jurisdictions, with consideration of industry best practices.

In the EoT Roadmap, the HECO Companies point to worldwide EV sales growth and continued growth forecasts;⁹ federal, state and local-level policies supporting transportation electrification;¹⁰ the diversification and proliferation of technological advances with regards to EVs,

⁷Order No. 34592 at 5 (quoting Decision and Order No. 31338 at 3 (citing Act 156)).

⁸Order No. 34592 at 5 (quoting Decision and Order No. 31338 at 4).

⁹EoT Roadmap at 16.

¹⁰EoT Roadmap at 17.

charging infrastructure, and related services;¹¹ and the potential opportunities for the public to benefit, both financially and environmentally, through increased electrification of transportation.¹²

In opening this investigation, the commission acknowledges that electrification of transportation efforts and initiatives may provide significant opportunities and challenges. Smartly designed and implemented, a Hawaii-specific electrification of transportation strategy may well be able to complement the State's existing energy policy goals, driving greater clean energy impacts, and enhanced customer value.

The commission intends to set forth any next steps in this proceeding after closely reviewing the EoT Roadmap, in particular, the Guiding Principles¹³ and proposed EoT initiatives,¹⁴ as well as the public comments filed in the docket. In the meantime, the commission will review any forthcoming programmatic filings related to the HECO Companies' electrification of transportation efforts as they are filed, in separate dockets.

¹¹See, e.g., EoT Roadmap at 40-63.

¹²EoT Roadmap at 35-38.

¹³See EoT Roadmap at 9.

¹⁴See EoT Roadmap at 65.

III.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The commission recognizes that electrification of transportation, as well as the Companies' envisioned role and efforts related to electrification of transportation,¹⁵ are subjects that may be of considerable interest to the general public; county, state, and federal entities; and a variety of other stakeholders. The commission also recognizes that soliciting and reviewing public comments on this matter may be helpful to the commission as it considers the HECO Companies' EoT Roadmap. As such, the commission invites public comments and establishes a comment period for this proceeding.

While not intending to limit the content of the public comments, the commission observes that it would be helpful for commenters to address the following area:

Prioritization of initiatives

- 1) Which specific actions should be prioritized by the HECO Companies in the near-term to encourage the growth and development of the EV market?
- 2) Have the EoT Roadmap's recommendations properly prioritized near-term versus long-term utility initiatives?

¹⁵See EoT Roadmap at 65 (Table 4, "Hawaiian Electric's proposed EoT initiatives"); see generally id. at Chapters 5-8.

Interested persons may review the EoT Roadmap through the "News & Events," "PUC News Releases and Announcement" tab on the commission's homepage (<https://puc.hawaii.gov>) or through the commission's Document Management System (<https://dms.puc.hawaii.gov/dms/>), Docket Quick Link: 2018-0135.

Comments should be addressed to the attention of the commission and clearly state that they are being filed in Docket No. 2018-0135 to address the Companies' Electrification of Transportation Strategic Roadmap. Comments may be filed with the commission by July 16, 2018.¹⁶ Comments may be submitted as follows:

By email: Hawaii.PUC@hawaii.gov¹⁷

By hand-delivery or by first class mail:

Public Utilities Commission, State of Hawaii
465 South King Street, Room No. 103¹⁸
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

E-filing: See <https://puc.hawaii.gov/filing/efiling/> for e-filing instructions

¹⁶With respect to public comments, the commission is not requiring the submission of hard copies of documents that are submitted electronically.

¹⁷Comments filed via email should include the following in the subject line: "Docket No. 2018-0135 - EoT Roadmap Comments - [Filer Name]."

¹⁸At this time, comments may be hand-delivered to Office B-1, rather than Room No. 103, due to ongoing construction at the commission's office.

IV.

COMMISSION DETERMINATIONS

The commission now states as follows regarding this docket:

1. The commission does not consider the subject docket to be a contested case proceeding.

2. As this docket pertains to the Companies' EoT Roadmap, the commission names the Companies as a party to this proceeding. The commission also names as a party the DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS ("Consumer Advocate"), the agency statutorily mandated to represent, protect, and advance the interests of consumers of utility services and, ex officio, a party to commission proceedings.

3. The commission invites comments from the public and interested stakeholders on the Companies' EoT Roadmap. Public comments shall be filed in this docket by July 16, 2018.

4. By design, this docket provides commenters with the opportunity to participate and provide input to the commission by filing public comments, without the need to formally intervene. The commission intends to closely review and consider the public comments filed in this docket.

5. The commission will set forth any next steps in this proceeding after reviewing the EoT Roadmap, and the public comments filed in the docket.

V.

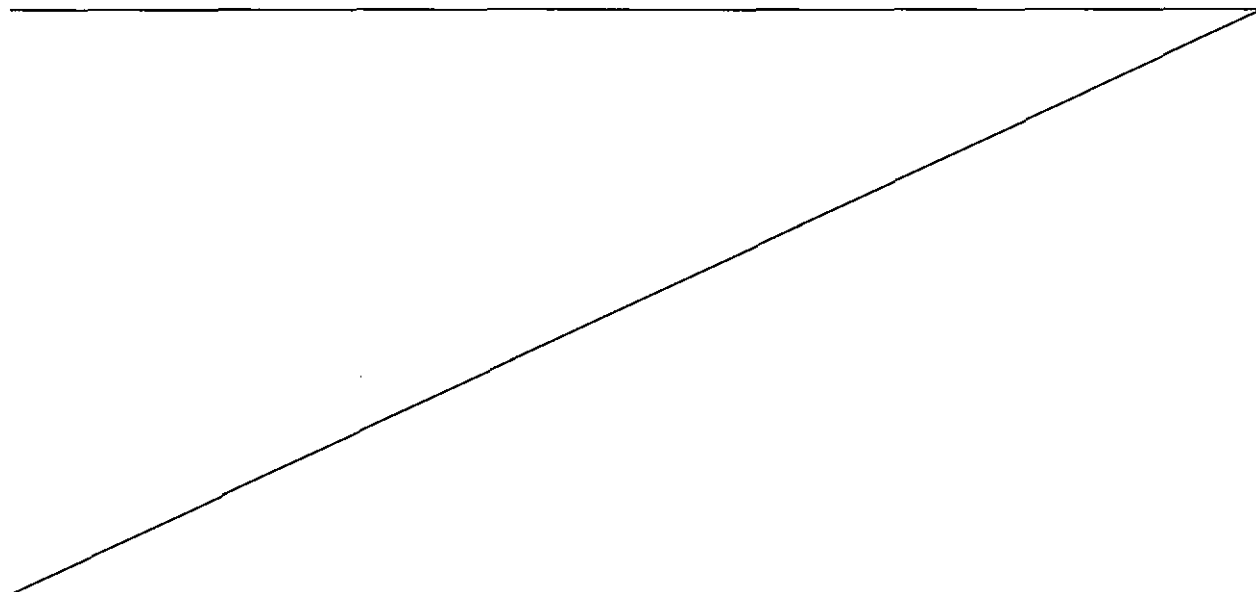
ORDERS

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

1. This docket is opened as a repository for the Companies' Electrification of Transportation Strategic Roadmap, and for any related filings and public comments thereto.

2. The Companies shall file the Electrification of Transportation Strategic Roadmap, initially filed in Docket No. 2016-0168, in this docket.

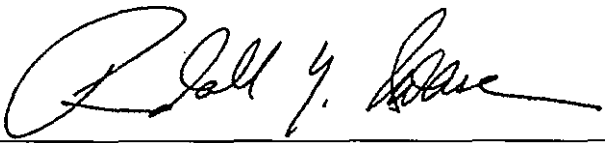
3. The Companies and the Consumer Advocate are named as Parties to this docket.

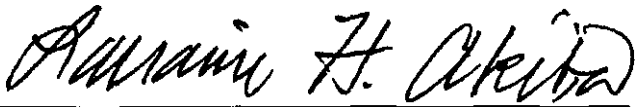


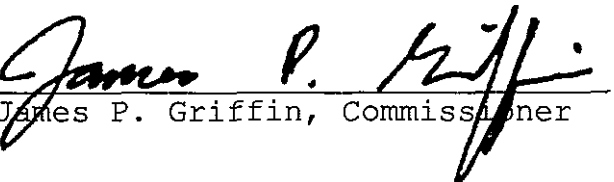
4. Public comments on the Electrification of Transportation Strategic Roadmap shall be filed in this docket by July 16, 2018.

DONE at Honolulu, Hawaii JUN 13 2018.

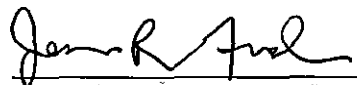
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

By 
Randall Y. Iwase, Chair

By 
Lorraine H. Akiba, Commissioner

By 
James P. Griffin, Commissioner

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Jessica R. Freedman
Commission Counsel

2018-0135.ljk

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The foregoing order was served on the date of filing by mail, postage prepaid, and properly addressed to the following parties:

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DIVISION OF CONSUMER ADVOCACY
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