The following documents were identified as public comment and filed in Docket No. 2015-0389.
Aloha Public Utilities Commission,

On behalf of our elected executive leaders on Hawai'i Island, please see the attached comments on Docket. 2015-0389 in regards to the clarifying order giving neighboring islands an opportunity to request a workshop with the PUC.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration!

Stay resilient,

Lauren Ballesteros-Watanabe (she/her)
Organizer
808.278.6658 | sierraclubhawaii.org

"Equity, Justice and Inclusion - Sierra Club Guiding Principles"
Hui Public Utilities Commission  
Kekuanao’a Building, First Floor  
465 South King St  
Honolulu, HI 96814

October 4, 2021

RE: Docket No. 2015-0389 - Regarding Hawaiian Electric's Community Based Renewable Energy (CBRE) Request for Proposals

Aloha Chair Griffin and members of the Public Utilities Commission,

On behalf of our members and supporters on the Island of Hawai‘i, please accept this request for a workshop in response to Order NO. 37879. We are grateful for the Commission’s leadership and shift towards an energy system inclusive of community input in a meaningful way. The issues affecting Hawai‘i Island are not exactly the same as O‘ahu. Our lower energy demand and greater land mass means the approach taken here to achieve energy-self-sufficiency will be different from that taken on O‘ahu.

The Commission’s response to West O‘ahu community leaders is a beacon of hope that systems change is underway. We hope that the CBRE program will further help Hawai‘i to transition away from corporate control on production and distribution of energy to a model that emphasizes community investment and resilience. Although each island’s landscape and energy demands are unique, the need to adopt place-based, culturally responsive and conscious decision making in our energy system is a universal need.

Therefore, the elected volunteers of the Executive Committee for the Hawai‘i Island Group would like to request a workshop with community members throughout our island on the opportunities with the Community Based Renewable Energy program. We will assist the Commission with outreach, networking, and logistics to help ensure the most inclusive and productive session for all involved. We have been active on a variety of
island specific issues (e.g. Hu Honua, wastewater facilities, and geothermal projects) impacting natural and cultural resources and hope to offer our comments as well.

At the same time, we also understand the incredible depth of knowledge needed to regulate and operate such a complex system and express our gratitude in advance for meeting with residents to strike a balance and give everyday people a voice in decision making in alignment with environmental and cultural values. Thank you again for your leadership. We humbly request that you consider this request in a meeting with Hawai‘i Island residents as offered in Docket No. 2015-0389.

Mahalo for the opportunity to participate in this docket.

Sincerely,

Deborah Ward,
Hawai‘i Island Executive Committee Chair