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KIUC Files Notice of Intent with PUC

Lihue, Kauai, HI - 3/03/09 - Today Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC) filed a notice with the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission (PUC) of its intent to seek a general rate increase in 2009.

"A base rate increase may be needed at this time to provide KIUC with financial stability during these difficult times and to meet various challenges on the horizon. We plan to file the formal application with the PUC in May," said KIUC President and CEO Randy Hee.

As part of this application, we will be proposing that the Energy Adjustment on your bill will only recover actual fuel and purchased power costs. This change, if approved, will make future Energy Adjustments smaller when fuel costs are high.

"The rate design studies have not been completed, so it is too early to say how much the base rate will be adjusted," said Hee. "For now, we just want everyone to know that we are officially going to begin the process."

KIUC members, the State of Hawai'i's Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' Division of Consumer Advocacy and the PUC will all have a say in the final determination.

Hee said that different studies are underway to determine the revenues needed for KIUC to remain financially stable, as well as to determine a rate structure that will assist KIUC in shifting its reliance away from fossil fuels, continuing to promote conservation and energy efficiency, investing in renewable energy, and fulfilling the objectives and goals of the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative.

"Our goal is to address and accomplish all of the above by the end of this rate case proceeding," said Hee. "We assure you that we are working for the benefit of our members to not only ensure a financially stable electric energy future for Kauai, but also to build a cleaner, more affordable energy future."

Members will be kept informed throughout this process. This will include additional information about our rate application and conducting public meetings for members to provide input.

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