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Contact: Anne Barnes

808.246.4383

abarnes@kiuc.coop

FERC Dismisses Permits for Two Hydro Projects

Līhu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i – The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) yesterday announced it will no longer issue non-mandatory preliminary permits for any Hawai'i hydropower projects.

The decision resulted in the dismissal of two hydropower permit requests for the Kekaha Ditch System, one by Kahawai Power 4, LLC, and one by Kekaha Ditch Hydro, LLC. Kahawai is owned by the Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative. Kekaha Ditch Hydro is owned by Pacific Light & Power.

The Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative's four existing investigatory permits for hydropower are not impacted by FERC's ruling.

KIUC has been exploring hydropower on the Kekaha irrigation systems since 2004, and we will continue working with the community and with state agencies toward producing low-cost hydroelectric power for our island's electric grid, said KIUC President and CEO David Bissell.

KIUC and its development services contractor, Free Flow Power, have met for hundreds of hours with community groups, landowners, state authorities and others to define the process to responsible development of hydroelectric energy. It is a technology, when developed by the community's non-profit cooperative, that should provide generation at a much lower cost than any other existing technology.

Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC) is a not-for-profit generation, transmission and distribution cooperative owned and controlled by the members it serves. Headquartered in Līhu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i, the cooperative currently serves more than 32,000 electric accounts throughout Kaua'i. Committed to reinventing how Kaua'i is powered, KIUC is aggressively pursuing diversification of its energy portfolio to include a growing percentage of hydropower, photovoltaic, bio-fuel, and biomass. For more information on Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative, visit www.kiuc.coop or www.kauairenewablesolutions.coop.

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