# Community Outreach Plan

For Community-Based Renewable Energy Projects

## Ka Lae Solar Farm- M2, LLC and Ka Lae2 Solar Farm-M2, LLC

500 kWac Solar Projects on the Island of Hawai'i

Updated: June 12, 2023



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### Ka Lae and Ka Lae 2 Solar Farms Community Outreach

This Community Outreach Plan was developed to work with and inform neighboring communities and stakeholders about the Ka Lae Solar Farm and Ka Lae 2 Solar Farm (together the "Projects") that are being developed by Arion Energy and Pivot Energy. The goal is to provide affected Kaʿū region (Ka Lae/South Point) community members with timely information during all phases of the Projects and to engage with community members to seek input, answer questions, and understand if there are any concerns so that we can take the appropriate steps to mitigate them. Pivot Energy and Arion want to positively contribute to the South Point Community. We take our responsibility to be good stewards of the ʿāina seriously. We believe renewable energy, when managed responsibly and done with care and respect, will help preserve the land for future generations.

Our community engagement activities will focus on relationship-building. We believe that building strong relationships is the foundation for building a positive impact in the Kaʻū area community. The community engagement activities described in this Plan allow us to listen to the community so that we can incorporate their feedback into the Projects and help us be better neighbors.

Ahead of the Request for Proposal (RFP) project submissions to HELCO, Arion Energy and Pivot Energy met with representatives of the local community — primarily residents and businesses located within the immediate vicinity of the proposed project area — and key stakeholders, including state legislators and county officials. We created a microsite (screenshot within Appendix A: Phase I Outreach) and hosted a virtual town hall (marketed via digital and physical advertisements, reflected in Appendix A) to request feedback and answer questions from community members.

After submitting the RFP proposals, Arion Energy and Pivot Energy continued its engagement with one-on-one in-depth interviews and formed a Stakeholder Advisory Committee (detailed below and in Appendix B: Phase II Outreach).

These meetings began our engagement efforts with the community, its representatives, and other influential organizations. We intend to execute a thorough engagement strategy as detailed in the Communication Strategy & Plan Components section. The plan includes one-on-one interviews and group discussions and offers an open forum for public engagement in hopes that these conversations will enable the projects to best serve the Ka'ū area community.

The engagement plan includes a robust communications effort that will include a paid digital and traditional media program and expand on the existing dedicated project websites, which will be regularly updated with up-to-date information on the project. These efforts aim to further increase awareness of the project and inform the area community of opportunities to provide feedback and input on the projects. The project websites include contact information as well as a space that allows for public feedback and questions.

- Ka Lae: <a href="https://go.pivotenergy.net/ka-lae-shared-solar">https://go.pivotenergy.net/ka-lae-shared-solar</a>
- Ka Lae 2: https://go.pivotenergv.net/ka-lae2-shared-solar
- The point of contact for community engagement is Sam Frick, communityfeedback@pivotenergy.net 1.888.734.3033 ext. 726

Throughout the Projects' development, continued engagement efforts will keep stakeholders and the community informed of any changes to the project. The public website will continue to be a primary method of keeping the community engaged; however, digital media (such as the Ka'u Calendar, social media and search ads), mailers, and public forums will be an integral part in notifying the community of new information and opportunities for further input.

#### **Project Descriptions**



These Community Based Renewable Energy (CBRE) solar projects, also known as Shared Solar, are each 500 kiloWatt (kW) solar photovoltaic (PV) plants. The Projects will provide renewable solar electric power to HELCO's electric power grid and give HELCO customers the option to save money on their electric bills by participating in the program. The Projects will assist the state in reaching its objective of becoming 100% renewable by 2045.

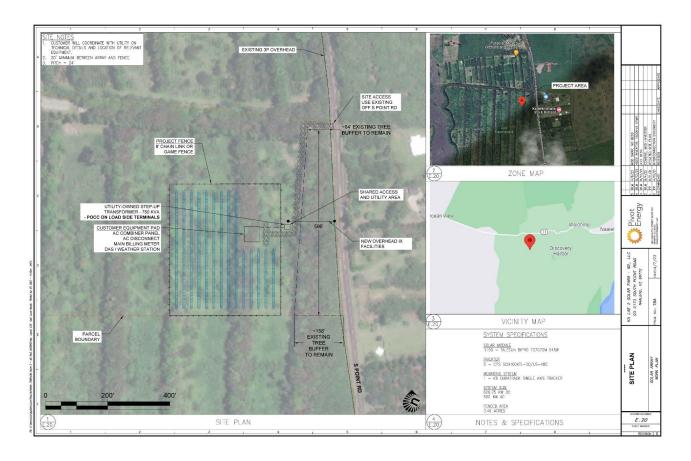
#### Ka Lae Project:

- 93-5570 Kai Makani Place, Na'alehu, HI 96772
- TMK #: 3-9-3-004-040
- Site and parcel boundaries are indicated on the site plans below
- Project area: 4.23 acres
- 19.057391, -155.670042
- This Phase 2 project is located next to a Phase 1 750 kW CBRE project that is currently under construction on the same land parcel (labeled "Phase 1 DG Project")



#### Ka Lae 2 Project:

- 93-2307 South Point Road, Na'alehu, HI 96772
- TMK #: 3-9-3-004-027
- Site and parcel boundaries are indicated on the site plans below
- Project area: 3.49 acres
- 19.046085, -155.661041

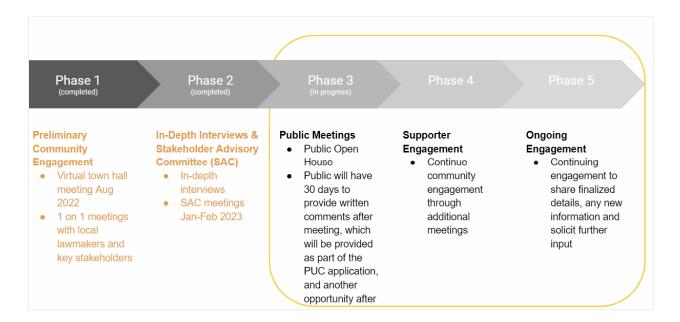


The PV system used for each Project will be a series of ground-mounted, bi-facial poly-crystalline solar modules accompanied by inverters, control/cabinet enclosures and transformers. The solar panels will be mounted on single-axis tracking racking structures, which optimize solar production by turning to face the sun on its path across the sky, facing east in the morning and west in the evening. Each solar module is approximately 40 inches wide and 80 inches long, dark in color, standing between five and eight feet above ground level when stowed flat. Each project will be located in a fenced area using a gaming fence to allow small animals to pass through and prevent larger animals from entering the area. The fenced facilities will be shielded from view with natural vegetative screening and will not be visible from the main roads. For more information about the Projects see the Project Summary and Community Outreach Table and the Project websites.

#### **Communication Strategy & Plan Components**

#### Communication Plan Phases

The stakeholder engagement utilizes a five-phase approach, with each phase building off the other to ensure the public outreach effort is insight-driven, focused, capable of maximizing public input, and ultimately, drives broad-based support for the selection of the Kaʿū region (Ka Lae) sites for CBRE projects.



This chart summarizes our five phase communication plan. We have completed Phases One and Two and are in Phase Three. In the following pages of the Community Outreach Plan, we will describe what outreach activities we have completed and share key lessons learned up to this point. This document also outlines our plan to inform the public about the Projects as the development progresses and future opportunities to participate arise. A summary of each phase is provided below.

Phase I: Preliminary Community Engagement (Completed in 2022)

- Virtual town hall meeting
- Digital marketing
- Social media marketing
- Direct mail (information postcards)
- Project websites
- Initial one-on-one meetings with area lawmakers and key stakeholders

Phase II: In-Depth Interviews and Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meetings (Completed Jan.-Feb. 2023)

- In-depth interviews with key stakeholders
- Working group discussions with Stakeholder Advisory Committee Members

For more details about Phases I and II see the Completed Outreach section of this document and corresponding Appendices.

#### Phase III: Public Meeting(s)

- Public community open house (virtual and/or in-person) to gather additional feedback. A robust communications plan will support the open house to ensure maximum attendance and awareness of the meeting(s)
- Notification of public meeting(s) at least 30 days in advance to targeted media and organizations in alignment with RFP requirements
- Comment solicitation
- Build on conversations from Phases I and II

#### Phase IV: Supporter Engagement

• Enhanced engagement with the community to build on supporter base

#### Phase V: Ongoing Engagement

- Share finalized project details through various methods of communication
- Additional public meetings and presentations for any new developments or changes throughout the process
- Monthly status updates on project website

#### For more details about Phases III-V see the Continuing Outreach section of this document.

The table in the Development Process section shows the alignment of communication project phases alongside estimated development milestones.

#### Communication Channels

Continuing engagement employs multiple communication channels to generate a strong degree of community and key stakeholder awareness. This effort is focused around two main objectives:

- 1. To inform the surrounding community about the proposed project and share as much information as possible to demonstrate transparency and commitment to an open process.
- 2. To solicit feedback on all parts of the proposal, both the positive and possible negative impacts, as well as ways the community feels these impacts could either be mitigated or enhanced.

To reach as many people as possible, multiple forms of outreach and communication avenues have been used and/or will be used to share the information as widely as possible. This includes the following:

- Community Open House: Allows individuals to learn about the project, pose questions, and provide feedback in support or opposition to the project. In alignment with the RFP, this will incorporate technology allowing live engagement and interaction between Arion Energy, Pivot Energy, and the participants.
- **Project Website**: Provides information on Arion Energy, Pivot Energy, and the project. The project website includes a "Community Feedback" and "Contact Us" feature, which will be continuously monitored and, if appropriate, responded to directly.
- Digital Media: Will include multiple social media platforms (Ka'u Calendar, Facebook, Instagram, and NextDoor) to inform the community, drive traffic to the project website

for residents to learn more information, announce meetings, request project feedback, and submit questions, concerns, or comments.

- **Direct Mail:** Will be sent to surrounding residents and businesses. Mailers will disseminate project information, meeting notices, and provide portals.
- **Press Releases:** Will be transmitted to local newspapers and other media outlets to advise about the project, the open house, and the website, including:
  - Hawaii Tribune Herald
  - West Hawaii Today
  - o Civil Beat
  - Hawaii News Now
  - o KHON2 News
  - o KITV4 News

#### **Project Benefits and Community Benefits**

Renewable energy can provide significant benefits, including lowered electricity costs, increased grid reliability, better air quality, improved public health, and more job opportunities. Hawai'i residents who directly benefit from this project (subscribers) can feel confident that they will positively contribute to a greener planet. The project in the Ka'ū (Ka Lae) area will provide direct renewable solar electric power to neighboring communities.

#### Program Participant Benefits

Shared solar is a way for Hawaiian Electric Customers to save money on their electric bills and to support Hawaii's transition to renewable energy. The program is particularly helpful for those that rent, or don't want to, or can't afford to install solar on their roof. Shared solar subscriptions offer a discount to the solar credits subscribers see on their monthly bill. This will help reduce the energy burden for subscriber households and anchor subscribers, allowing them to save money, especially during a time when inflation rates spiked the most in over a decade. Subscribing to community solar can enable families to hedge against future increases in energy costs. Arion Energy and Pivot Energy will set aside the first three months to give those who are closest to the project first access to subscribe to concentrate more community benefits to the local Ka'ū area.

For these projects subscribers will see:

- The Bill Credit Discount for commercial subscribers will be 10% of the bill credits they see on their bill.
- The Bill Credit Discount for residential and LMI subscribers will be 15% of the bill credits they see on their bill.

Assuming the average household in Hawaii spends \$200 per month on electricity, they can expect to save approximately \$30 per month with shared solar.

#### Economic & Employment Generator

As with any major construction project, shared solar involves a variety of trades and service providers, many of which may be sourced from the local community. Employment opportunities include ongoing landscape management, fence installation, electrical engineering, construction labor, consulting, permitting, and operations and maintenance.

In partnering with the surrounding community, roughly 10 to 15 construction jobs are expected to be created during the Projects building phase. These jobs are anticipated to last six months to one

year. Once operational, the facilities will provide two or more permanent jobs. Jobs may include maintenance technicians and vegetation management providers.

#### Environmental Benefits

These solar energy projects will help reduce Hawai'i's reliance on fossil fuels. According to the Hawai'i State Energy Office, only 11% of all Hawai'i energy is renewable. The remainder comes from coal, natural gas, and petroleum products, making Hawai'i the most fuel-dependent state in the nation as of 2019, according to the United States Energy Information Administration.

A 2019 study showed that Hawai'i's imports more than six million tons of petroleum; petroleum products and coal were 57% of the total tons of cargo imported through ports in Hawai'i. The amount of fuel imported to Hawai'i exceeds the amount of any other products or materials imported into the state.

To reduce the state's dependence on imported oil, Hawai'i leaders have set a progressive and ambitious goal of transitioning to 100% clean, sustainable, renewable-sourced electricity production by 2045.

Extracting and using fossil fuels is expensive and harmful to the environment. The risk of spills during the transport of fossil fuels poses a threat to the ocean and the local aquifer. In contrast, solar energy is free and readily abundant, especially in Hawaii. Unlike oil and coal, solar energy generation does not spew toxic chemicals into the atmosphere or add to greenhouse gas emissions, which is the leading contributor to global warming.

By helping cut carbon emissions and fossil fuel burning, solar energy not only helps reduce our carbon footprint, but also contributes to improving the greater public's health. One of the biggest benefits of solar energy is that it emits no local air pollutants, such as nitrous oxide, sulfur dioxide, and particulate matter emissions, all of which can cause health problems.

As part of Arion Energy and Pivot Energy's commitment to be good stewards of the 'āina, we will plant local native species on the land and incorporate fencing aligned with requirements from the local permitting authority, which will protect nearby animals.

#### Community Reinvestment Benefits

Arion Energy and Pivot Energy are committing to develop Projects that create a lasting positive impact on the community. We are offering a Community Benefits Package of \$10,000 per project (\$20,000 for both projects). To ensure that the Community Benefits Package best serves the Ka'ū area community, we formed a Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) to help guide the investment, so that the package will drive impact where it's most needed. The Committee expressed a preference for workforce development and training opportunities and ultimately decided that more input from other community members was necessary. We will continue our outreach to listen to local organizations and residents, as they know their community's needs best. Their feedback will determine the highest value reinvestment opportunities.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> U.S. Energy Information Administration - EIA - independent statistics and analysis. Hawaii - State Energy Profile Overview - U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA). (n.d.). Retrieved March 3, 2022, from https://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=HI.

## We reinvest as an extension of our mission

Strategic partnerships accelerate the shift to clean energy.

#### We drive social good for disadvantaged groups

Lowering barriers to opportunities for highest impact.

## Local communities drive impact

We listen to local organizations that know their community's needs best. We provide tangible support.

## We take a long-term view

Work to mitigate negative externalities. Track, learn, and iterate to ensure intended impact

## Community Benefits Package

\$10,000 per project will be reinvested into the community.

#### **Community Scoping & Affected Community Stakeholders**

Understanding that each community throughout the island is unique, this community outreach plan requires an individualized, site-specific strategy. Accordingly, we tailored our process to suit the needs and characteristics of the Ka'ū region (Ka Lae) community. Stakeholder Mapping and Local Community Scoping exercises were executed to fully vet the potential issues; identify potential supporters and critics, key influencers, and influential groups that the proposed project may positively or negatively impact. To facilitate this process, we partnered with the Hawai'i public relations and communications firm Strategies 360, who has experience engaging on energy projects, including two utility scale solar, one wind project, and one natural gas project.

#### Stakeholder Mapping

We developed a comprehensive list of key stakeholders and community groups within the Ka'ū area to focus outreach and engagement efforts during all stages of the Projects. This list was prepared based on an evaluation of the community and existing relationships to identify the appropriate individuals and organizations who can provide guidance, advice, feedback, and suggestions on the project and/or other individuals, organizations, and communities that the proposed project might impact.

A broad universe of individuals and groups was identified as part of this mapping exercise. The list below includes county, state, and federal elected officials whose districts may be impacted by the project or who have jurisdiction over subject matter committees relating to the Projects, and adjacent communities and their governing associations.

Arion Energy and Pivot Energy have already met with some of the identified stakeholders, some of whom have sent letters of support for our proposed project. We have included these letters in Appendix A: Phase I Outreach.

The following list will be further refined in concert with continued outreach efforts, as outlined in this document's Communication Strategy & Plan Components section. In addition, select individuals may be reconsidered during the outreach process to accurately reflect any changes to political office following the election cycles.

STAKEHOLDER TYPE	INDIVIDUAL/GROUP
Area Residents	Discovery Harbor Community Association Stakeholder Advisory Committee Members:
Environmental Organizations	350.org Blue Planet Foundation Sierra Club Ulupono Initiative Vibrant Hawa'i
Native Hawai'ian Organizations	Office of Hawai'ian Affairs
Non-Profit, Labor & Advocacy Organizations	Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce Hawai'i Island Economic Development Board
For-Profit Commercial Businesses or Organizations	Hawai'i Gas Kamehameha Schools
State Government	Airports - Dept. Of Transportation Highways - Dept. Of Transportation State Sen. Joy San Buenaventura State Rep. Jeanne Kapela House Committee on Agriculture House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection House Committee on Water & Land Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development & Tourism Senate Committee on Water & Land
County Government	Mayor Mitch Roth Councilmember Michelle Galimba Department of Planning Department of Public Works Department of Research and Development Fire Inspection Department
Federal Government	Congresswoman Jill Tokuda U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono

#### Local Community Scoping

The local community scoping exercise focused on groups and individuals who live near the project sites, operate businesses, perform cultural practices in the area, or represent area constituencies. The maps in the Completed Outreach section demonstrate the project sites as they relate to the surrounding community.

#### **Government approvals**

The government approvals for this project include planning department permits, building permits, grading permits, stockpiling permits, and electrical permits. All of these are through the Hawai'i County Building Department.

In addition, in alignment with the Communications Strategy & Plan Components section, we will be hosting community meetings wherein we invite feedback from the community on the progress of the project and their thoughts and feedback on the project.

#### **Cultural Resource Impacts**

We have conducted all appropriate cultural and archeological impact studies, and no significant impacts are expected as a result of these Projects. Below contains more information about the studies completed for each project site.

#### Ka Lae Solar Farm Cultural Resource Impacts

The development of this project site included a thorough process to identify and protect any cultural sites on, or in the vicinity of, the subject parcel. Arion Energy has commissioned the following studies for the proposed project site:

- An initial cultural assessment prepared by ASM Affiliates and dated April 20, 2018. This study
  identified some potential areas of cultural and archaeological significance in the area around
  the project that warranted further study to find a suitable location for the proposed project
  and avoid any effect or impairment due to the installation and operation of the project.
- An archaeological study prepared by ASM Affiliates dated Jan 8, 2021. This assessment concluded that the chances of the proposed solar development at the selected site (Site 5 in this study) encountering resources of significant cultural impact were highly unlikely. One site of historical significance, the Haunakalili pit, is near the proposed site but it will be avoided entirely during the CBRE Phase 2 project. Access to the Haunakalili pit will not be restricted due to the project installation. The assessment documents for both studies can be found in Appendix C: Cultural Resource Impact Studies.
- In addition, the State Historic Preservation District (SHPD) has reviewed and approved the project location as part of our grubbing permit application for the CBRE Phase 1 project currently under construction. We anticipate that the CBRE Phase 2 project will be able to rely upon the studies and assessments already completed. We are confident that we will receive the same approvals from SHPD when the time comes to apply for the same permits for the CBRE Phase 2 project.

#### Ka Lae 2 Solar Farm Cultural Resource Impacts

The development of this project site also included a thorough process to identify and protect cultural sites on, or in the vicinity of, the subject parcel. Arion Energy has commissioned the following studies for the proposed project site:

- An archaeological study prepared by ASM Affiliates dated Jan 8, 2021. This assessment
  concluded that the chances of the solar development at the selected site (Sites 1 and 2)
  encountering resources of significant cultural impact were highly unlikely. The study noted
  that this area had previously been extensively mechanically disturbed and used for citrus
  fruit production from 1979 to 2001; the trees are still present. This assessment is
  documented in Appendix C: Cultural Resource Impact Studies.
- Pivot Energy and Arion Energy will work with the local Department of Public Works and the SHPD to confirm the results of the archaeological study and clear the site for grubbing and grading activities. We do not expect any areas of historical or archaeological significance to be identified from this point forward; however, if any such areas are identified, we will ensure that the location of the solar array and associated equipment is sited well away from any such areas and that access to those areas is unencumbered to those who need it.

#### **Development Process**

The Ka Lae and Ka Lae 2 shared solar projects require many steps to complete. Below is an outline of the solar energy project development process. Although the actual outline may vary depending on several auxiliary factors, the process below will help the public understand the work that will be undertaken to complete the Projects.

- 1. Negotiation of lease; planning and site acquisition (completed)
- 2. Project RFP response (Aug 2022)
  - a. includes BAFO, Priority List Selection
- 3. Notification of Final Award Group (Feb 2023)
- 4. Interconnect: SIS, FS, Interconnect Agreement & PPA Complete (May 2023 Oct 2023)
  - a. by HELCO
- 5. Pre-development consultations with relevant government departments and other agencies; pre-permitting studies and reports (Mar 2023 Aug 2023)
  - a. includes archaeological and cultural studies; SHPO consultation, ecological studies etc.
- 6. Negotiation of Standard Form Contract (Mar 2023 Oct 23)
- 7. Development and other discretionary permits (May 23 Jan 24)
  - a. includes any required development/planning permits and advisory agency approvals
- 8. Building, Electrical, Access Permits (Jan 24 Oct 24)
- 9. Procurement of major equipment (Jan 24 Oct 24)
- 10. Project construction (Oct 24 Jan 25)
  - a. obtain building permits and mobilize to the site
- 11. Project completion (Jan 25)
  - a. acceptance testing and permit closeout (Feb 2025)

Concerns raised by the public can be addressed through alterations to the project plans or as conditions of the development permit. More information about the alignment of the community outreach strategy with the development timeline is included in the Construction Related Updates section.

The following table reflects the general progression of community outreach and activities for development.

RFP Milestone	Program Activity	Community Plan Phase	Development Activities
Prior to RFP Submission		Phase I	
Priority List Selection	Interconnection & Transmission Study	Phase III	Order site Studies and Reports
Final Award Group	Review Interconnection Study Results	Phase III Phase IV	Public Meetings; review site Study results
SFC Contract Negotiations	SFC Contract Negotiations	Phase III Phase IV	Engage Community Supporters and track feedback/comments received
SFC Contract Signed	SFC Contract Signed	Phase IV Phase V	Incorporate Community Feedback and seek Discretionary Approvals
		Phase V	Seek ministerial permits Mobilize to construction

#### **Construction Related Updates**

One month before any construction commences, a notice of construction-related activities will be posted to the projects websites. Notices will be sent to area lawmakers and relevant community groups to ensure communications reach a broad audience. These actions will begin at least one month prior to the start of scheduled work. The websites will be updated as work progresses and/or monthly, whichever is sooner. Additional media outreach may be conducted should the construction warrant such action. Construction updates will be distributed promptly to relevant stakeholders and community audiences to ensure full transparency with the community.

Due to the size and locations of the projects, there will be minimal impact on the surrounding communities.

- Traffic: Minimal traffic impacts are anticipated during the construction process. Drivers traversing the local community may experience minor inconveniences; however, it is anticipated that any impacts, if at all, will occur during the delivery phase, in which materials will be transported prior to the start of construction. This phase is estimated to last roughly eight weeks or less. No road closures or traffic control measures are anticipated during the delivery phase.
- **Noise:** No significant noise impacts are anticipated. Construction activities will be limited to daytime hours (typically 7am 5pm) to minimize disruption.

- **Dust:** No significant dust impacts are anticipated. If the potential for community impact from dust due to construction activities arises, dust control and other best practices will be implemented to minimize such impact.
- Other Construction Impacts: No significant additional construction impacts are anticipated.

Arion Energy and Pivot Energy intend to remain transparent and communicative with stakeholders and the impacted community. Should additional construction impacts arise during the delivery or construction phases, work hours may be adjusted to best align with "off hours." This may result in contractors working during main business hours or at other times of the day when there are minimal disruptions. If these measures fail to resolve community concerns, community feedback will be sought to find a more appropriate solution. The cadence of communications will be further described in the Continuing Outreach Phase IV section.

#### **Local Labor and Prevailing Wage Commitment**

Arion Energy and Pivot Energy recognize the importance of sourcing local labor to construct and operate shared solar facilities. As such, we are fully committed to hiring local workers in which the project is located first, from neighboring areas second, from neighboring islands third, and hiring non-resident labor only as a last resort. Additionally, we commit that at least 80% of non-supervisory construction and operations workers' hours associated with the construction, operations and maintenance of a project will be paid at the prevailing wage equivalent under HRS Chapter 104.

Arion and Pivot contracted construction activities for the CBRE Phase I projects with a contractor who is signatory to project labor agreements with local union groups under which local labor is provided, and the prevailing wage threshold is typically exceeded. It is anticipated that this same approach will be applied to our CBRE Phase II awards.

Our EPC contractor partner for this project has a signatory agreement with local labor unions. Should Arion Energy and Pivot Energy choose to select a different EPC contractor, we would require at minimum a commitment to prevailing wage and/or agreements with local unions.

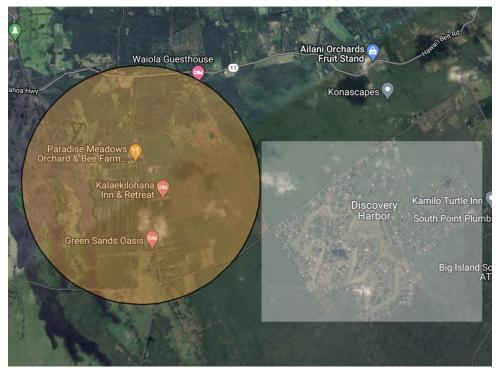
#### **Completed Outreach**

#### Phase I Outreach

Community feedback is paramount to the successful adoption of Shared Solar across the state. Arion Energy and Pivot Energy have taken several steps to meet and engage with community leaders and residents. Strategies 360 has been providing consulting services since July 2021 to provide greater insight and understanding of the community in which the Projects will be constructed. As part of our initial engagement efforts, we conducted outreach to the community within a 1-mile radius of the project sites, indicated in orange. The extended area of engagement (in white) goes beyond 1 mile to inform the community and seek feedback and demonstrate Arion Energy and Pivot Energy's commitment to transparency and to the community the project will serve. These stakeholders were contacted directly through a direct mail and digital engagement effort.

As described in the Community Outreach Lessons Learned and Key Takeaways section, in our initial engagement efforts, we discovered future engagement efforts will require extending the radius further. Moreover, it has been recommended that we take a concentric approach to outreach, as

well as a strategic approach to ensure that the outreach is as inclusive as possible, and the information is reaching those with the most limited financial resources that could benefit the most.



Map: Kaʻ $\bar{u}$  region /South Point (Ka Lae) Project Outreach - 1 Mile Radius and surrounding communities



Map: South Point (Ka Lae) Project Outreach – 1 Mile Radius and surrounding communities

Prior to submitting the application for the RFP, representatives from both companies co-hosted a virtual town hall meeting, which allowed members of the Ka'ū community to learn about the project, provide feedback, and ask questions. It also provided Arion Energy and Pivot Energy with a forum that allowed them to hear concerns and community desires directly from residents and incorporate it into the plans. This engagement was coupled with a robust digital, social media, and direct mail campaign. Feedback from meetings with community leaders and a virtual town hall hosted before the submission of the application to HELCO can be found within the following sections:

- Local Community Support or Opposition
- Appendix A: Phase I Outreach

The development team worked with S360 to organize and host a town hall meeting for the Kaʻū / South Point area (Ka Lae) community. To promote the town hall meeting and encourage participation, we launched a direct mail and digital media campaign. These campaigns directed recipients to a project website, which provided information on the project and allowed them to sign up to learn more at the town hall meeting. Supporting evidence of these efforts can be found in Appendix A.

Arion Energy and Pivot Energy engaged with the community through digital, Facebook, Instagram, and Nextdoor ads. These ads encouraged users to attend a virtual town hall meeting, allowing Arion Energy and Pivot Energy to educate the public about our proposed project, shared solar in general, and to receive valuable feedback on the project. Refer to Appendix A to see copies of the Ads.

The greatest engagement came from Facebook Ads. Conversely, engagement on Nextdoor performed below average. As a result, the budget that was initially allocated to Nextdoor ads was redirected to Facebook following a full week of analysis. All digital ads ran from July 25 2022 through August 8 2022 to promote a virtual town hall meeting that was held the evening of August 8 2022.

In addition to digital outreach efforts, we sent postcards to residents within the identified outreach area identified in the Community Scoping & Affected Community Stakeholders section. The postcards were sent to residents twice in August. Each postcard encouraged residents to attend the virtual town hall meeting and to learn more about community solar.

Overall, efforts to promote the virtual town hall resulted in the delivery of 646 postcards. Digital ads promoting this meeting resulted in over 30,000 impressions.

Residents who signed up to participate in the virtual town hall meeting were contacted twice after they provided their email address via the website intake form. These reminder emails, which included a link to the Zoom meeting, were sent early on the day of the event, and 30 minutes prior to the meeting start time.

During the meeting, the Arion and Pivot Energy teams presented a slideshow which included about shared solar as well as basic details about the specific project site. A copy of the slides presented are included in Appendix A.

Feedback from the virtual town hall meeting held on August 8 was neutral. Attendees were given an opportunity to provide written comments and ask questions at the virtual town hall meeting.

In addition to discussions with the general public, Phase I included one-on-one meetings with area lawmakers and key stakeholders such as State Senators Wakai, Inouye, and Kanuha; State

Representatives Lowen and Kapela; and Hawai'i County Councilmembers David and Kāneali'i-Kleinfelder. These meetings allowed Arion Energy and Pivot Energy to share preliminary project plans as well as to solicit initial feedback and sentiment on the project from key decision-makers.

#### Phase II Outreach

This process involved conducting meetings and in-depth interviews with key stakeholders to advise on the proposed project, obtain initial impressions and feedback. A Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) was formed and convened. The primary purpose of an SAC was to determine the specific needs of the affected community and provide recommendations as to how best to provide appropriate community benefits that positively impact Ka'ū / South Point area residents.

As part of our engagement efforts in Phase 2 we conducted one on one in-depth interviews and formed a Stakeholder Advisory Committee composed of local residents.

#### In-Depth Interviews

Arion Energy and Pivot Energy engaged Strategies 360 (S360) to assist in our outreach efforts. To build on our efforts in Phase I of our Community Outreach Plan, S360 conducted one-on-one In-Depth Interviews with area lawmakers, community leaders, and business owners to identify people who live around the proposed project site who would be able to provide insight and generate ideas to ensure our project leaves a lasting and positive impact for its lifetime. The in-depth interviews provided the opportunity to gain insight into the individuals' and organizations' unique points of view and the issues that they or their constituencies value most. They allow participants to provide specific information in their respective areas of expertise. Based on their diverse experience, they can alert Arion Energy and Pivot Energy to any potential concerns or pitfalls to prepare to address going forward. Additionally, it will allow for exploration of specific prior experience with similar projects to understand any lessons learned or to obtain advice to improve the process and the chances for the project's ultimate success.

These discussions occurred over the course of 3-4 weeks, during which time S360 identified four community members to serve on a Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC). They are:

- Kaʻohi Mokuhaliʻi
- Jason Masters
- Kilohana Domingo
- Kenny Joyce

Arion Energy and Pivot Energy acknowledge that Hawai'i's geographic diversity creates challenges that are unique to each individual community. For example, residents in South Point (Ka Lae) do not have the same needs as residents in Hilo, etc. These individuals come from various backgrounds including business, conservation, ranching, education, and city planning. They are deeply rooted in the Ka'ū Community and care deeply about the impact of our proposed Community Based Renewable Energy (CBRE) solar project.

#### Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meetings

SAC Members volunteered between seven to nine hours over three weeks. They participated in meetings with a representative of Pivot Energy and Arion Energy and S360 to discuss the project, provide feedback, and offer guidance on the project and any potential community benefits. The first two meetings were conducted virtually on Zoom, and the last meeting was conducted in person at the Kalaekilohana Inn & Retreat which is located on S Point Rd in Na'alehu, less than a mile from the Ka Lae project sites.

The first meeting took place on January 24th, 2023 on Zoom. During this meeting with the SAC, Pivot Energy and Arion Energy introduced the concept of Community Solar to the members as well as presented information about the projects. SAC Members expressed concerns about a CBRE project in Ka Lae that they had no knowledge about, and had additional questions about, a project that was approved during Phase I of the HECO RFP for CBRE. This meeting also provided time for the Committee to enter into a virtual breakout session to compile a list of questions related to the CBRE program and Projects that they would like to discuss during the next meeting.

During the second Zoom meeting on January 31st 2023, a representative of Pivot Energy answered the questions from the last meeting, covered the benefits of shared solar and of the projects, and engaged the SAC to discuss potential initiatives for the community reinvestment packages. The group had the strongest preference for workforce development training and scholarship opportunities. Additionally, electrification efforts for income-limited offgrid residents and agricultural initiatives were discussed. Much of the discussion also centered on what Arion Energy and Pivot Energy can do to preserve agricultural use on the Ka Lae 2 property and maximize as many of the benefits as possible to the local community, especially disadvantaged community members.

The third meeting was done in person and took place on February 7th, 2023. Conversations for the third meeting were focused on outstanding questions and concerns from SAC members, such as specifics about the project, the site location, and concerns about the project's benefits to the neighborhoods immediately surrounding the proposed project site. During the meeting the SAC also provided recommendations for mitigation measures, and brainstormed ideas about the reinvestment packages. The presentations can be found in Appendix B: Phase II Outreach. Additionally, refer to the FAQ section on our website. The next section will cover key lessons learned and takeaways from the first two phases.

#### **Community Outreach Lessons Learned and Key Takeaways**

We have learned many lessons during our outreach efforts, and will continue to learn during our continued outreach. The feedback we have received will be used to tailor our community benefits package to deliver meaningful positive impact to the local community

The stakeholder meetings conducted were incredibly productive, providing Arion Energy and Pivot Energy with insight for how to be good neighbors and to communicate with the Ka'ū communities. Ultimately, the main takeaways include:

#### 1) Transparency is critical

SAC Members felt that Arion Energy and Pivot Energy's development work thus far was not clear to the public. They recommend clearly stating all aspects of the existing and proposed projects including the HECO RFP process and requirements, permits approved, timeline, pricing and funding mechanisms, and community engagement plan on our websites. Arion Energy and Pivot Energy have incorporated this feedback into our communications plans. Beyond the information provided

in this Community Outreach Plan and the Projects websites, Arion Energy and Pivot Energy will modify future public meeting presentations and upcoming monthly status updates to include more information about all aspects of the project.

#### 2) Prioritize Kaʻū

SAC Members felt strongly that Ka'ū residents, especially low to medium income households in the region, should get primary access to subscriptions. They also expressed a desire to hire locally — specifically in the Ka'ū region — for Arion Energy and Pivot Energy's construction and operations needs. Arion Energy and Pivot Energy are in discussions with partners and stakeholders to prioritize community benefits and workforce development opportunities for local residents as much as possible. We will provide more information about our efforts to prioritize the local area throughout the development process.

#### 3) Be good stewards of the community

SAC Members felt that Arion Energy and Pivot Energy should be longtime community contributors beyond a single financial investment, such as a reinvestment package. They encouraged Arion Energy and Pivot Energy to get involved with neighborhood activities and recommended the companies have an ongoing, long-term relationship with the community. They pointed to previous clean energy projects in the region who installed clean energy but failed to have any sort of presence in the community. In regards to the reinvestment package, the working group advised Arion Energy and Pivot Energy to conduct additional research into how they might be willing to reinvest into the community. Arion Energy and Pivot Energy are exploring ways in which they can increase it's community relationship building activities on an ongoing basis over the life of the project. Pivot Energy is developing similar plans in other states and is excited to apply the experience in other markets that will help create robust value to the local Kaʻū area in the long-term.

Pivot Energy and Arion Energy take their comments and recommendations to heart and are considering ways in which we can continue to make a positive impact on Ka'ū residents and the planet. The public meetings and monthly status updates will include more information about the measures to incorporate the feedback and suggestions during all phases.

#### 4) Improve outreach

SAC Members advised Arion Energy and Pivot Energy that future engagement efforts will require extending the 1 mile radius further to reach more people as the area is very sparsely populated. Moreover, it has been recommended that we take a concentric approach to outreach, as well as a strategic approach to ensure that the outreach is as inclusive as possible, and the information is reaching those with the most limited financial resources that could benefit the most. Additionally, they recommended we not rely on digital media or social media, with the exception of the Ka'ū Calendar, to get the word out. Instead printed flyers posted in key areas such as area schools will help spread the word about the project and upcoming events.

#### 5) More input is required to determine the community reinvestment package

The Committee expressed a preference for workforce development and training opportunities and ultimately decided that more input from other community members was necessary. We will continue our outreach to listen to local organizations and residents, as they know their community's needs best. Their feedback will determine the highest value reinvestment opportunities.

#### **Local Community Support or Opposition**

Prior to submission of the RFP, Arion Energy and Pivot Energy met one-on-one with stakeholders. These stakeholders welcome the project and have submitted letters indicating their support, which can be found in Appendix A: Phase I Outreach.

While a few renewable energy projects have faced opposition from Native Hawai'ian communities in the past, opposition is not anticipated for this project. The proposed project is not a utility-scale solar development, and initial community feedback seemed neutral.

Below is a summary of the primary concerns about the Projects expressed by the community members and stakeholders engaged in Phases I and II, and corresponding mitigation measures/point of clarification:

- Lack of sufficient transparency about existing and planned projects including but not limited to details about the sites, funding mechanisms, the government and Hawaiian Electric's approval process for the projects, and how pricing is developed and regulated by the PUC
  - Arion Energy and Pivot Energy will provide more detailed information in future meetings, and have expanded the project websites to include more project details and address common questions and answers in an FAQ section. Additionally, regular status updates will be posted to the website.
- Concern subscribers will pay more than a traditional electric bill
  - Subscribing to Shared Solar will always result in a lower cost bill than if they were not subscribed to the program. This savings will be reflected in the Bill Credits.
- The location being in an agricultural zone and any potential displacement of agricultural production (existing fruit trees)
  - o The land will be preserved to the greatest extent possible. Native plants will be planted for all ground cover. This means that the land will retain some agricultural involvement during solar operations and has the additional benefit of soil quality improvement over time. We understand that the landowners for the Ka Lae 2 project were planning to remove the trees regardless, however after making the request to keep them, they are open to preserving the fruit trees. We prefer to design and build around them, if at all possible. Arion Energy and Pivot Energy are seeking potential local community partners that would agree to help harvest the fruit and distribute it where needed as an additional community benefit. If we're able to find a solution for the oranges onsite, we would survey the location of each tree and see if it would be possible to design around them or to minimize the number that need to be removed. We are open to the suggestion made by a SAC member, that if any trees would need to be removed they could be donated for transplanting to another location.
- Concern if decommissioning will be done on time
  - Yes, per our contract agreements we will be required to decommission on time, and return the land in the same condition as before the project.
- If benefits including job opportunities and subscriber savings will go to those closest to the Projects, especially low income individuals
  - We will set aside the first three months to invite those closest to the project to subscribe to the projects. We are committed to serving low income individuals. In our continuing outreach efforts we will endeavor to partner with community organizations and stakeholders to help us spread the word about subscription benefits and job opportunities to those closest to the projects, especially low income individuals.
  - We want to note that Pivot Energy is currently acquiring subscribers for one of the largest dedicated low-income community solar portfolios in the country – 41MW dedicated exclusively to Colorado households (10,000 to 12,000 low-income Colorado households). We are learning lessons from that experience to ensure that for these

- Hawai'i projects we build a community-coordinated subscriber acquisition strategy that leans into energy burden reduction, education and advocacy, and improved access to the clean energy transition.
- Also, based on our social impact pillars of community giving, our strong preference is to use the community reinvestment funds to support organizations that support low-income residents. Our goal is to gather input from this group to help inform our reinvestment plan.

Additionally, the following concerns were expressed about the CBRE Program:

- The CBRE Program allows those that leave the community to take the subscriber benefits with them. The Projects will not provide emergency power during power outages to the local area. The Projects do not help those that are not connected to the electric grid.
  - Arion Energy and Pivot Energy will submit all comments received in the unedited form to both Hawaiian Electric and the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission.

In addition to localized efforts to engage with the community as described in Completed Outreach Phase I and Phase II sections, Arion Energy and Pivot Energy engaged Strategies 360 in July 2021. Strategies 360 has been providing consulting services since that time to provide greater insight and understanding of the community in which the proposed project will be constructed. Strategies 360 has provided an understanding of the community sentiment towards solar projects. Often times concerns involve direct impacts to the community, such as:

- Location of equipment close to homes
- Traffic, noise, dust
- Impacts to view planes
- Density of energy projects in marginalized communities

While CBRE projects may not necessarily apply to all of these concerns, these are all factors in which Arion Energy and Pivot Energy are cognizant of and plan to address in the community engagement phases described in this Outreach Plan. Moreover, should any opposition, or concerns arise, Arion Energy and Pivot Energy will make every effort to be receptive towards the community and find solutions to such concerns if feasible.

#### **Continuing Outreach**

Phase III: Public Meetings

Over 40 community members attended a community open house held in-person at the Nā'ālehu Community Center, and another 80 people joined remotely via Ka'ū Radio on May 31, 2023. The open house allowed the community another opportunity to learn about the project, pose questions, and provide any feedback. As required in the Mid-Tier SFC, the public meeting and comment solicitation occurred before the execution of the project PPA. In alignment with the detailed instructions for community outreach plans within the RFP, Arion Energy and Pivot Energy acknowledge the requirement to provide the required media and key organizations information 30 days before public meetings. For details about the open house including the outreach efforts please see Appendix D.

These events are vital to firmly grasp the proposed project's potential impact on the community, provide an opportunity to learn if community concerns exist, and provide meaningful suggestions or recommendations on the project proposal. Any feedback will be considered, and proposal adjustments will be made as necessary and feasible. Additional public meetings may be held.

#### Phase IV: Supporter Engagement

Supporter engagement will involve using some of the same methods used in Phases II and III, as well as multiple forms of communication. The goal in this phase would be to partner with community members who are supportive of the proposed project and empower them to be a conduit to the community at-large. The voice of supportive community members will allow for enhanced engagement with others and build a stronger community backing for the shared solar project.

#### Phase V: Ongoing Engagement

The last part of the process involves continuing community engagement and outreach. Finalized project details will be shared with the community, as well as any new information or other project updates on a monthly basis, utilizing the project website, social media, traditional media, public meetings, and face-to-face meetings, as appropriate.

The community will be re-engaged to discuss new developments and review changes to solicit further input and advice on how to proceed with seeking community input and participation. Public meetings will be conducted where there will be formal presentations made on the project, with detailed explanations of the anticipated timeline, impact on the community, and any mitigating actions or community benefits or potential investments will be shared.

Arion Energy and Pivot Energy will provide monthly status updates through updates to the project websites. If substantial changes to the timeline are anticipated, resources including an updated Project Summary and Outreach Plan Table and community presentation will also be created and linked to the website.

#### **Project Summary and Community Outreach Tables**

Ka La	Ka Lae Solar Farm - Project Summary and Community Outreach Plan		
*	Proposer Name (Company name)	Pivot Energy and Arion Energy	
*	Parent Company / Owner / Sponsor / business Affiliation / etc.	Arion Energy (Owner) Pivot Energy (Sponsor)	
*	Project Name	Ka Lae Solar Farm-M2	
*	Net nameplate capacity (MW) (must match Proposal information)	0.50MWac	
*	Proposed Facility Location, Street Address if available, or what City/Area on the island it is near	93-5570 Kai Makani Place, Naalehu, HI 96772	
*	TMK(s) of Facility Location (must match Proposal information)	TMK (3) 9-3-004-040	
*	Point of Interconnection's Circuit (must match Proposal information)	Malakole 4	
*	Project Description (in 200 words or less)	This 0.50 MWac Solar PV Generation Plant will be located on the South side of Hawai'i Island (Naʿālehu). It will provide energy bill savings to participating	

		subscribers, bring local jobs and economic benefits, and help the Island of Hawai'i transition to clean, renewable energy.
*	Project site map	See the Project Site Map in the Project Description section of this document.
*	Site layout plan	See the Project Site Map in the Project Description section of this document.
*	Interconnection route	See the Project Site Map in the Project Description section of this Community Outreach Plan.
Enviro	onmental Compliance and Permitting Pl	an
*	Overall land use and environmental permits and approvals strategy	Land Use, Environmental and Construction Permits and Approvals are available on the Environmental Impact Page on the project website: <a href="https://go.pivotenergy.net/environmental-impact-ka-lae">https://go.pivotenergy.net/environmental-impact-ka-lae</a>
*	Gantt format schedule which identifies the sequence of permit applications and approval activities and critical path. Schedule must be in MM/DD/YY format	The Gantt format schedule is available on the Environmental Impact Page on the project website: <a href="https://go.pivotenergy.net/environmental-impact-ka-lae">https://go.pivotenergy.net/environmental-impact-ka-lae</a>
	City Zoning and Land Use Classification	Classification as outlined in the City Zoning and State Land Use Classification section is provided on the Environmental Impact Page on the project website: <a href="https://go.pivotenergy.net/environmental-impact-ka-lae">https://go.pivotenergy.net/environmental-impact-ka-lae</a>
*	Discretionary and non-discretionary Land use, environmental and construction permits and approvals	Permits and Approvals as mentioned in the Land Use, Environmental and Construction Permits section on the Environmental Impact Page on the project website: <a href="https://go.pivotenergy.net/environmental-impact-ka-lae">https://go.pivotenergy.net/environmental-impact-ka-lae</a> and summarized within Government Approval section of this Community Outreach Plan.
*	Listing of Permits and approvals	Permits and Approvals as mentioned in the Land Use, Environmental and Construction Permits section on the Environmental Impact Page on the project website: <a href="https://go.pivotenergy.net/environmental-impact-ka-lae">https://go.pivotenergy.net/environmental-impact-ka-lae</a> and summarized within Government Approval section of this Community Outreach Plan.
*	Preliminary environmental assessment of the Site (including any pre-existing environmental conditions)	Preliminary Environmental Assessment of the Site is documented in the Environmental Impact Page on the project website:  https://go.pivotenergy.net/environmental-impact-ka-lae
Cultural Resource Impacts		

	Proposer's updated Community Outreach Plan must include a plan that (1) identifies any cultural, historic, or natural resources that will be impacted by the project (2) describes the potential impacts on these resources and (3) identifies measures to mitigate such impacts	Key information as provided in the Cultural Resource Impacts section and Appendix C in this Community Outreach Plan.
Comr	nunity Outreach	
*	Detailed Community Outreach Plan	As described throughout this Community Outreach Plan, with the details in the Completed Outreach and Continuing Outreach sections.
	Local Community support or opposition	
*		See the Local Community Support or Opposition section of this Community Outreach Plan.
*	Community outreach efforts	See the Completed Outreach Efforts, Communication Strategy & Plan Components, and Appendices A and B in this Community Outreach Plan.
	Community benefits	
*		See Project Benefits and Community Benefits section in this Community Outreach Plan.

Ka La	Ka Lae 2 Project Summary and Community Outreach Plan		
*	Proposer Name (Company name)	Pivot Energy and Arion Energy	
*	Parent Company / Owner / Sponsor / business Affiliation / etc.	Arion Energy (Owner) Pivot Energy (Sponsor)	
*	Project Name	Ka Lae2 Solar Farm-M2	
*	Net nameplate capacity (MW) (must match Proposal information)	o.50MWac	
*	Proposed Facility Location, Street Address if available, or what City/Area on the island it is near	93-2307 South Point Road, Na'alehu, HI 96772	
*	TMK(s) of Facility Location (must match Proposal information)	3-9-3-004-027	
*	Point of Interconnection's Circuit (must match Proposal information)	South Point 11	
*	Project Description (in 200 words or less)	This 0.50 MWac Solar PV Generation Plant will be located on the South side of Hawai'i Island (Nāʿālehu). It will provide energy bill savings to participating	

		subscribers, bring local jobs and economic benefits, and help the Island of Hawai'i transition to clean, renewable energy.
*	Project site map	The map from section 2.8.1.b Community Scoping & Affected Community Stakeholders will be included.
*	Site layout plan	The layout from section 2.8.1.a Project Description will be included
*	Interconnection route	The layout from section 2.5.4 Interconnection route will be included
Enviro	onmental Compliance and Permitting Pl	an
*	Overall land use and environmental permits and approvals strategy	Information reflective of the proposal response to section 2.6.3 Land Use, Environmental and Construction Permits and Approvals will be included. <a href="https://go.pivotenergy.net/environmental-impact-ka-lae2">https://go.pivotenergy.net/environmental-impact-ka-lae2</a>
*	Gantt format schedule which identifies the sequence of permit applications and approval activities and critical path. Schedule must be in MM/DD/YY format	The Gantt format schedule is available on the Environmental Impact Page on the project website: <a href="https://go.pivotenergy.net/environmental-impact-ka-lae2">https://go.pivotenergy.net/environmental-impact-ka-lae2</a>
*	City Zoning and Land Use Classification	Classification as outlined in the City Zoning and State Land Use Classification section is provided on the Environmental Impact Page on the project website: <a href="https://go.pivotenergy.net/environmental-impact-ka-lae2">https://go.pivotenergy.net/environmental-impact-ka-lae2</a>
*	Discretionary and non-discretionary Land use, environmental and construction permits and approvals	Permits and Approvals as mentioned in the Land Use, Environmental and Construction Permits section on the Environmental Impact Page on the project website: <a href="https://go.pivotenergy.net/environmental-impact-ka-lae2">https://go.pivotenergy.net/environmental-impact-ka-lae2</a> and summarized within Government Approval section of this Community Outreach Plan.
*	Listing of Permits and approvals	Permits and Approvals as mentioned in the Land Use, Environmental and Construction Permits section on the Environmental Impact Page on the project website:  https://go.pivotenergy.net/environmental-impact-ka-lae2 and summarized within Government Approval section of this Community Outreach Plan.
*	Preliminary environmental assessment of the Site (including any pre-existing environmental conditions)	Preliminary Environmental Assessment of the Site is documented in the Environmental Impact Page on the project website: <a href="https://go.pivotenergy.net/environmental-impact-ka-lae2">https://go.pivotenergy.net/environmental-impact-ka-lae2</a>
Cultural Resource Impacts		

	Proposer's updated Community	
	Outreach Plan must include a plan that (1) identifies any cultural, historic, or natural resources that will	
	be impacted by the project (2) describes the potential impacts on these resources and (3) identifies	Key information as provided in the Cultural Resource Impacts section and Appendix C in this Community
*	measures to mitigate such impacts	Outreach Plan.
Comr	nunity Outreach	
*	Detailed Community Outreach Plan	As described throughout this Community Outreach Plan, with the details in the Completed Outreach and Continuing Outreach sections.
	Local Community support or opposition	
*		See the Local Community Support or Opposition section of this Community Outreach Plan.
*	Community outreach efforts	See the Completed Outreach Efforts, Communication Strategy & Plan Components, and Appendices A and B in this Community Outreach Plan.
	Community benefits	
*		See Project Benefits and Community Benefits section in this Community Outreach Plan.



#### REPRESENTATIVE NICOLE LOWEN

HAWAII STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

August 2nd, 2022

Pivot Energy Development LLC 1750 15th St, Suite 400 Denver, CO 80202

RE: Support for Pivot Energy Development's CBRE Project Proposal

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of Pivot Energy Development's Community Based Renewable Energy (CBRE) proposed projects in the Waikaloa, Southpoint and Glenwood areas. Currently, Hawai'i is striving to become less reliant on imported energy sources, to decarbonize its economy, and to address the high cost of living by reducing energy costs. In order to meet these goals, the State must pursue a multitude of alternatives to fossil fuel. Solar energy projects help us to achieve all these goals, and CBRE projects in particular have the added benefit of allowing customers who cannot put solar on their rooftops to participate in Hawai'i's clean energy transition. This often includes low-to moderate-income customers, renters, and others who have not had equitable access to the benefits of clean energy in the past.

Pivot Energy Development has expressed that they are committed to providing significant costsavings on participating subscribers' electric bills, and to engaging with the residents near the project sites to discuss projects impacts and opportunities for community benefits.

As the State continues to explore effective ways to increase renewable energy generation throughout the State, CBRE projects will greatly help us to meet the challenges of today and the future. I hope that you favorably consider Pivot Energy Development's proposal.

Sincerely,

Representative Nicole Lowen State of Hawaii, House District 6

Chair, Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

REPRESENTATIVE NICOLE LOWEN lacktriangle STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 6 lacktriangle KAILUA-KONA, HOLUALOA, KALAOA Hawaii State Capitol +415 S. Beretania St., #425, Honolulu, HI 96813 + (808)586-8400 + replowen@capitol.hawaii.gov



#### SENATOR GLENN WAKAI HAWAII STATE SENATE

August 8, 2022

Pivot Energy Development LLC 1750 15th St Suite 400 Denver, CO 80202

Arion Energy Inc. 500 Ala Moana Blvd, Suite 7400 Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Support for Arion Energy & Pivot Energy Development's CBRE Project Proposal

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of Arion Energy & Pivot Energy Development's Community Based Renewable Energy (CBRE) proposed projects in the Waikaloa, Southpoint and Glenwood areas. Currently, Hawaii is striving to become more and more self-sufficient in order to protect itself from fluctuating oil prices and availability, to increase energy security and to be less reliant on outside sources. It's clear that, in order to meet our 100% renewable energy goal by 2045, the State must pursue a multitude of alternatives to fossil fuel. Solar energy is a renewable energy source that has the potential of meeting many of the challenges this State is facing. Solar is a safe alternative that can replace current fossil fuels like coal and oil for generation of electricity that add to greenhouse gases.

I believe that the proposed location for Arion Energy & Pivot Energy Development's CBRE projects in Waikaloa, Southpoint and Glenwood areas are well-situated to provide minimal disruption to the community, while providing significant cost-savings on residents' electric bills. I am also pleased that Arion/Pivot Energy Development is committed to discussing how the projects can work with the local and State government, as well as the communities, to create additional opportunities for community benefits.

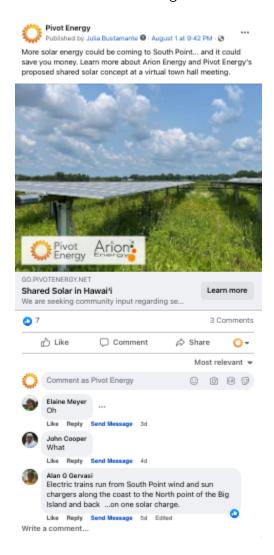
As the State continues to explore effective ways to increase renewable energy generation throughout the State, projects like Arion's/Pivot's proposal will greatly help us to meet the challenges of today and the future. Thank you for your favorable consideration of Arion's/Pivot's proposal.

Aloha,

State Senator

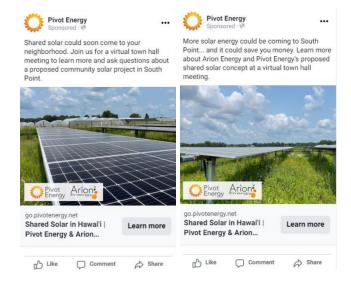
SENATOR GLENN WAKAI → STATE SENATE DISTRICT 15 → KALIHI, SALT LAKE, FOSTER VILLAGE Hawaii State Capitol + 415 S. Beretania St., #407, Hon., HI 96813 + 808} 586-8585 + senwakai@capitol.hawaii.gov

In addition to letters of support, we had the opportunity to receive written comments from community members. The following comments were received either via email or on Facebook prior to the town hall meeting.



#### Digital and Direct Mail Communications

#### Facebook Ads:



#### Instagram Ads:



#### Nextdoor Ads:



#### Digital Ads:

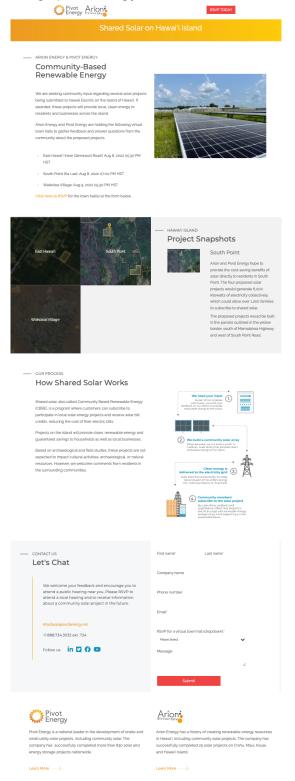


#### Direct Mail Postcard:



Front Back Digital ads and postcards were also accompanied by an island-specific website with project-specific content.

Microsite Project Website: go.pivotenergy.net/Hawai'i-shared-solar



#### August 2022 Virtual Town Hall

#### Presentation



#### Slide 3

#### WHO ARE ARION ENERGY & PIVOT ENERGY?



Arion Energy has a history of creating renewable energy resources in Hawai'i, including community solar projects.

The company has successfully completed 25 solar projects on O'ahu, Maui, Kaua'i, and Hawai'i Island.

Arion Energy has two headquarters: one in Hawai'i and one in Colorado.



Pivot Energy is a national leader in the development of onsite and small utility solar projects, including community solar.

The company has successfully completed more than 830 solar and energy storage projects nationwide.

Pivot Energy is a certified B Corporation and evaluates internal decisions on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors. Its headquarters is in Colorado.





#### Slide 4

WHAT IS SHARED SOLAR? ALSO CALLED COMMUNITY BASED RENEWABLE ENERGY, OR COMMUNITY SOLAR





Video Courtesy: Hawaiian Electric

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WHAT IS SHARED SOLAR? ALSO CALLED COMMUNITY BASED RENEWABLE ENERGY, OR COMMUNITY SOLAR



- Shared solar makes solar energy accessible to anyone who cannot or does not want solar on their roof or property
- Electricity generated by the proposed project will feed the grid and help Hawai'i reach its renewable energy goals





#### Slide 6

# How Does Shared Solar Work?



Community members subscribe



We want your feedback on our efforts to provide renewable energy to the island.

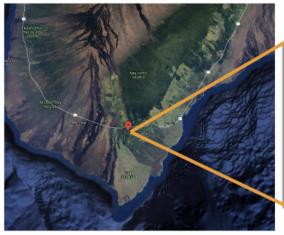
If awarded by Hawaiian Electric, we will build a medium-scale facility that provides clean, renewable energy to the island.

Solar electricity produced by the array will become part of the utility's energy mix, reducing Hawai'i's reliance on fossil fuels.

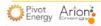
Residents and organizations that subscribe to the project will offset their property's electrical usage with renewable energy, saving money while supporting a more sustainable future.



# DETAILS ABOUT SOUTH POINT SOLAR PROJECTS (6 MWDC, ~600 HOUSEHOLDS)







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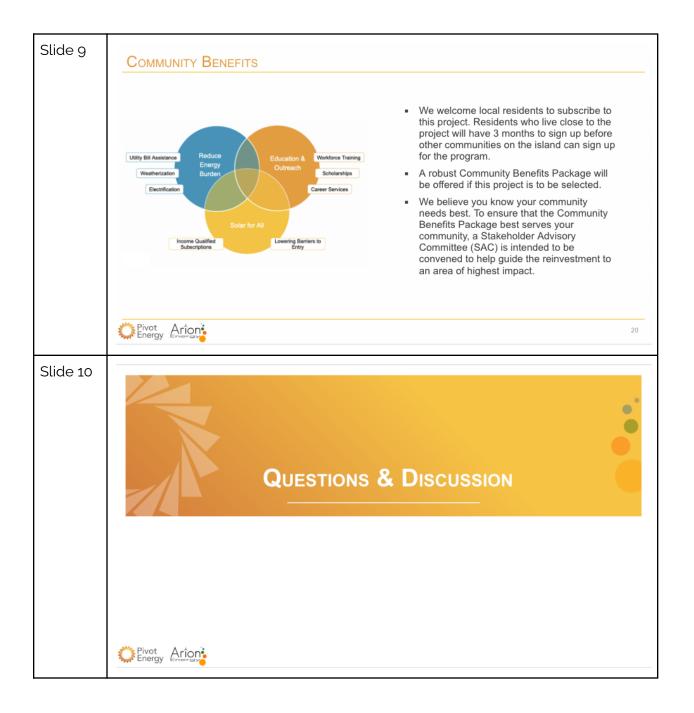
#### Slide 8

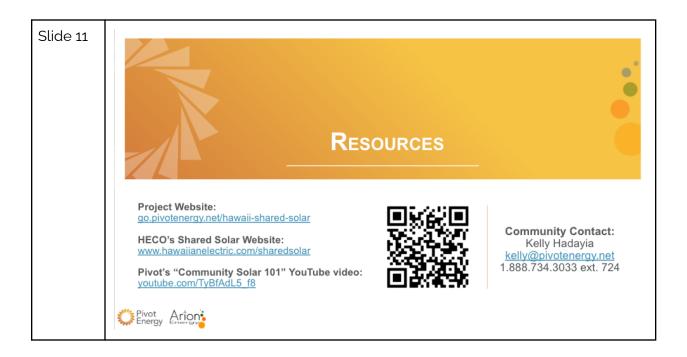
# DETAILS ABOUT SOUTH POINT SOLAR PROJECTS (6 MWDC, ~600 HOUSEHOLDS)

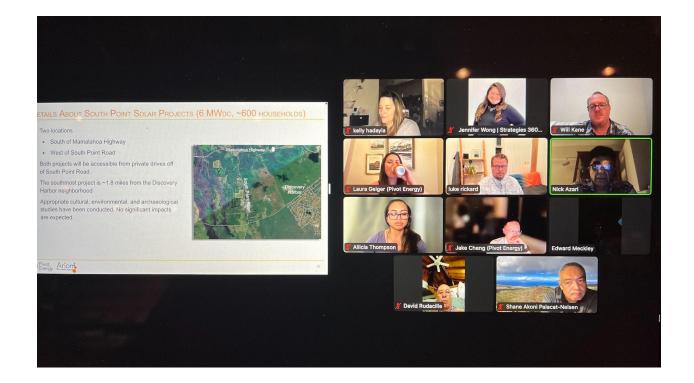
- Two locations
  - South of Mamalahoa Highway
  - West of South Point Road
- Both projects will be accessible from private drives off of South Point Road.
- The southmost project is ~1.8 miles from the Discovery Harbor neighborhood
- Appropriate cultural, environmental, and archaeological studies have been conducted. No significant impacts are expected.











# **Appendix B: Phase II Outreach**

Stakeholder Advisory Committee Presentations

Slide 1



Slide 2

# TODAY'S AGENDA:

- Welcome & Opening Remarks
- Introductions
- Background Information about Arion and Pivot
- What is "Shared Solar"?
- Ka Lae + Ka Lae 2 Solar Farms Project Details
- Subscriptions
- Q&A
- Breakout Groups
- Group Sharing
- Closing & Next Meeting Preview



# WHO ARE ARION ENERGY & PIVOT ENERGY?



Arion Energy has a history of creating renewable energy resources in Hawai'i, including community solar projects.

The company has successfully completed 25 solar projects on O'ahu, Maui, Kaua'i, and Hawai'i Island.

Arion Energy has two headquarters: one in Hawai'i and one in Colorado.



Pivot Energy is a national leader in the development of onsite and small utility solar projects, including community solar.

The company has successfully completed more than 830 solar and energy storage projects nationwide.

Pivot Energy is a certified B Corporation and evaluates internal decisions on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors. Its headquarters is in Colorado.





# Slide 4

#### WHAT IS SHARED SOLAR? ALSO CALLED COMMUNITY BASED RENEWABLE ENERGY, OR COMMUNITY SOLAR





Video Courtesy: Hawaiian Electric

### WHAT IS SHARED SOLAR? ALSO CALLED COMMUNITY BASED RENEWABLE ENERGY, OR COMMUNITY SOLAR



- Shared solar makes solar energy accessible to anyone who cannot or does not want solar on their roof or property
- Electricity generated by the proposed project will feed the grid and help Hawai'i reach its renewable energy goals



### Slide 6

#### How Does Shared Solar Work?

We want your feedback on our efforts to provide renewable energy to the

If awarded by Hawaiian Electric, we will build a medium-scale facility that provides clean, renewable energy to the island.

Solar electricity produced by the array will become part of the utility's energy mix, reducing Hawai'i's reliance on fossil fuels.

Residents and organizations that subscribe to the project will offset their property's electrical usage with renewable energy, saving money while supporting a more sustainable future.

Community members subscribe to the solar project



island.



### DETAILS ABOUT KA LAE2 - SITE PLAN





# Slide 10

# DETAILS ABOUT KA LAE + KA LEA2 SOLAR PROJECTS (1 MWDC, ~200 HOUSEHOLDS)

- Two locations
  - South of Mamalahoa Highway (500kWac, 2MWh BESS)
  - West of South Point Road (500kWac, 2MWh BESS)
- Both projects will be accessible from private drives off. of South Point Road.
- The southmost project is ~1.8 miles from the Discovery Harbor neighborhood
- Appropriate cultural, environmental, and archaeological studies have been conducted. No significant impacts are expected.







#### **SUBSCRIPTIONS**



- We welcome <u>local residents</u> to subscribe to this project. Residents who live close to the project will have 3 months to sign up before other communities on the island can sign up for the program.
- All subscribers to our community solar projects will be offered a product that nets them economic benefits compared to not subscribing to the project.
- Subscription plan is 50% residential, 40% commercial and 10% low income qualifying individuals.
- Anticipated Bill Credit Discount
  - Approximately 10% off the bill credits for commercial subscribers
  - Approximately 15% off the bill credits for residential and LMI subscribers



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Slide 12

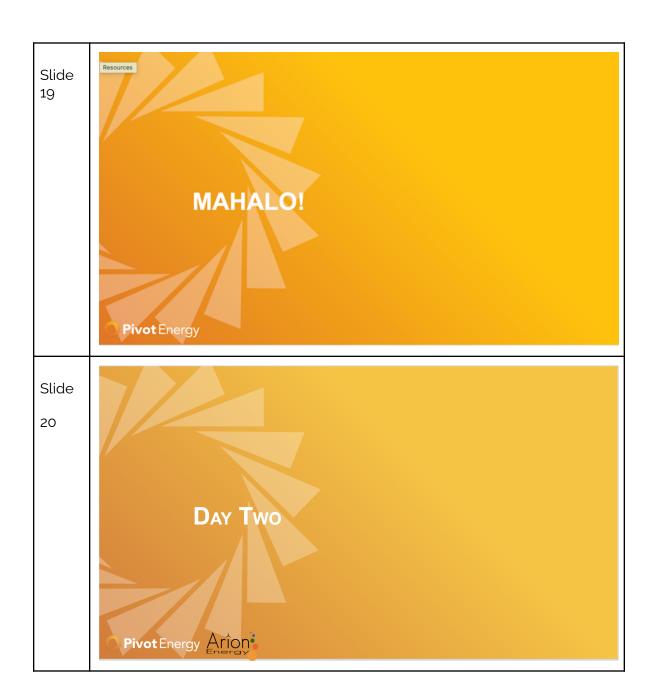




# **BREAKOUT GROUPS** Slide 13 1. What positive impacts might this project have on the community? Pivot Arion 13 **BREAKOUT GROUPS** Slide 14 1. What positive impacts might this project have on the community? 2. What negative impacts might this have on the community? Pivot Arion

# **BREAKOUT GROUPS** Slide 15 1. What positive impacts might this project have on the community? 2. What negative impacts might this have on the community? 3. How might negative impacts be mitigated? Pivot Arion 15 **GROUP SHARING** Slide 16 1. What positive impacts might this project have on the community? 2. What negative impacts might this have on the community? 3. How might negative impacts be mitigated? Pivot Arioni 16

# **NEXT MEETING** Slide 17 Description of the Benefits Package Breakout groups Group sharing Breakout groups Pivot Arion 17 Slide 18 0 **RESOURCES** Community Contact: Samantha Frick **HECO's Shared Solar Website:** sfrick@pivotenergy.net 906.440.4139 www.hawaiianelectric.com/sharedsolar Pivot's "Community Solar 101" YouTube video: youtube.com/TyBfAdL5\_f8 Kelly Hadayia kelly@pivotenergy.net 1.888.734.3033 ext. 724 Pivot Arioni



#### Slide 21 Today's Agenda: Meeting recap Benefits & discussion Next meeting preview Pivot Arion 21 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT COMMUNICATION PLAN PHASES Slide 22 Phase 1 Preliminary In-Depth Interviews **Public Meetings** Supporter Ongoing Community & Stakeholder Public Open Engagement Engagement **Advisory Committee** House Continue Continuing **Engagement** Public will have (SAC) community engagement to Virtual town hall 30 days to provide meeting on In-depth engagement share finalized written comments 8/8/22 interviews through details, any new after meeting, 1 on 1 meetings SAC meetings additional information and which will be with local meetings solicit further provided as part lawmakers and input of the PUC key stakeholders application, and another opportunity after Pivot Arion 22

#### COMMUNITY BENEFITS

#### **Program Participant Benefits**

Lowered electricity costs

#### **Environmental Benefits**

Reduces Hawai'i's carbon footprint and improves air quality

#### **Employment Generator**

Shared solar generates local jobs

#### **Community Reinvestment Benefits**

Community-informed investments





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# Slide 24

#### COMMUNITY BENEFITS PACKAGE

We believe you know your community needs best. To ensure that the Community Benefits Package best serves your community, this Stakeholder Advisory Committee will help guide how the funds are appropriated.

We reinvest as an extension of our mission

accelerate the shift to clean energy.

We drive social good for disadvantaged

Lowering barriers to opportunities for highest

Local communities drive impact

we listen to local organizations that know their community's needs best. We provide tangible support.

We take a

Work to mitigate negative externalities. Track, learn, and iterate to ensure intended impact.

Community Benefits Package

\$10,000 per project will be reinvested into the



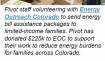
#### COMMUNITY BENEFITS PACKAGE EXAMPLES

Pivot Energy is accelerating an equitable shift to clean energy in communities throughout the nation by developing, financing, and servicing renewable energy projects. Pivot aims to be a leader in socially impactful and responsible solar development, ensuring our projects deliver meaningful benefits to the communities we operate in. When possible, we develop projects that reduce energy burden for income-limited families, create workforce pathways for under-represented groups within the solar industry, and include community reinvestment plans driven by community stakeholder input. Our community investment program has donated and pledged over \$1,100,000 to community-based organizations across the country.

- Reducing Energy Burden: through supporting partners that help with utility bill assistance, weatherization or electrification Education & Outreach: through supporting partners that invest in education, workforce development, scholarships, or other career services
- Solar for All: through investing in groups that help to lower the barrier to entry for income qualified households to reap the benefits of distributed renewable energy generation









Pivot giving a solar tour to workforce development partner DREAM Solar, that trains under-represented groups to join the solar workforce. In 2021, Pivot donated 5 solar systems for the DREAM team to install in historically Black and Latinx neighborhoods in Denuer.



# Slide 26

#### GROUP SHARING

1. How might the benefits package be used to best serve the community?



# GROUP SHARING Slide 27 1. How might the benefits package be used to best serve the community? 2. What are some needs the community may have? Pivot Arion NEXT MEETING Slide 28 Presentation of Report Q&A Pivot Arioni Energy



# **Appendix C: Cultural Resource Impact Studies**

Ka Lae Solar Farm Cultural Impact Studies

An initial cultural assessment prepared by ASM Affiliates and dated April 20, 2018. This study identified some potential areas of cultural and archaeological significance in the area around the project that warranted further study to find a suitable location for the proposed project and avoid any affect or impairment due to the installation and operation of the project. The assessment is documented on the following pages:



April 20, 2018

David Robichaux North Shore Consultants, LLC 2091 Round Top Drive Honolulu, HI 96822

email: robichaud001@hawaii.rr.com

via email

Re: Preliminary archaeological and cultural considerations with respect to the proposed development of a solar farm on TMKs: (3) 9-3-004:010 and 040, Mohowae, Waiopua, Keaa 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> ahupua 'a, Ka'ū District, Island of Hawai'i.

#### Dear David:

At your request, on behalf of Arion Energy, ASM Affiliates (ASM) conducted background research with respect to the proposed development of a solar farm on TMKs: (3) 9-3-004:010 and 040, Mohowae, Waiopua, Keaa 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> ahupua'a, Ka'ū District, Island of Hawai'i. This research included an archival review of existing archaeological reports and historical maps, as well as a review of traditional cultural information relative to the current study area. ASM also conducted a brief field inspection of the study area.

Regarding the cultural significance of the project area and any ramifications such significance may have with respect to the proposed solar development, I am providing a brief culture-historical context, which includes the results of prior archaeological studies conducted in the project area vicinity. The proposed project area spans four adjacent *ahupua* 'a (Mohowae, Waiopua, Keaa 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>) situated within the District of Ka'ū near the southern tip of Hawai'i Island. As noted by early Western explorers to the South Point region, and described by Handy and Handy (1991:578-584), the fertile plain in the vicinity of the study area was once extensively and intensively planted with traditional subsistence crops such as *kalo* (taro) and 'uala (sweet potato). The archaeological remains of the former field infrastructure, referred to by archaeologists as the Ka'ū field system, are still evident in aerial photographs across large swaths of land in the vicinity of the subject parcels (including the eastern portion of Parcel 10). In addition to being agriculturally productive, the land of Mohowae is also remembered as a level area famous for sport, where according to Handy and Handy (1991:582), "contests and games of strength and skill were held."

During the *Māhele 'Āina* of 1848, the four *ahupua'a* included within the study area were relinquished to the Government (in lieu of commutations on various other lands they received) by their royal claimants: Mohowae by Ane Keohokālole, Waiopua by Loe, Keaa 1<sup>st</sup> by William Pitt Leleiohoku, and Keaa 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kahanaumaikai. Three *kuleana* parcels were awarded to native tenants of Waiopua Ahupua'a as a result of the 1848 land division (LCAw. 9845 to Napahoa, LCAw. 9846 to Poohina, and LCAw. 9849 to Kapule). Napahoa's land section, situated within the *'ili* of Napahuewalu, was received from Loe in 1838, while Poohina's and Kapule's land sections, situated within the *'ili* of Popolohaunui and Waialaa respectively, were received from Nakahoa in 1838. The native testimonies provided for these *kuleana* are silent regarding the specific use of the land, but LCAw. 9211 to Kanaloa, situated adjacent to the current study area (and LCAw. 9845) within Kaoiki 'Ili of Waiopua Ahupua'a, was claimed as a *kīhāpai kalo* (taro field), indicating that the awards within the study area were likely cultivated sections as well.

April 20, 2018 Due Diligence Study of TMKs: (3) 9-3-004:010 and 040 Page 2 of 3

Following the *Māhele 'Āina* of 1848, large parcels of land within Mohowae, Waiopua, Keaa 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> *ahupua 'a* (those not awarded as LCAw.) were sold by the Hawaiian Government as Royal Patent Grants. Three grants, or portions thereof, are included within the current study area: Grant No. 1371 in Keaa 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> *ahupua 'a*, sold to W. I. M. Koma on March 21, 1854; Grant No. 2445 in Keaa 2<sup>nd</sup> Ahupua 'a, sold to Kahalewa on December 12 1857; and Grant No. 2905 in Waiopua Ahupua 'a, sold to Kamanuwai on January 27, 1863. A map included with Grant No. 1371 to Koma shows an *alanui* (road) crossing a portion of that parcel in a *mauka/makai* direction, while the maps of the other two grant parcels show the *Alanui Aupuni* (Government Road) between Kahuku and Wai'ōhinu extending along the *makai* boundary of the current study area.

In 1868, an eruption of Mauna Loa drastically altered the cultural and physical landscape of  $Ka^c\bar{u}$  in the vicinity of the current study area. The roughly two-week long eruption included a massive earthquake (on April 2, 1868) that knocked down most of the stone walls and buildings in the district, triggered a *tsunami* that swept away many of the coastal villages and drowned 46 people, and caused a landslide that buried another village along with 31 of its inhabitants. On April 7, 1868 a fissure opened along the southwest rift zone of Mauna Loa (just above the current study area), and emitted a lava flow that reached the sea, crossing a distance of roughly 13 kilometers, in only three and a half hours. The lava flow continued for four days, and by the time it ceased on April 11, 1868, it had covered a large portion of the current study area with a fresh layer of 'a' $\bar{a}$  lava.

Historic maps created following the 1868 lava flow record a couple of named places within the study area including Pu'u Po'opa'a and Haunakalii. Pu'u Po'opa'a, literally meaning "hard head hill," consists of a topographic high point that was flowed around on both sides by the 1868 flow (Po'opa'a is also the name of an *'ili* of Keaa Ahupua'a). While the origin of this name is not known, the origin of the name Haunakalili, literally meaning "stench [of] the jealousy," was recorded in the field book of the surveyor, Kaelemakule, who wrote:

The Haunakalili hole is about 30 ft. deep and 30 ft. in diameter. Meaning - Bad odor of jealousy. The people of the coast and the cultivators of the soil fought on account of jealousy. Starvation killed the vanquished who were thrown in hundreds into this hole. The hole has a stone wall about it to keep the cattle from falling in. Flow of 1868 came to the edge of this hole and a little went into it. (Field Book, Hawai'i Registered Map No. 517:38)

A map created in 1903, when the unsold portions of the study *ahupua 'a* and neighboring Government Lands were divided into the Kiolakaa-Keaa Homestead Lots (Hawai'i Registered Map No. 2176), depicts Haunakalili hole within a *kīpuka* (an area flowed around by the 1868 lava flow) near the *mauka* boundary of Grant No. 1371 to W.T.M. Koma. On later maps this *kipuka* is labeled Kīpuka Auna (or Mana) o Ka Lili, literally meaning the flock (or spirit) of jealousy *kipuka*).

Aerial photographs taken during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century indicate much of the land encompassed by the current study area (areas not covered by the 1868 lava flow) was mechanically cleared and used as cattle pasture. The eastern portion of Parcel 10, nearest to South Point Road, does not appear to have been mechanically cleared, and Precontact agricultural features of the Kaʻū field system are still evident in recent Google Earth images within that portion of the subject property.

Our archival research indicates that the current study area has not undergone prior archaeological investigation. However, previous archaeological studies conducted in the general vicinity of the subject parcels (Landrum 1984; Clark and Rechtman 2004; Clark et al. 2004), and more recently conducted, but unpublished, studies of the Kaʻū field system (conducted on the lands of the Hawaiʻi Volcanos National Park Kahuku Unit and Kamehameha Schools), indicate that significant archaeological and cultural resources are present nearby the proposed solar project site. A brief field inspection conducted by ASM on April 18, 2018, confirmed that such resources are also present within the study parcels. Significant historic properties encountered during the field inspection include Historic burial platforms noted at two locations along the eastern edge of the 1868 lava flow, a Historic trail crossing the 1868 lava flow, a lava tube within

April 20, 2018

Due Diligence Study of TMKs: (3) 9-3-004:010 and 040

Page 3 of 3

previously grubbed pasture to the east of the 1868 lava flow, a complex of Precontact Period agricultural features on Parcel 10 near the intersection of South Point and Kamaoa Roads, and several Historic Period boundary and ranch walls at various locations.

Given the current regulatory environment, it is most probable that the State Historic Preservation Division will require that an Archaeological Inventory Survey (AIS) in accordance with Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR) §13-284 be conducted in conjunction with any Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 6E action associated with development of the proposed solar project. While significant historic properties are present within the study area, they are not widespread, and are actually relatively infrequent on both the 1868 lava flow and within areas of previously grubbed pasture. If carefully selected, the proposed location for the solar project could avoid impacting historic properties altogether. If the site selected for the solar project is nearby the known Historic burials on the 1868 lava flow the preparation of a Burial Treatment Plan will also be required following the completion of the AIS in accordance with HAR §13-300-33 (if additional other site types are encountered during the AIS, a Preservation Plan prepared in accordance with HAR §13-278 may also be required as well). If there is an element of the proposed solar project that triggers compliance with HRS Chapter 343, this will in turn necessitate the preparation of a Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA) as a part of the Environmental Assessment process. Based on what we know to date, I do not anticipate that a CIA will result in the identification of significant cultural impacts.

Should you have any additional questions, or if you would like further information please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Bob Rechtman, Ph.D. Chief Operating Officer

Reference Cited

Clark, M., J. Nelson, and R. Rechtman

2004

An Archaeological Inventory Survey of TMK:3-9-3-03:73, Pu'u'eo Ahupua'a, South Point, Ka'ū District, Island of Hawai'i. Rechtman Consulting Report RC-0202. Prepared for Rick Vidgen, Kamaoa Development Company, Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i.

Clark, M., and R. Rechtman

2004

An Archaeological Inventory Survey for the Apollo Pākini Nui Wind Farm Project (TMKs:3-9-3-001:06 por. and 3-9-3-004:001 por.), Pākini Nui and Pākini Iki Ahupua'a, South Point, Ka'ū District, Island of Hawai'i. Rechtman Consulting, LLC report RC-0164. Prepared for Apollo Energy corporation.

Handy, E.S.C., and E.G. Handy

1972 Native Planters in Old Hawai'i. B.P. Bishop Museum Bulletin 233. Bishop Museum Press, Honolulu. (with M.K. Pukui).

Landrum, J.L.

1984

Archaeological Reconnaissance of Alexander and Baldwin Lands at Kukui'ula, Koloa, Kaua'i. Department of Anthropology, B.P. Bishop Museum. Prepared for Alexander and Baldwin, Inc.

An archaeological study prepared by ASM Affiliates and dated Jan 8, 2021. This assessment concluded that the chances of the proposed solar development at the selected site (Site 5 in this study) encountering resources of significant cultural impact were highly unlikely. There is one site of historical significance, the Haunakalili pit, that is near to the proposed site but will be avoided entirely during the proposed CBRE Phase 2 project. Access to the Haunakalili pit will not be restricted as a result of the proposed project installation. This assessment is documented on the following pages:



Nick Azari, Ph.D., CEO & President Arion Energy 500 Ala Moana Blvd. Suite 7400 Honolulu, HI 96813

email: nick.azari@arionenergy.com

via email

Re: Preliminary archaeological and cultural considerations with respect to the proposed development of five potential community solar sites on TMKs: (3) 9-3-004:027, 028, 034, and 040, Mohowae, Waiopua, Keaa 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> ahupua 'a, Ka'ū District, Island of Hawai'i.

#### Dear Nick:

At your request, on behalf of Arion Energy, ASM Affiliates (ASM) conducted background research with respect to the proposed development of five potential community solar sites on TMKs: (3) 9-3-004:027, 028, 034, and 040, Mohowae, Waiopua, Keaa 1st and 2nd ahupua'a, Ka'ū District, Island of Hawai'i (Table 1 and Figure 1). This research included an archival review of existing archaeological reports and historical maps, as well as a review of traditional cultural information relative to the current study area. ASM also conducted a brief field inspection of each of the potential solar sites.

Table 1. Potential South Point Community Solar Sites.

Solar Site No.	TMK: (3) 9-3-004:	Grant No.	Ahupua'a
1	027	2905	Mohowae and Waiopua
2	028	2905	Mohowae and Waiopua
3	034	6182	Waiopua
4	040	1371	Keaa 1st and 2nd
5	040	1371	Keaa 1st and 2nd

Regarding the cultural significance of the potential solar sites and any ramifications such significance may have with respect to the proposed solar developments, I am providing a brief culture-historical context, which includes the results of prior archaeological studies conducted in the vicinity of the sites. The proposed community solar sites include four adjacent *ahupua'a* (Mohowae, Waiopua, Keaa 1st and 2nd) situated within the District of Ka'ū near the southern tip of Hawai'i Island. As noted by early Western explorers to the South Point region, and described by Handy and Handy (1991:578-584), the fertile plain in the vicinity of the study area was once extensively and intensively planted with traditional subsistence crops such as *kalo* (taro) and *'uala* (sweet potato). The archaeological remains of the former field infrastructure, referred to by archaeologists as the Ka'ū Field System, are still evident in aerial photographs across large swaths of land in the vicinity of the subject parcels. In addition to being agriculturally productive, the land of Mohowae is also remembered as a level area famous for sport, where according to Handy and Handy (1991:582), "contests and games of strength and skill were held."

January 8, 2021

Due Diligence Study for Five Potential Community Solar Sites, South Point, Ka'ū, Island of Hawai'i

Page 2 of 5

During the *Māhele 'Āina* of 1848, the four *ahupua'a* containing the areas proposed for the potential community solar development were relinquished to the Government (in lieu of commutations on various other lands they received) by their royal claimants: Mohowae by Ane Keohokālole, Waiopua by Loe, Keaa 1<sup>st</sup> by William Pitt Leleiohoku, and Keaa 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kahanaumaikai. Five *kuleana* parcels were awarded to native tenants living in the vicinity of the potential solar sites as a result of the *Māhele 'Āina* of 1848 (LCAw. 9845 to Napahoa, LCAw. 9846 to Poohina, LCAw. 9847 to Paaeae, LCAw. 9848 to Kinoulu, and LCAw. 9849 to Kapule). All five are listed as being within Waiopua Ahupua'a. Napahoa's land section, situated within the *'ili* of Popolohaumui, was received from Nakahoa in 1838; Paaeae's land section, situated within the *'ili* of Popolohaumui, was received from Poohina in 1838; Kinoulu's land section, situated within the *'ili* of Waialaa, was received from Napahoa in 1840; and Kapule's land section, situated within the *'ili* of Waialaa, was received from Nakahoa in 1838. The native testimonies provided for four of these *kuleana* are silent regarding the specific use of the land, but LCAw. 9847 to Poaeae, was claimed as a *kīhāpai* (field), indicating that the awards within the study area were all likely cultivated sections as well.

Following the *Māhele 'Āina* of 1848, large parcels of land within Mohowae, Waiopua, Keaa 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> *ahupua 'a* (those not awarded as LCAw.) were sold by the Hawaiian Government as Royal Patent Grants. Four of the five potential community solar sites (Sites 1, 2, 4, and 5; see Table 1) are located within former grant parcels (Grant Nos. 1371 and 2905). Grant No. 1371, sold to W. I. M. Koma on March 21, 1854, is located in Keaa 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> *ahupua 'a*; Grant No. 2905, sold to Kamananui on January 27, 1863, is located in Mohowae and Waiopua *ahupua 'a*. A map included with Grant No. 1371 to Koma shows an *alanui* (road) crossing a portion of that parcel in a *mauka/makai* direction.

In 1868, an eruption of Mauna Loa drastically altered the cultural and physical landscape of Kaʻū in the vicinity of the current study area. The roughly two-week long eruption included a massive earthquake (on April 2, 1868) that knocked down most of the stone walls and buildings in the district, triggered a *tsunami* that swept away many of the coastal villages and drowned 46 people, and caused a landslide that buried another village along with 31 of its inhabitants. On April 7, 1868 a fissure opened along the southwest rift zone of Mauna Loa (just above the potential solar sites), and emitted a lava flow that reached the sea, crossing a distance of roughly 13 kilometers, in only three and a half hours. The lava flow continued for four days, and by the time it ceased on April 11, 1868, it had covered a large area in the vicinity of the potential community solar sites with a fresh layer of 'a'ā lava.

Historic maps created following the 1868 lava flow record a named place called Haunakalii located nearby potential solar sites 4 and 5. The meaning of the name Haunakalili, literally meaning "stench [of] the jealousy," was recorded in the field book of the surveyor, Kaelemakule, who wrote:

The Haunakalili hole is about 30 ft. deep and 30 ft. in diameter. Meaning - Bad odor of jealousy. The people of the coast and the cultivators of the soil fought on account of jealousy. Starvation killed the vanquished who were thrown in hundreds into this hole. The hole has a stone wall about it to keep the cattle from falling in. Flow of 1868 came to the edge of this hole and a little went into it. (Field Book, Hawai'i Registered Map No. 517:38)

A map prepared in 1903, when the unsold portions of the study *ahupua'a* and neighboring Government Lands were divided into the Kiolakaa-Keaa Homestead Lots (Hawai'i Registered Map No. 2176), depicts Haunakalili hole within a *kīpuka* (an area flowed around by the 1868 lava flow) near the *mauka* boundary of Grant No. 1371 to W.T.M. Koma. On later maps this *kīpuka* is labeled Kīpuka Auna (or Mana) o Ka Lili, literally meaning the flock (or spirit) of jealousy *kīpuka*).

One of the potential community solar sites (Site 3) is located within a former lot of the Kiolaka'a-Kea'ā Homesteads, which were created in 1903 and then sold at auction to the highest bidder during subsequent years (Gastilo and Clark 2019). Site 3 is situated within Lot 35 of the homesteads, purchased by Kele Pinao in 1914 as Grant No. 6182. The 1903 survey notes for Lot 37 mention a stone wall along the boundary of Grant No. 2905 to Kamanawai and a trail crossing an 'a ā lava flow nearby.

January 8, 2021 Due Diligence Study for Five Potential Community Solar Sites, South Point, Ka'ū, Island of Hawai'i Page 3 of 5

Aerial photographs taken during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century indicate much of the land encompassed by all five potential solar sites (areas not covered by the 1868 lava flow) was mechanically cleared for pasture and modern agriculture. Sites 1 and 2 are located within the former citrus fields of the Kaʻū Gold Orange company, which was founded in 1979, and by 2001 had grown to include 18,000 orange trees on 150 acres of land, representing 95% of the State's citrus crop (Kaʻū Calendar 2011). Kaʻū Gold Orange went out of business in 2011, but the former processing plant and laborer's quarters are situated very near one of the potential solar sites (Site 2), and the rows of citrus trees, interspersed with windbreaks, are still growing within both the Site 1 and 2 areas.

Our archival research indicates that none of the five potential community solar sites have undergone prior archaeological investigation, although nearby studies conducted in the general vicinity of the sites have documented significant archaeological and cultural resources (c.f. Landrum 1984; Clark and Rechtman 2004; Clark et al. 2004; Gastilo and Clark 2019). A brief field inspection of the five community solar sites conducted by ASM on January 5, 2021, however, indicates that the likelihood of encountering such resources within any of potential solar development areas is extremely limited. All five of the potential solar sites have been subject to prior mechanical disturbance and/or are situated in areas covered by the 1868 lava flow, and no cultural resources were identified within any of the potential sites during the recent field inspection. Historic properties noted in the general vicinity of the potential solar sites were limited to stone walls along the boundary of Grant No. 5229 in the vicinity of Sites 1 and 2 (both of which have been previously graded), and along the boundary of Grant No. 1327 in the vicinity of Site 3 (which has been previously grubbed). These walls, which were built as boundary markers, likely date to the late 19th or 20th century. No historic properties were noted within the Site 4 and 5 areas (both which are situated primarily on the 1868 lava flow and have undergone limited prior mechanical disturbance), but Gastilo and Clark (2019) previously documented the Haunakalili pit nearby an already approved community solar project located between Sites 1 and 2.

Although the likelihood of encountering cultural resources within any of the five potential community solar sites is extremely limited, given the current regulatory environment, it is most probable that the State Historic Preservation Division will require that an Archaeological Inventory Survey (AIS) in accordance with Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR) §13-284 be conducted in conjunction with any Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 6E action associated with their development. While significant historic properties are present near the solar sites, they are not widespread, and are actually relatively infrequent on both the 1868 lava flow and within areas of previously grubbed pasture. If carefully selected, the proposed locations for the solar development can avoid impacting historic properties altogether. If there is an element of the proposed solar project that triggers compliance with HRS Chapter 343, this will necessitate the preparation of a Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA) as a part of the Environmental Assessment process. Based on what we know to date, I do not anticipate that a CIA will result in the identification of significant cultural impacts.

Should you have any additional questions, or if you would like further information please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Matthew R. Clark, M.A.

Senior Archaeologist - Director ASM Hilo

Due Diligence Study for Five Potential Community Solar Sites, South Point, Kaʻū, Island of Hawaiʻi Page 4 of 5

#### Reference Cited

#### Clark, M., J. Nelson, and R. Rechtman

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An Archaeological Inventory Survey of TMK:3-9-3-03:73, Pu'u'eo Ahupua'a, South Point, Ka'ū District, Island of Hawai'i. Rechtman Consulting Report RC-0202. Prepared for Rick Vidgen, Kamaoa Development Company, Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i.

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#### Gastilo, J., and M. Clark

2019

An Archaeological Assessment of the Arion South Point Photovoltaic Project, TMK: (3) 9-3-004:040 (por.), Keaʻā 1st and 2nd Ahupuaʻa, Kaʻū District, Island of Hawaiʻi. ASM report 31600. Prepared for Arion Energy, Centennial, CO.

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1972

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#### Landrum, J.L.

1984

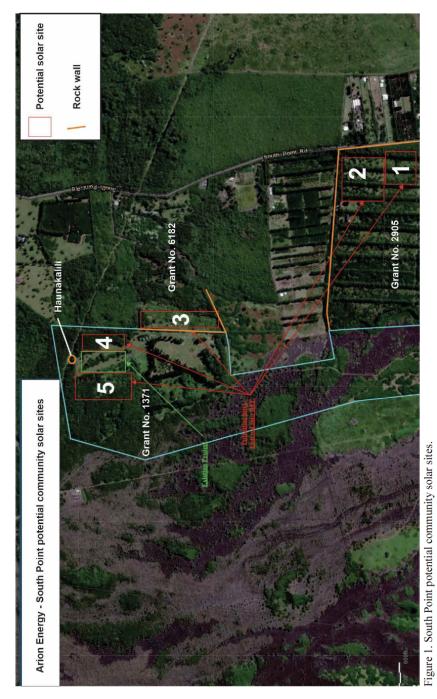
Archaeological Reconnaissance of Alexander and Baldwin Lands at Kukui'ula, Koloa, Kaua'i. Department of Anthropology, B.P. Bishop Museum. Prepared for Alexander and Baldwin, Inc.

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January 8, 2021 Due Diligence Study for Five Potential Community Solar Sites, South Point, Kaʻū, Island of Hawaiʻi Page 5 of 5



# Ka Lae 2 Solar Farm Cultural Resource Impact Studies

An archaeological study prepared by ASM Affiliates and dated Jan 8, 2021. This assessment concluded that the chances of the proposed solar development at the selected site (Sites 1 and 2) encountering resources of significant cultural impact were highly unlikely. The study noted that this area had previously been extensively mechanically disturbed and had been used for citrus fruit production from 1979 to 2001; the trees are still present. This assessment is documented on the following pages.



Nick Azari, Ph.D., CEO & President Arion Energy 500 Ala Moana Blvd. Suite 7400 Honolulu, HI 96813 email: nick.azari@arionenergy.com

via email

Re: Preliminary archaeological and cultural considerations with respect to the proposed development of five potential community solar sites on TMKs: (3) 9-3-004:027, 028, 034, and 040, Mohowae, Waiopua, Keaa 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> ahupua a, Ka ū District, Island of Hawai i.

#### Dear Nick:

At your request, on behalf of Arion Energy, ASM Affiliates (ASM) conducted background research with respect to the proposed development of five potential community solar sites on TMKs: (3) 9-3-004:027, 028, 034, and 040, Mohowae, Waiopua, Keaa 1st and 2nd ahupua'a, Ka'ū District, Island of Hawai'i (Table 1 and Figure 1). This research included an archival review of existing archaeological reports and historical maps, as well as a review of traditional cultural information relative to the current study area. ASM also conducted a brief field inspection of each of the potential solar sites.

Table 1. Potential South Point Community Solar Sites.

Solar Site No.	TMK: (3) 9-3-004:	Grant No.	Ahupua'a -
1	027	2905	Mohowae and Waiopua
2	028	2905	Mohowae and Waiopua
3	034	6182	Waiopua
4	040	1371	Keaa 1st and 2nd
5	040	1371	Keaa 1st and 2nd

Regarding the cultural significance of the potential solar sites and any ramifications such significance may have with respect to the proposed solar developments, I am providing a brief culture-historical context, which includes the results of prior archaeological studies conducted in the vicinity of the sites. The proposed community solar sites include four adjacent *ahupua* 'a (Mohowae, Waiopua, Keaa 1st and 2nd) situated within the District of Ka'ū near the southern tip of Hawai'i Island. As noted by early Western explorers to the South Point region, and described by Handy and Handy (1991:578-584), the fertile plain in the vicinity of the study area was once extensively and intensively planted with traditional subsistence crops such as *kalo* (taro) and 'uala (sweet potato). The archaeological remains of the former field infrastructure, referred to by archaeologists as the Ka'ū Field System, are still evident in aerial photographs across large swaths of land in the vicinity of the subject parcels. In addition to being agriculturally productive, the land of Mohowae is also remembered as a level area famous for sport, where according to Handy and Handy (1991:582), "contests and games of strength and skill were held."

Due Diligence Study for Five Potential Community Solar Sites, South Point, Kaʻū, Island of Hawaiʻi Page 2 of 5

During the *Māhele 'Āina* of 1848, the four *ahupua'a* containing the areas proposed for the potential community solar development were relinquished to the Government (in lieu of commutations on various other lands they received) by their royal claimants: Mohowae by Ane Keohokālole, Waiopua by Loe, Keaa 1<sup>st</sup> by William Pitt Leleiohoku, and Keaa 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kahanaumaikai. Five *kuleana* parcels were awarded to native tenants living in the vicinity of the potential solar sites as a result of the *Māhele 'Āina* of 1848 (LCAw. 9845 to Napahoa, LCAw. 9846 to Poohina, LCAw. 9847 to Paaeae, LCAw. 9848 to Kinoulu, and LCAw. 9849 to Kapule). All five are listed as being within Waiopua Ahupua'a. Napahoa's land section, situated within the *'ili* of Napahuewalu, was received from Loe in 1838; Poohina's land section, situated within the *'ili* of Popolohaumui, was received from Nakahoa in 1838; Paaeae's land section, situated within the *'ili* of Waialaa, was received from Napahoa in 1840; and Kapule's land section, situated within the *'ili* of Waialaa, was received from Napahoa in 1840; and Kapule's land section, situated within the *'ili* of Waialaa, was received from Nakahoa in 1838. The native testimonies provided for four of these *kuleana* are silent regarding the specific use of the land, but LCAw. 9847 to Poaeae, was claimed as a *kīhāpai* (field), indicating that the awards within the study area were all likely cultivated sections as well.

Following the *Māhele 'Āina* of 1848, large parcels of land within Mohowae, Waiopua, Keaa 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> ahupua 'a (those not awarded as LCAw.) were sold by the Hawaiian Government as Royal Patent Grants. Four of the five potential community solar sites (Sites 1, 2, 4, and 5; see Table 1) are located within former grant parcels (Grant Nos. 1371 and 2905). Grant No. 1371, sold to W. I. M. Koma on March 21, 1854, is located in Keaa 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> ahupua 'a; Grant No. 2905, sold to Kamananui on January 27, 1863, is located in Mohowae and Waiopua ahupua 'a. A map included with Grant No. 1371 to Koma shows an alanui (road) crossing a portion of that parcel in a mauka/makai direction.

In 1868, an eruption of Mauna Loa drastically altered the cultural and physical landscape of  $Ka^c\bar{u}$  in the vicinity of the current study area. The roughly two-week long eruption included a massive earthquake (on April 2, 1868) that knocked down most of the stone walls and buildings in the district, triggered a *tsunami* that swept away many of the coastal villages and drowned 46 people, and caused a landslide that buried another village along with 31 of its inhabitants. On April 7, 1868 a fissure opened along the southwest rift zone of Mauna Loa (just above the potential solar sites), and emitted a lava flow that reached the sea, crossing a distance of roughly 13 kilometers, in only three and a half hours. The lava flow continued for four days, and by the time it ceased on April 11, 1868, it had covered a large area in the vicinity of the potential community solar sites with a fresh layer of  $'a\bar{'a}$  lava.

Historic maps created following the 1868 lava flow record a named place called Haunakalii located nearby potential solar sites 4 and 5. The meaning of the name Haunakalili, literally meaning "stench [of] the jealousy," was recorded in the field book of the surveyor, Kaelemakule, who wrote:

The Haunakalili hole is about 30 ft. deep and 30 ft. in diameter. Meaning - Bad odor of jealousy. The people of the coast and the cultivators of the soil fought on account of jealousy. Starvation killed the vanquished who were thrown in hundreds into this hole. The hole has a stone wall about it to keep the cattle from falling in. Flow of 1868 came to the edge of this hole and a little went into it. (Field Book, Hawai'i Registered Map No. 517:38)

A map prepared in 1903, when the unsold portions of the study *ahupua'a* and neighboring Government Lands were divided into the Kiolakaa-Keaa Homestead Lots (Hawai'i Registered Map No. 2176), depicts Haunakalili hole within a *kīpuka* (an area flowed around by the 1868 lava flow) near the *mauka* boundary of Grant No. 1371 to W.T.M. Koma. On later maps this *kīpuka* is labeled Kīpuka Auna (or Mana) o Ka Lili, literally meaning the flock (or spirit) of jealousy *kīpuka*).

One of the potential community solar sites (Site 3) is located within a former lot of the Kiolakaʻa-Keaʻā Homesteads, which were created in 1903 and then sold at auction to the highest bidder during subsequent years (Gastilo and Clark 2019). Site 3 is situated within Lot 35 of the homesteads, purchased by Kele Pinao in 1914 as Grant No. 6182. The 1903 survey notes for Lot 37 mention a stone wall along the boundary of Grant No. 2905 to Kamanawai and a trail crossing an 'a'ā lava flow nearby.

Due Diligence Study for Five Potential Community Solar Sites, South Point, Kaʻū, Island of Hawaiʻi Page 3 of 5

Aerial photographs taken during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century indicate much of the land encompassed by all five potential solar sites (areas not covered by the 1868 lava flow) was mechanically cleared for pasture and modern agriculture. Sites 1 and 2 are located within the former citrus fields of the Kaʻū Gold Orange company, which was founded in 1979, and by 2001 had grown to include 18,000 orange trees on 150 acres of land, representing 95% of the State's citrus crop (Kaʻū Calendar 2011). Kaʻū Gold Orange went out of business in 2011, but the former processing plant and laborer's quarters are situated very near one of the potential solar sites (Site 2), and the rows of citrus trees, interspersed with windbreaks, are still growing within both the Site 1 and 2 areas.

Our archival research indicates that none of the five potential community solar sites have undergone prior archaeological investigation, although nearby studies conducted in the general vicinity of the sites have documented significant archaeological and cultural resources (c.f. Landrum 1984; Clark and Rechtman 2004; Clark et al. 2004; Gastilo and Clark 2019). A brief field inspection of the five community solar sites conducted by ASM on January 5, 2021, however, indicates that the likelihood of encountering such resources within any of potential solar development areas is extremely limited. All five of the potential solar sites have been subject to prior mechanical disturbance and/or are situated in areas covered by the 1868 lava flow, and no cultural resources were identified within any of the potential sites during the recent field inspection. Historic properties noted in the general vicinity of the potential solar sites were limited to stone walls along the boundary of Grant No. 5229 in the vicinity of Sites 1 and 2 (both of which have been previously graded), and along the boundary of Grant No. 1327 in the vicinity of Site 3 (which has been previously grubbed). These walls, which were built as boundary markers, likely date to the late 19th or 20th century. No historic properties were noted within the Site 4 and 5 areas (both which are situated primarily on the 1868 lava flow and have undergone limited prior mechanical disturbance), but Gastilo and Clark (2019) previously documented the Haunakalili pit nearby an already approved community solar project located between Sites 1 and 2.

Although the likelihood of encountering cultural resources within any of the five potential community solar sites is extremely limited, given the current regulatory environment, it is most probable that the State Historic Preservation Division will require that an Archaeological Inventory Survey (AIS) in accordance with Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR) §13-284 be conducted in conjunction with any Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 6E action associated with their development. While significant historic properties are present near the solar sites, they are not widespread, and are actually relatively infrequent on both the 1868 lava flow and within areas of previously grubbed pasture. If carefully selected, the proposed locations for the solar development can avoid impacting historic properties altogether. If there is an element of the proposed solar project that triggers compliance with HRS Chapter 343, this will necessitate the preparation of a Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA) as a part of the Environmental Assessment process. Based on what we know to date, I do not anticipate that a CIA will result in the identification of significant cultural impacts.

Should you have any additional questions, or if you would like further information please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Matthew R. Clark, M.A.

Senior Archaeologist - Director ASM Hilo

Due Diligence Study for Five Potential Community Solar Sites, South Point, Kaʻū, Island of Hawaiʻi Page 4 of 5

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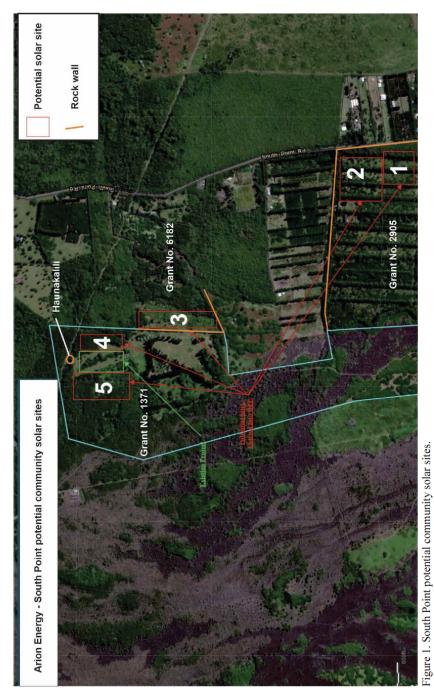
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January 8, 2021 Due Diligence Study for Five Potential Community Solar Sites, South Point, Kaʻū, Island of Hawaiʻi Page 5 of 5



#### **Appendix D: Phase III Public Meeting Outreach**

Arion Energy and Pivot Energy have been conducting extensive outreach with surrounding community members at the Ka Lae2 Solar Farm M2 and Ka Lae2 Solar Farm M2 Community Based Renewable Energy project sites. Following Phases I & II of our Community Engagement Plan, which consisted of one-on-one meetings with key stakeholders, a virtual town hall, discussions with a Stakeholder Advisory Committee, and a digital marketing & direct mail campaign, Arion Energy and Pivot Energy launched Phase III: Public Meetings. The goal of this phase is to allow the community-at-large another opportunity to learn about the project, pose questions, and provide any feedback.

Our team engaged Strategies 360 (S360) to organize and facilitate a community open house for the South Point (Ka Lae) community. To promote the open house and encourage participation, we launched a campaign that involved:

- Outreach to Stakeholder Advisory Committee
- Digital Media
- Print Media
- Traditional Media Outreach
- Direct Mail
- Canvassing

Ultimately, over 40 community members, including area County Councilmember Michelle Galimba, attended the community open house in-person at the Nā'ālehu Community Center, and another 80 people joined remotely via Ka'ū Radio on May 31, 2023.

#### **Outreach to Stakeholder Advisory Committee**

Prior to beginning efforts to promote the community open house, we contacted our Stakeholder Advisory Committee (see Community Outreach Plan for more information about the Committee) to encourage them to attend. We also offered to provide them with a preview of our community open house. One Stakeholder Advisory Committee member was available to attend the meeting on May 31, 2023.

#### **Outreach to Other Stakeholders**

Pivot and Arion provided meeting information to staff members in the Office of Mayor Roth and Vibrant Hawaii and requested that they share the meeting information with any community members that may be interested.

#### Digital Media

Our efforts began with a digital marketing campaign on Google Search, Facebook and Instagram. S360 sent ads to digital media users in Zip Codes 96772 (Nāʿālehu), 96777 (Pāhala) and 96704 (Ocean View, Miloliʿi, Captain Cook, Hōnaunau) to maximize awareness of the projects. The campaign, which promoted the meeting for the Ka Lae Solar Farm- M2 and Ka Lae2 Solar Farm-M2 projects, ran from April 30, 2023 through May 31, 2023 to ensure ample amount of time to promote the community meeting. Digital ads, when clicked, led users to project-specific content (pivotenergy.net/ka-lae or pivotenergy.net/ka-lae2).

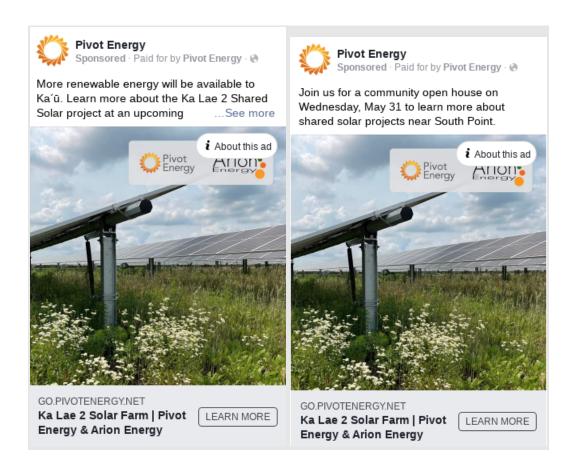
The greatest engagement came from Facebook and Instagram Ads. On average, 42 people clicked on ads per day. A total of roughly 99,000 impressions were also recorded throughout the entirety of the Facebook and Instagram campaign.

Google Search ads resulted in 143 impressions. As a result, the budget that was initially allocated for Google Search ads was redirected to Facebook and Instagram early in the campaign to increase awareness of the public meeting.

### Facebook/Instagram

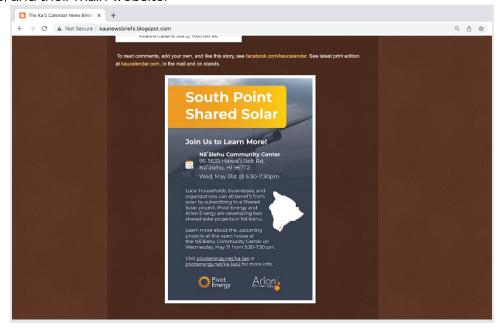
\*Ads on Facebook similarly ran on Instagram due to the services being provided by Meta.





### **Print Media**

To satisfy requirements indicated in the RFP, Arion Energy and Pivot Energy placed a print advertisement with the Kaʿū Calendar, which appeared in their print publication, on their social media pages, and their main website.



### **Traditional Media**

In alignment with the detailed instructions for community outreach plans within the RFP, Arion Energy and Pivot Energy issued a media advisory to the following organizations on Saturday, April 29 to allow for ample notification prior to the community meeting:

- Hawaii Tribune-Herald
- West Hawaii Today
- Civil Beat
- Hawaii News Now
- KHON2 News
- KITV4 News

### **Media Advisory**

MEDIA ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 29, 2023 MEDIA CONTACT Jennifer Wong 808.636.0134 jennw@strategies360.com

# COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULED FOR COMMUNITY BASED RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS ON HAWAI'I ISLAND

NĀʻĀLEHU, HI — Pivot Energy and Arion Energy are hosting a community meeting to share information about two Community Based Renewable Energy (CBRE) projects in the Kaʻū district of Hawaiʻi Island. The Solar PV Generation Plants on Kai Makani Place and South Point Road will be capable of producing a combined 1.0 MWac of renewable solar power for Hawaiian Electric's power grid. Households will be given the opportunity to participate in Hawaiian Electric's shared solar program, providing energy bill savings.

Date: Wednesday, May 31, 2023

 $\label{eq:Time:} \textbf{Time:} \qquad \qquad 5:30 \ p.m. --7:30 \ p.m.$ 

Location: Nāʿālehu Community Center

95-5635 Hawaii Belt Rd, Nāʻālehu, HI 96772

Purpose: To share information about two Community Based Renewable Energy (CBRE) projects

to be developed in the Nāʿālehu area near the intersection of South Point Road and Mamalahoa Highway, and to solicit input about the projects and associated community benefits. Public comments to be filed with the Public Utilities Commission.

Contact: For more information, call 1.888.734.3033 ext. 726 or email,

communityfeedback@pivotenergy.net. You can also visit www.pivotenergy.net/ka-lae or

www.pivotenergy.net/ka-lae2 for information on the projects.

###

### **About Arion Energy**

Arion Energy is an independent power producer ("IPP") engaged in the ownership, development, construction and operation of renewable wind and solar power generation plants and the sale of energy under long-term arrangements with utilities and other credit-worthy corporation counterparties. Arion Energy has developed and built a Hawai'i portfolio of Commercial and Industrial (C&I) rooftop and carport projects as well as larger utility scale solar farms especially community solar projects.

### **About Pivot Energy**

Pivot Energy is a national clean energy provider that develops, finances, builds, owns, and manages solar and energy storage projects. Pivot offers a distributed energy platform that includes a range of services and software that serve the full solar ecosystem. Pivot is a Certified B-Corporation that proudly follows a corporate strategy that provides a positive impact on society as measured by Environmental stewardship, Social leadership, and responsible Governance (ESG) factors. Learn more at pivotenergy.net.

Despite ample media notice, information about the meeting was published only in the Kaʿū Calendar, who did not receive the media advisory. They did, however, receive information from our discussions in placing a print media advertisement, and appear to have gathered information from the project websites pivotenergy.net/ka-lae and pivotenergy.net/ka-lae2. This article is online on the Kaʿū Calendar website at <a href="http://www.kaucalendar.com/news/05\_23news.html">http://www.kaucalendar.com/news/05\_23news.html</a> (pg. 1 & 10).



# Meeting on South Pt Shared Solar May 31

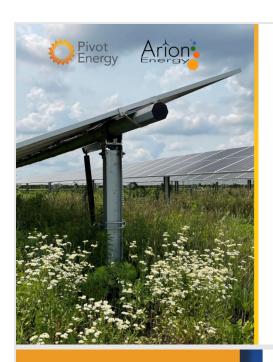
Pivot Energy and Arion Energy invite the public to a meeting about their South Point Shared Solar project, Wednesday, May 31 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Nā'ālehu Community Center. Hawaiian Electric announced the proposals on March 1. The two "shared solar projects" that promise reduction in electric bills for Hawaiian Electric customers who sign on, are planned for land accessible from South Point Road. Neither would include battery backup.

A third solar farm, with batteries, is planned by another company, Nexamp near Kamaoa Road in a separate proposal.

One of the South Point Shared Solar projects would be a .50MWac Solar PV-Generation Plant covering 15.4 acres and South Point Solar, pg. 10

### **Direct Mail**

In addition to media, print, and digital outreach efforts, we mailed postcards to Nā'ālehu Post Office customers. Following our first engagement, and after speaking with our Stakeholder Advisory Committee, we opted to send postcards directly to over 1,300 P.O. Boxes in the community; rather than to home addresses. These postcards were sent to residents twice in May. Each postcard encouraged residents to attend the community open house and to learn more about community solar.





# South Point Shared Solar

Local households, businesses, and organizations can all benefit from solar by subscribing to a Shared Solar project. Pivot Energy and Arion Energy are developing two shared solar projects in Nāʿālehu.

Learn more about the upcoming projects at the open house at the Nāʻālehu
Community Center on Wednesday, May
31 from 5:30-7:30 pm.

Visit <u>pivotenergy.net/ka-lae</u> or <u>pivotenergy.net/ka-lae2</u> for more info.

Join Us to Learn More!



Nā'ālehu Community Center 95-5635 Hawai'i Belt Rd, Nā'ālehu, HI 96772

Wed, May 31st @ 5:30-7:30pm



**Questions?** +1.888.734.3033 info@piyoteneray.ne Arion Energy 500 Ala Moana Blvd, Suite 7400 Honolulu, HI 96813

### Canvassing

To ensure that residents and businesses within a one-mile radius receive notice, Arion Energy and Pivot Energy opted to deploy on-the-ground marketing efforts. This involved going from property to property and informing homeowners and businesses of the upcoming meeting. In one case, canvassers had an opportunity to speak with a homeowner, who indicated that she would encourage her neighbors and members of her church to attend the community open house.

In total, canvassers dropped handouts at the gates of homes and businesses within at least one-mile from the project sites. This occurred just over one week prior to the community open house.

### Handout

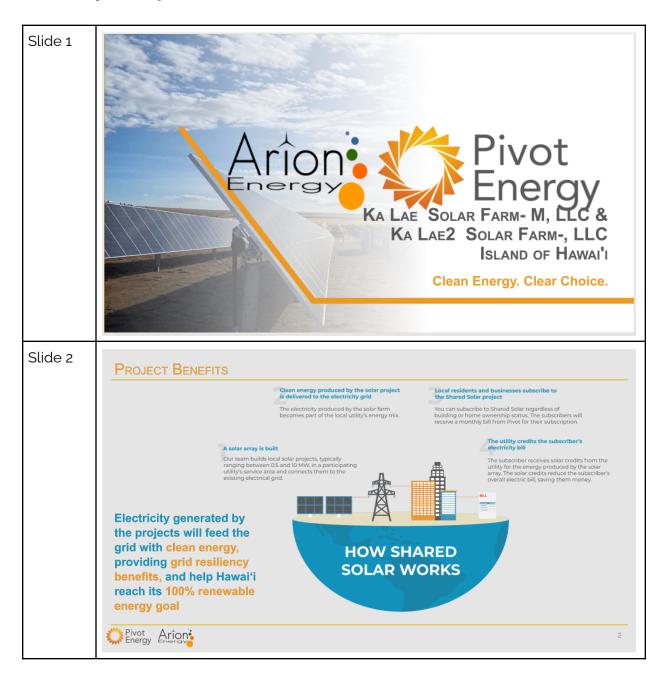


### **Community Meeting**

Due to extensive outreach, a total of over 100 community members participated either in-person or via radio. The format of the Community Open House Meeting was created to inform community members, while also allowing them to participate, provide feedback, and speak one-on-one with Arion Energy and Pivot Energy representatives. Poster boards describing the two projects, the concept of Community-Based Renewable Energy, and proposed community benefits were situated around the meeting room, allowing community members to view information about CBRE (Community-Based Renewable Energy), and the project and its benefits on their own terms.

During the meeting, the Arion Energy and Pivot Energy teams presented a slideshow which followed the slide deck template provided in the RFP. A copy of the slides presented are included below.

# **Community Meeting Presentation**



### COMMUNITY BENEFITS

### **Program Participant Benefits**

- Lowered electricity costs
  - Saving \$30/month, \$7k total over 20yrs

### **Environmental Benefits**

- Safe alternative to fossil fuel powered generators, which have resulted in spills and contamination in our ocean and water tables
- Clean energy improves air quality

### Mālama 'āina

- Planting native plants and pollinators
- Installing threatened Hawaiian trees

### **Community Reinvestment Package**

 Community-informed donations to local organizations







### Slide 4

# COMMUNITY BENEFITS - WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

We believe you know your community needs the best. To ensure that the Community Benefits Package best serves your community, your input will help guide how the funds are appropriated. Here are ideas brainstormed during initial discussions with stakeholders:

Workforce Development Training Scholarships

Energy bill assistance for those in need

Kaʻū High School learning labs donation

Long-term soil restoration & food security projects



# DETAILS ABOUT KA LAE + KA LAE2 SOLAR PROJECTS = 1 MWAC (~240 HOUSEHOLDS)







### Slide 6

# Details About Ka Lae + Ka Lae2 Solar Projects = 1 MWac (~240 households)

- Two locations
  - South of Mamalahoa Highway (500kWac)
  - West of South Point Road (500kWac)
- Both projects will be accessible from private drives off of South Point Road.
- The southmost project is ~1.8 miles from the Discovery Harbor neighborhood





6

# KA LAE SOLAR FARM- M2, LLC- FACILITY LOCATION

Address: 93-5570 Kai Makani Place, Na'alehu, HI 96772

Coordinates: Lat: 19° 3'24.78"N, Long: 155°40'14.52"W

**Parcel ID:** TMK (3) 9-3-004-040

### **Dimensions:**

Project Area- 4.23 acres

- ~330' E to W x 490' N to S
- ~2,600' from South Point Road to solar boundary
- ~900' from Hawaii Belt Road to solar boundary







Slide 8

# KA LAE SOLAR FARM- M2, LLC - SITE LAYOUT PLAN

# Site Plan

### Access Road:

- Already exists
- We are only adding small driveway extension

### Interconnect Path:

- Distribution lines already exist in this corridor
- We are only adding small extension into site

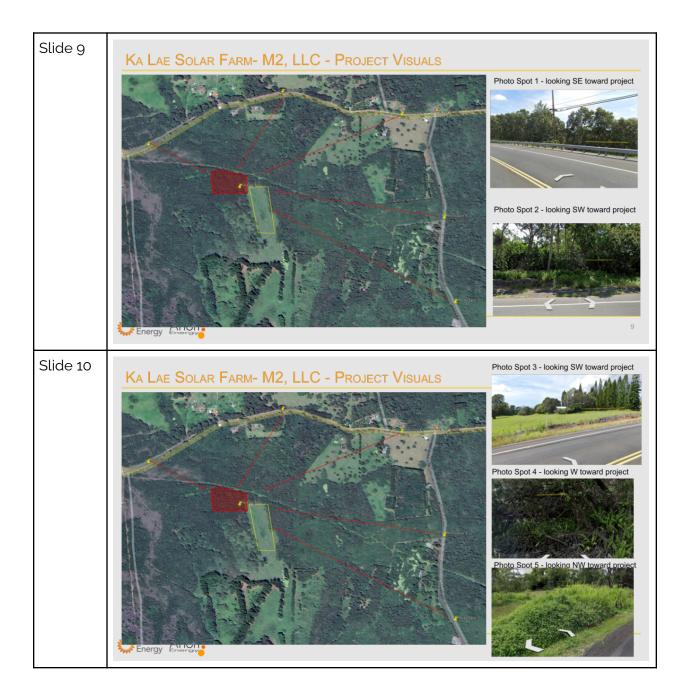
### Point of Interconnect- Electrical Equipment:

- Transformer
- AC switchgear, disconnects











# Slide 13 KA LAE SOLAR FARM- M2, LLC - EQUIPMENT OVERVIEW Solar Modules (~1,152) 580w modules Hanwha Q-Peak 580w Dimensions: 95" x 44" x 1.4" About the size of a door Slingle Axis Tracker Racking Transformer Transformer Provided by utility 100kw, 1500Vdc/480Vac String Inverters for North America Provided 14 Slide 14 Similar To How It Will Look





14

# KA LAE2 SOLAR FARM- M2, LLC - FACILITY LOCATION

Address: 93-2173 South Point Road

Na'alehu

Coordinates: Lat: 19.045284, Long: -

155.661102

Parcel ID: TMK 3-9-3-004-027

### **Dimensions:**

3.49 acres

~350' E to W x 440' N to S

~270' from road to solar boundary







### Slide 16

# KA LAE2 SOLAR FARM- M2, LLC - SITE LAYOUT PLAN

# Site Plan

- Entrance from South Point Road exists
- We are only adding southern driveway extension

### Interconnect Path:

- Distribution lines already exist along road
- We are only adding small extension to connect our site to existing lines.

### Point of Interconnect- Electrical Equipment:

- Transformer
- Inverter
- AC switchgear, disconnects











## ENVIRONMENTAL & CULTURAL IMPACTS - KA LAE

### **Environmental Studies**

- Hawaii Flood Hazard Analysis
  - No Impact
- Federal Aviation Admin (FAA)
  - Finding of No Hazard
  - Geotechnical Analysis
  - Complete
  - Lava cap, requires pre-drilling to access soil depth for our foundations.
- Phase 1 ESA
  - Complete

### **Archaeological & Cultural Review**

- Archaeological studies conducted
  - No significant cultural or natural resource impact expected
  - Haunakalili Pit is near the site but will be avoided entirely and will not be restricted as a result of project installation
- Department of Public Works and the State of Hawai'i Historic Preservation Division Review
  - In progress
- Botanical Survey and Vertebrate Fauna Assessment conducted
  - No immediate impact to wildlife habitat though we will follow recommendations:
    - Install wildlife fence around boundary
    - Avoid tree or vegetation removal during Hawaiian hoary bat birthing and pup rearing season and Hawaiian hawk breeding seasons
    - Use of filtered LED lights outdoors
    - Material inspection for invasive species





### Slide 22

# ENVIRONMENTAL & CULTURAL IMPACTS - KA LAE2

### **Environmental Studies**

- Hawaii Flood Hazard Analysis
  - No Impact
- Federal Aviation Admin (FAA)
  - Finding of No Hazard
- Geotechnical Analysis
  - Complete
  - · Lava cap, requires pre-drilling to access soil depth for our foundations.
- Phase 1 ESA
  - In process

### Archaeological & Cultural Review

- Archaeological study conducted
  - No significant cultural or natural resource impact expected
- Department of Public Works and the State of Hawai'i Historic Preservation Division Review
  - In progress
- Botanical Survey and Vertebrate Fauna Assessment conducted
  - No immediate impact to wildlife habitat though we will follow recommendations:
    - Install wildlife fence around boundary
    - Avoid tree or vegetation removal during Hawaiian hoary bat birthing and pup rearing season and Hawaiian hawk breeding seasons
    - Use of filtered LED lights outdoors
    - Material inspection for invasive species





## REQUIRED GOVERNMENT PERMITS SCHEDULE

Task Name																
Planning Department- Land Use Approval	Apr-23	Jan-24														
Drainage Plan	Apr-23	Jan-24														
FAA	Mar-23	Apr-23														
SHPD Grading Approval	Apr-23	Jan-24														
Grubbing Permit	Apr-23	Jan-24														
Stockpiling Permit (if required)	tbd	tbd														
Access Permit	Apr-24	Jun-24														
Building & Electrical Permit	Apr-24	Jun-24														





Schedule subject to change.

### Slide 24

### CONSTRUCTION RELATED UPDATES

### CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

- We still have 12-18 months of permits, interconnect agreements, and planning.
- Construction generally planned for 2025
- Once we mobilize actual construction duration is short- 2 months
- Plan for reporting construction schedules and activities
  - o including resulting impacts (ex: traffic, noise, and dust) and mitigation plans
  - o Begins at least one month prior to the start of scheduled work
    - To extend throughout the construction and development of the project
    - No night construction, no lights, only daylight hours Noise is only during piers, 2 weeks.

    - Track out pads at site and at ROW

# LOCAL LABOR AND PREVAILING WAGE COMMITMENT

- We commit that at least 80% of non-supervisory construction and operations workers' hours associated with the construction or repowering of the Projects will be paid at the prevailing wage equivalent under HRS Chapter 104 during all periods of construction
- We are fully committed to prioritizing hiring local workers on the Island of Hawai'i, and from neighboring islands second.
- We have not yet chosen an onsite general contractor.

Monthly updates are posted to the projects websites.





### Slide 25 **OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT** Phase 1 Phase 2 Public Meetings Preliminary In-Depth Interviews Supporter Ongoing Community & Stakeholder Public Open House **Engagement** Engagement (May 31 2023) Engagement **Advisory Committee** Continue Continuing Public will have 30 Virtual town hall engagement to (SAC) community days to provide meeting on In-depth engagement share finalized written comments details, any new 8/8/22 interviews (late through after meeting, which 1 on 1 meetings 2022) additional information and will be provided as with local • SAC meetings meetings solicit further part of the PUC lawmakers and (Jan-Feb 2023) input application, and key stakeholders another opportunity after submission Pivot Arion 25 Slide 26 How to provide comments & find **OUT MORE INFORMATION** You can also submit comments directly on the PUC website, or on our project websites in the contact us section. For more information see our project sites and HECO's Shared Solar Website. Contact: Hawaii Public Utilities Commission Website: https://puc.hawaii.gov/contact/public-comments/ HECO's Shared Solar Website: www.hawaiianelectric.com/sharedsolar Samantha Frick sfrick@pivotenergy.net Ka Lae Solar Farm Project Website: https://go.pivotenergy.net/ka-lae-shared-solar or communityfeedback@pivotenergy.net 1.888.734.3033 ext. 726 Ka Lae2 Solar Farm Project Website: https://go.pivotenergy.net/ka-lae2-shared-solar Join Subscriber Waitlist here: platform.pivotenergy.net/residential Pivot Arion

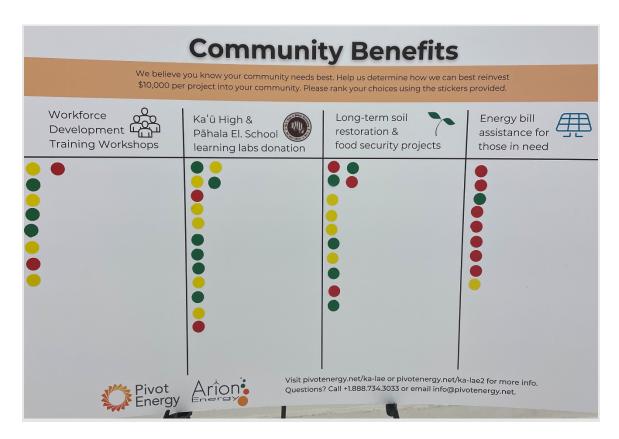


To ensure community voices are heard, Arion Energy and Pivot Energy collected comments directly from community members at the Community Open House held at the Nā'ālehu Community Center on May 31, 2023. Attendees were provided with comment cards for each project (Ka Lae & Ka Lae2) and received color coded stickers to provide feedback on how a community benefits package would best be used in their community.

### **Community Benefits Package Feedback**

Meeting attendees were given stickers and were asked to indicate how they prefer Arion Energy and Pivot Energy reinvest into their community. The options presented were based on community suggestions received in Phases I & II. The participants at the May 31, 2023 meeting indicated the strongest preference for the community benefits package funds go towards Ka'ū High & Pāhala Elementary School career and trade skills learning labs.

Working closely with community stakeholders, Pivot Energy and Arion Energy will select a provider(s) that can deliver education and training programs as part of the community benefits package. On June 1st, 2023 a Pivot Energy team member held a preliminary meeting with the Hawai'i Community College and University of Hawai'i Foundation to discuss potential educational programs that the College can provide Kaʻū High. Representatives from the College indicated that there is an existing relationship between the High School and the College, as well as programs that would fit the community's interests. Pivot and Arion will continue to explore this option as part of the community benefits package diligence and selection process.



Green dots indicate their first choice and are assigned a value of 3 points.

Yellow dots indicate their second choice and are assigned a value of 2 points.

Red dots indicate their third choice and are assigned a value of 1 point.

	Develo	force pment ning	Kaʻū H Pāhala E Learnir Dona	l. School ng Labs	restora food s	erm soil ation & ecurity ects	Energy bill assistance for those in need		
	Dots	Points	Dots	Points	Dots	Points	Dots	Points	
Green	3	9	6	18	5	15	1	3	
Yellow	4	8	6	12	4	8	1	2	
Red	2	2	2	2	3	3	7	7	
Average Value	9	19	14	32	12	26	9	12	

### **Next Steps in the Community Outreach Plan**

Arion Energy and Pivot Energy will take the community's feedback into consideration, investigate the feasibility and take appropriate action to incorporate the feasible options. Additionally, we will finalize the community benefits package. Following Phase III of our Community Engagement plan, Arion Energy and Pivot Energy will continue to provide monthly status updates on the project website.

Per the program requirements, after the public comment period which occurs for thirty days following the community meeting. Arion Energy and Pivot Energy will provide HELCO with all of the public comments received to date for the application to the Public Utilities Commission.