



HONUOLA: FALSE CLAIMS VS FACTS

✗ CLAIM: *Energy from Honua Ola costs too much.*

✓ FACT: Honua Ola was approved twice by the PUC, with a price of 22 cents/kwh in 2017, because it provides reliable, firm renewable energy continuously, 24/7, and aligns with the state mandate for 100% renewable energy by 2045. Because solar cannot provide continuous reliable energy by itself, it must be combined with more expensive energy from fossil fuel plants, which makes the total cost more than Honua Ola.

✗ CLAIM: *Solar energy costs less than Honua Ola.*

✓ FACT: Solar + 4-hour battery storage can supply energy at its maximum rate for up to 8 hours at 8-9 cents/kwh on an average day. Energy supplied for the other 16 hours of the day must come from fossil fuel plants at 30 cents/kwh. Plus, when it's rainy or cloudy during the day, solar produces much less energy but still charges consumers as if energy is being produced for a full 8 hours. On a day when it can only supply half the average amount – 4 hours of maximum power – the cost doubles for consumers to 16-18 cents/kwh. Honua Ola costs less for the full day because it won't need extra batteries and can replace the fossil fuel plants.

✗ CLAIM: *Solar is better than Honua Ola in providing jobs.*

✓ FACT: Over the past several years, Honua Ola has already provided more construction jobs than multiple new solar facilities would create. Solar farms will create construction jobs for only about one year and will generate about 5% of the construction jobs Honua Ola created. During operations, Honua Ola will generate more than 200 permanent, good-paying jobs for 30+ years in plant operations, forestry, transportation, wood products, and agriculture. In contrast, solar farms require only one or two people to operate them, or about 1% of the operations jobs Honua Ola provides.

✗ CLAIM: *Hawai'i Island residents don't want this project.*

✓ FACT: In fact, most Hawai'i Island residents favor Honua Ola. A recent scientific public opinion study conducted by an independent research firm found 88% of adults islandwide and 71% on the Hāmākua Coast, were favorable toward the project. Only 6% islandwide and 8% in Hāmākua were unfavorable. A tiny but noisy opposition should not be able to thwart the will of the majority of residents or prevent consumers from receiving the range of benefits Honua Ola can deliver.

✗ CLAIM: *Honua Ola injects hot water into the ocean.*

✓ FACT: False. Honua Ola will draw water from the saltwater aquifer through 1,200-foot-deep wells and circulate it in a closed system for cooling, like a car radiator. After cooling, the water is then sent back into the saltwater aquifer. The recirculated water will be within one-degree Fahrenheit of the ocean water and will not harm the marine environment. This process is carefully regulated by the Department of Health.



✗ CLAIM: *Competitive bidding for firm renewable energy should have been required.*

✓ FACT: There has been no competitive bidding process for any firm renewable energy project in Hawai'i. In the case of Honua Ola, there were no other viable candidates willing to make the substantial investment on Hawai'i Island. Hawaiian Electric did not propose a competitive bidding process for firm renewable energy. In the interest of getting firm renewable energy on the Hawai'i Island grid as quickly as possible, the PUC granted a waiver twice and ordered the construction of the plant to proceed quickly.

✗ CLAIM: *Honua Ola released toxic waste into the ocean.*

✓ FACT: This claim is false in many ways. On November 9, 2018, water used to wash out recently retrofitted boiler parts was discharged by a non-employee without authorization from Honua Ola. Some of the water went onto the ground, and a smaller amount ran down to the ocean shore. Once management was alerted, the discharge was quickly stopped. Honua Ola immediately reported the incident to the Department of Health, which determined the discharge was non-toxic, did not pose any threat to public health, and acknowledged that Honua Ola did not authorize the discharge.

✗ CLAIM: *Honua Ola will cut down forests and burn trees.*

✓ FACT: This misrepresents the facts. Honua Ola will utilize fast-growing non-native eucalyptus trees, as well as invasive albizia trees, for fuel. New eucalyptus trees will be continuously planted and grown, increasing the amount of forested land. The harvested trees will also be used to make wood products, thus creating new jobs in forestry, manufacturing, and in the delivery of biomass feedstock and other products.

✗ CLAIM: *Honua Ola will add greenhouse gases.*

✓ FACT: The opposite is true. Honua Ola has committed to planting/growing more trees than it harvests. These trees will absorb carbon and greenhouse gas emissions, making Honua Ola carbon neutral or negative. The EPA has determined biomass-powered plants are carbon neutral if they get their fuel from a commercially managed forest, as Honua Ola will. Honua Ola is the only renewable energy project in the state with a forestry component. Honua Ola also uses state-of-the-art emissions control equipment. And without Honua Ola's firm renewable energy, Hawaiian Electric's fossil fuel plants will continue to operate and emit tons of CO2 for decades to come. By removing Honua Ola, the PUC is essentially endorsing the continued use of existing fossil fuel plants and high levels of greenhouse gas emissions.

✗ CLAIM: *Trucks carrying wood to Honua Ola will cause traffic problems.*

✓ FACT: A traffic study has determined the impact will be minimal. On average, 11,250 vehicles use Hawai'i Belt Road each day. Honua Ola will average only 33 truck deliveries a day.

