

10 September, 1992

Chuck Boston
Oak Ridge National Laboratory
P. O. Box 2008
MS-6200
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-6185

Dear Mr. Boston:

Attached are the meeting notes summing up the ideas presented at our August 5, 1992 meeting in Kalapana at the Robert Keliihoomalu residence. I have also included the meeting sign-in list. If there any corrections please do not hesitate to let me know.

We did enjoy meeting with Lillian Trettin, Bo Saulsbury and you that evening and sharing with you our feelings about geothermal development and our land (aina). We urge, that if any of the project EIS team has any questions or needs information regarding the Hawaiian culture, land, and families of lower Puna, you will contact our group as we are the Hawaiians who have historically lived in the area.

James Moulds our County Geothermal Compliance Coordinator did say that the next time Lloyd Lewis, the EIS Project Director, is in Hawaii, he would arrange to meet with us. We are looking forward to having that meeting and sharing our ideas and thoughts with him.

Thank you and your group for taking the time to meet with us and we hope to see you again before you complete the EIS.

Sincerely,

Daniel Makuakane
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Pahoa, HI 96778
808-965-7126

Robert Keliihoomalu
P.O. Box 4972
Pahoa, HI 96778
808-965-8764

cc. Lloyd Lewis, Lillian Trettin, Bo Saulsbury
HIGA
Steve Burns, Energy Coordinator, COH

MEETING NOTES

HAWAIIAN FAMILIES OF PUNA

(PUNA ALOHA AINA)

ROBERT KELIIHOOMALU RESIDENCE

5 AUGUST 1992

Twenty five plus hawaiians gathered at Robert and G-girl Keliihoomalu's residence to talk story about their feelings regarding the Hawaii Geothermal Project (HGP) with members of the visiting EIS team. Most of those who attended the meeting were the older Hawaiians or Kupunas of lower Puna. This meeting was organized by Daniel Makuakane to let the preparers of the EIS know that the Pele Defense Fund (PDF) does not speak for the Hawaiians of lower Puna and to allow a chance for these Hawaiian families to speak for themselves.

Members of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) site visit team that attended the meeting were, Chuck Boston-Site Visit Leader, Lillian Trettin-Cultural Resources, and Bo Saulsbury-Socioeconomics and Aesthetics.

The HGP was explained simply as "500MW of geothermal energy produced in lower Puna delivered by undersea cable to Oahu". The requirement and purpose of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) being prepared by the mainland guests was stated and reemphasized during the meeting.

The meeting started with a prayer, in Hawaiian for the success of the meeting, and ended with a prayer and then the gathering sang what they called, their "Puna song" for the guests. An excellent meal of both Hawaiian and local food was served (with some tako and marlin poki furnished by the guests).

No one really took notes at the meeting, so the comments below are from memory.

1. The reoccurring feeling expressed was that they are not scared of geothermal fumes and emissions as they have lived with similar fumes and vents all their life.
2. The above notwithstanding, they want any geothermal projects to proceed only with the utmost concern for the health and safety of the local people.
3. "Local People" was definitely pointed out to be the people of lower Puna, as it was felt that persons residing in upper Puna (Keaau, Mt. View, and Volcano) should definitely not have as much "say" regarding geothermal as they are not affected to the same extent.

4. Their feelings about "Tutu Pele" were that they had been taught by their parents to respect her, but that she was not a deity to be worshipped. Yes, they said, she is the Goddess of the Volcano and we respect her but we absolutely do not worship her.

5. Regarding the Hawaiian religion, they said that no such thing exists today, as it was officially terminated in 1819 by Lihiliho (King Kamehameha II). The consensus was that any "Hawaiian religion" practiced today is a made-up religion, as no one can possibly be alive that could know the rituals or protocols.

6. They only laughed at the idea that Wao Kele O Puna is a pristine rain forest, as they said when they were young, the area had very little growth of anything, there being relatively fresh lava flows over most of the area. Daniel Makuakane pointed out that his mother used to send him out with a pail to pick ohelo berries in the area between Pahoa and Keaau, which was a similar area.

7. Regarding the statements made by some people to the preparers of the EIS that medicines historically have been and are gathered in the area of Wao Kele O Puna, the group agreed that no one ever used to go into the area at all as it was known to have many cracks and crevices, and many swamps. As far as the gathering of medicinal plants that only occurred in the area or were only potent in this area, they said was nonsense as any medicinal plants that could be found in the area, are also, without exception, found at lower elevations in a more potent form.

8. They told of many of the Puna Hui Ohana representatives travelling to New Zealand on a fact finding trip about geothermal energy and its affect on surrounding people, flora and fauna. They felt quite satisfied with their conclusions included in a report entitled "Assessment of Geothermal Development Impact on Aboriginal Hawaiians".

9. Collectively they asked of the HGP (or for that matter any geothermal project), what benefits will the Hawaiian people of the impacted area receive immediately or eventually accrue or, more basically, the expression, "What's in it for us".

10. Many pointed out that the developers of technical projects usually offer jobs as an incentive for locals, but that without a significant, basic, advanced and on-the-job training program, the end result is that most personnel are hired from out of the area if not from out of State.

11. Some families said they needed to know much more about this HGP as right now the project description seems rather nebulous as to location number of wells and power plants, etc., and hence even more vague on the possible impacts to specific areas.

12. The Kupunas in the group suggested they should organize a group of Hawaiian families of lower Puna to speak as one voice for the Hawaiians in the area on geothermal and other issues. This suggestion was agreed to in principle with the actual organization left to another time. Some names were suggested for the group, one of which is noted in the heading on the first page.

13. The co-chairmen for the group are Dan Makuakane, 965-7126 and Robert Keliihoomalu, 965-8764

NAME

Grady Ching

~~David K. K. K.~~

Kimi K. Te'a

Helen Kajiyama

Lillian Tretter

Bo Saulsbury

Emma K. Kakuhi

Louise Kelihoonaka

^{Daniel} Lydia Makinaka

James E. Moulds

Wm. C. Kawaoka

William Kawaoka Sr.

Amy Kawaoka

Maria K. P. Lindsey

Charlotte Kelihoonaka-Apae

Jerome K. Keleni

Shirley Doctor

Leslie Doctor

Peter K. HAWANIO

SARAH HAWANIO

Chuck Boston

Clarence Ching

~~Peter Kelihoonaka~~ Sr.

Peter Schuch Jr.

NAME

Uichi Tsunadao

Taleo Tsunadao

Louis K. Collins III

Ryan Collins