

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

----- In the Matter of ----- )  
 )  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION ) DOCKET NO. 2022-0212  
 )  
Instituting a Proceeding Relating )  
To an Innovative Pilot Process. )  
 )  

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ORDER NO. 41540

APPROVING MODIFICATIONS TO THE CHARGE READY HAWAII PILOT PROJECT  
AND E-BUS MAKE-READY INFRASTRUCTURE PILOT PROJECT

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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION ) DOCKET NO. 2022-0212  
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To an Innovative Pilot Process for )  
The Hawaiian Electric Companies. )  
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APPROVING MODIFICATIONS TO THE CHARGE READY HAWAII PILOT PROJECT  
AND E-BUS MAKE-READY INFRASTRUCTURE PILOT PROJECT

By this Order,<sup>1</sup> the Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") approves Hawaiian Electric's requests to modify the: (1) Charge Ready Hawaii Pilot Project ("Charge Ready Pilot"); and (2) eBus Make-Ready Infrastructure Pilot ("eBus Make-Ready

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<sup>1</sup>The Parties to this proceeding are HAWAIIAN ELECTRIC COMPANY, INC. ("HECO"), HAWAII ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY, INC. ("HELCO") and MAUI ELECTRIC COMPANY, LIMITED ("MECO") (collectively, "Hawaiian Electric" or the "Companies") and the DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, DIVISION OF CONSUMER ADVOCACY ("Consumer Advocate"), an ex officio party to this proceeding, pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes § 269-51 and Hawaii Administrative Rules ("HAR") § 16-601-62(a). Pursuant to Order No. 38663 (opening the docket), this proceeding is intended to receive filings and adjudicate requests submitted by Hawaiian Electric pursuant to the innovative pilot process under the Performance-Based Regulation Framework. See Order No. 38663, "Opening the Docket," filed on October 20, 2022 ("Order No. 38663").

Pilot”) filed on December 4, 2024 (“Request”),<sup>2</sup> pursuant to the Commission’s expedited pilot process.<sup>3</sup> As a result, the implementation schedules for the Charge Ready Pilot and eBus Make-Ready Pilot are extended from December 31, 2025, to December 31, 2026.

I.

BACKGROUND

A.

The Charge Ready Pilot

The Charge Ready Pilot was previously approved in this docket. Briefly, the pilot involves:

[I]nstalling make-ready infrastructure to enable an estimated 180 charging ports in the Companies’ service territories. This is intended to support customer installation of EV charging infrastructure at commercial sites, multi-unit dwelling (“MUDs”), and fleet parking locations at the Companies’ expense. The Pilot would target 30 customer sites, over a 3-year period, across the three Companies (the individual capital expenditure for each Company is not expected to exceed \$2.5 million), at

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<sup>2</sup>Letter From: A. Marceau To: Commission Re: Docket No. 2022-0212 - Innovative Pilot Process; Hawaiian Electric Proposed Extension to Charge Ready Hawai’i Pilot and eBus Make-Ready Infrastructure Pilots, filed on December 4, 2024.

<sup>3</sup>See Order No. 38663, “Opening the Docket,” filed on October 20, 2022 (“Order No. 38663”); and Docket No. 2018-0088, Decision and Order No. 37507, filed on December 23, 2020 (“Decision and Order No. 37507”) at 166-181.

a total cost of no more than \$4.98 million.<sup>4</sup>

On October 25, 2022, the Companies launched the Charge Ready Pilot.<sup>5</sup> The Charge Ready Pilot was originally scheduled to span three years, ending on January 24, 2025. The Commission later extended this pilot deadline to December 31, 2025.<sup>6</sup>

On December 4, 2024, Hawaiian Electric filed its Request, seeking to further extend the pilot deadline to December 31, 2026.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>4</sup>Docket No. 2020-0202, Decision and Order No. 38194, filed on January 24, 2022 ("D&O 38194"), at 8-9. "Make-ready" refers to "all infrastructure that the customer would otherwise be responsible for under Rule 14 Service Connections and is necessary to provide electrical service to the charging stations (including facilities on the customer side of the meter), but excludes the charging stations, which are provided by the customer." Id. at 8 n. 25.

<sup>5</sup>Docket No. 2020-0202, Letter From: K. Katsura To: Commission Re: Docket No. 2020-0202 - For Approval of the Charge Ready Pilot Project and to Recover Costs through the Renewable Energy Infrastructure Program Surcharge; Response to Consumer Advocate's Final Program Design Report Comments, filed on November 23, 2022. See also Program Design Report at 5 (stating that "Pilot launch will occur after the expiration of the 30-day review period, or upon completion of any action ordered by the Commission upon completion of its 30-day review.").

<sup>6</sup>Request at 2. See also, Order No. 40650, "Approving Modifications to the Charge Ready Hawaii Pilot Project," filed on March 7, 2024.

<sup>7</sup>Request at 2.

B.

The eBus Make-Ready Pilot

The eBus Make-Ready Pilot was originally the subject of Docket No. 2020-0098. Briefly, the pilot involves “installing make-ready infrastructure to support up to 20 eBus charging stations at 5-10 customer sites, over a 3-year period . . . .”<sup>8</sup>

The pilot was initially scheduled to run until May 7, 2024. The Commission later extended this deadline to December 31, 2025.<sup>9</sup>

On December 4, 2024, Hawaiian Electric filed its Request, seeking to further extend the pilot deadline to December 31, 2026.<sup>10</sup>

C.

Proposed Modifications

Hawaiian Electric seeks to extend both pilots’ deadlines from December 31, 2025, to December 31, 2026. In support, Hawaiian Electric states that it has encountered challenges implementing both pilots that warrant this extension. More specifically, regarding the Charge Ready Pilot, Hawaiian Electric states it has

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<sup>8</sup>Docket No. 2020-0098, Decision and Order No. 37769, filed on May 7, 2021 (“D&O 37769”) at 8.

<sup>9</sup>Request at 4. See also, Order No. 39131, “Approving the Hawaiian Electric’s [sic] Proposed Modification to the eBus Make-Ready Infrastructure Pilot,” filed on April 11, 2023.

<sup>10</sup>Request at 4.

encountered delays related to: (1) the permitting process, which varies from island to island, and has taken roughly double the estimated time (12 months instead of six months); (2) pilot applicants have taken longer than expected to review and execute pilot agreements (averaging eight months); and (3) eight participant sites required additional time to identify a feasible design option (e.g., identifying locations to tap electricity, confirming electrical capacity, and identifying locations for equipment).<sup>11</sup> This has pushed back the pilot's implementation schedule and Hawaiian Electric requests an extension of the pilot so as to provide for approximately six months of data collection from all participant sites. Hawaiian Electric states that this extension will not increase pilot costs beyond its original budget.<sup>12</sup>

Regarding the eBus Make-Ready Pilot, Hawaiian Electric states that unexpected delays in completing Participation Agreements have set back the pilot's implementation schedule. Hawaiian Electric states that it has taken, on average, nearly one and a half years to execute a Participation Agreement, which has partially been driven by the need to secure landowner approval,

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<sup>11</sup>Request at 2-3.

<sup>12</sup>Request at 3.

which is outside its control.<sup>13</sup> This has resulted in a corresponding delay to procurement and equipment selection, which is driven by the applicant's charging equipment specifications and site layout. Further, Hawaiian Electric states it has encountered supply shortages for the stainless steel materials recommended for sites in close proximity to the ocean, over which it has no control.<sup>14</sup> In addition, two participant sites are located in Special Management Areas, which require additional permit reviews.<sup>15</sup> This has pushed back the pilot's implementation schedule and Hawaiian Electric requests an extension of the pilot so as to provide for approximately six months of data collection from all participant sites. Hawaiian Electric states that this extension will not increase pilot costs beyond its original budget.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>13</sup>Request at 4.

<sup>14</sup>Request at 4. Hawaiian Electric states that stainless steel materials are recommended to mitigate the impacts of corrosion and extend the life of the make-ready infrastructure. Id.

<sup>15</sup>Request at 4.

<sup>16</sup>Request at 5.

II.

DISCUSSION

Upon review of the record, the Commission finds Hawaiian Electric's proposed modifications to the Charge Ready Pilot and eBus Make-Ready Pilot reasonable. In reaching this conclusion, the Commission considers the following:

1. The modifications are expected to increase the period during which Hawaiian Electric can collect data from pilot participants, which should help inform the evaluation of the pilots' performances.

2. The modifications are not expected to increase the pilots' per customer or overall costs.

3. The Commission previously approved a similar modification request for the Charge Ready Pilot and the eBus Make-Ready Pilot.

5. The Commission did not receive any comments regarding the proposed modifications.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>17</sup>See Order No. 38663 at 12-13 (Paragraph 10).



III.

ORDERS

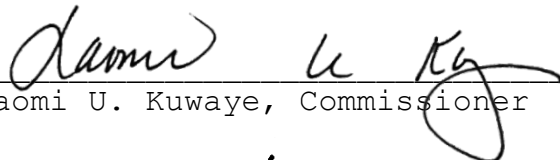
THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

Hawaiian Electric's request to modify the Charge Ready Pilot and eBus Make-Ready Pilot, as proposed in their Request filed on December 4, 2024, is granted.

DONE at Honolulu, Hawaii February 6, 2025.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

By   
Leodoloff R. Asuncion, Jr., Chair

By   
Naomi U. Kuwaye, Commissioner

By   
Colin A. Yost, Commissioner

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
Mark Kaetsu  
Commission Counsel

2022-0212.ncm

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The foregoing Order was served on the date it was uploaded to the Public Utilities Commission's Case and Document Management System and served through the Case and Document Management System's electronic Distribution List.

**FILED**

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COMMISSION

F-319573

2022-0212

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