

## **Information and Discussion: HECO Request for an Easement to Relocate Two Utility Poles on HCDA Property**

### ***Staff Report***

December 9, 2015

**Background:** Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) seeks an easement to relocate two utility poles from the public right of way along Kamehameha Highway, on either side of the bridge spanning Heeia stream, to a location on the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) property. HECO currently has a much smaller easement on the HCDA property for a guy-wire anchoring an existing pole in the public right of way. A copy of the request dated, September 29, 2015 is attached as Exhibit A.

HECO seeks to move the existing lines from wood poles to two steel poles at each end of the bridge. Geotechnical conditions of the site would prohibit placement of the steel poles in the right way as they require foundations as deep as 30 feet. It is believed that the sites identified on the HCDA property would provide suitable conditions.

The estimated concrete footing for the poles total 140 square feet and individually estimated as follows:

- Replacement Pole 56 (Kaneohe end of the bridge) – 10 feet x 6 feet
- Replacement Pole 61 (Kahuku end of the bridge) – 10 feet x 8 feet

The assessed land value of the property is estimated at \$0.29 per square foot (zoned preservation and agriculture), although it's noted a property immediately adjacent to Pole 56 is assessed at \$38.92 per square foot (zoned residential).

**Discussion:** As indicated in Exhibit A, HECO is also projecting the need for additional easements for poles 55, 62 and 63, which would cover all of the poles along the HCDA's frontage on Kamehameha Highway. Staff has been working with HECO to package the entire request – possibly all 5 poles; describing to understand the overall impact, along with any necessary easements that would be associated with accessing and working on the associated lines and poles.

Regardless, HECO has brought to our attention that based on their inspection, poles 56 and 61 would require replacement before the other poles on the line and is requesting a decision on this initial request. Specific to servicing poles 56 and 61 as it spans Heeia stream, line work would be done from the bridge using lift equipment.

While the value may be minimal for the easements sought by HECO, the HCDA could seek specific accommodations whereby HECO provides utility connection for the HCDA property at the site of each pole.

- Pole 56 is located where Kakoo Oihi currently has its operations and has been seeking a utility connect.
- Pole 61 is located in the vicinity of Kealohi Road, a historic farm road that is planned for development under the Master Plan adopted by Kakoo Oihi and approved by the HCDA. Development along Kealohi Road would include small structures like a poi mill and cultural learning centers that would benefit from a utility connection.

Exhibit A: Request from Rachelle K. Pruss, Hawaiian Electric dated September 29, 2015