

# **Pa'auilo Mauka Kalopa Community Association July 2017 Newsletter**

## **President`s Message**



*PMKCA President Joe Clarkson*

Aloha PMKCA Neighbors

### **Hu Honua Pepeekeo Powerplant and Associated Forestry in Hamakua**

I recently attended an informational presentation by Hu Honua at Laupahoehoe School. The presentation was intended to inform interested parties about the status of the Hu Honua powerplant in Pepeekeo and the prospects for the plant's fuel supply, which is to be the wood grown in various plantations around the Big Island, including in Hamakua, Waiakea and near Pahala.

Hu Honua expects that a Public Utilities Commission (PUC) decision on the status of a power purchase agreement with HELCO will be made in the next month or two. The legal tussle between Hu Honua and HELCO has been abandoned, at least until the PUC makes their

HELCO has been abandoned, at least until the PUC makes their decision. The Hu Honua folks indicated that if the PUC validates the latest power purchase agreement with HELCO, they have the financial ability to complete the plant and start making power by the end of next year. They also indicated that they have obtained the agreements needed to secure the timber required to fuel the powerplant, which could produce up to 30 MW of electrical power.

The biggest impact on our part of Hamakua would be from the forestry and trucking operations. Continuing operations are expected to directly employ about 87 people in permanent positions. Most of that employment will be in land preparation, planting and forest management, while the remainder will be in transportation. The powerplant itself will employ about 30 people once in operation.

The powerplant will require the harvesting of about 2,000 acres of plantation eucalyptus per year. It is expected that a similar acreage will be planted every year and that the crop rotation period will be only 6-8 years. This means that the eventual harvest size of the trees will be much smaller than what we now see in existing plantation forest areas, which have trees that have been growing for about 20 years. The existing plantations are enough to fuel the plant for 8-10 years.

Harvesting and trucking are to be done only during the daytime. About 40 truckloads of trees will travel to the mill with their loads every day. This means that total truck trips (including empty trucks) will be on the order of 80 per day or about 7 per hour during the 12 daylight hours of operation.

Hu Honua has referred to a total of 33,770 acres of commercial forest land as being potentially available for tree production as fuel for the plant. I have not yet been able to determine what portion, if any, of that land is in the Honokaa- Paauilo area.

Documents filed with the PUC by Hu Honua and others refer to the

possibility of fuel wood arriving at the power plant in the form of either trees or chips. Field chipping presents a tremendous noise potential. I will encourage PMKCA and other organizations to do our utmost to prevent chipping operations from being done in the field and only in the proposed enclosed chipping structure at the plant. I have also already urged Hu Honua management to avoid using a circular saw type feller-buncher during harvesting in favor of a shear type to greatly reduce cutting noise.

### **General Membership Meeting**

PMKCA will hold its summer general membership meeting at Kalopa State Park on Saturday, July 29th at 11:00 am. This will be a meeting featuring a potluck lunch (non-alcoholic beverages provided) and which will also include our traditional bingo game and some informational presentations by invited elected representatives, including Representative Mark Nakashima and Councilmember Valerie Poindexter. We especially encourage newcomers to our community to attend, as this will be a great opportunity to meet and talk story with your neighbors.

Donations of inexpensive prizes for our bingo game are always welcome. Just bring them to the meeting. **LOST & FOUND**

### **DEPARTMENT**

A horse was found loose on Kula Kahiko Rd on Friday night, June 30th. It was taken onto a property adjacent to 44-3125 Kula Kahiko, where it is safe. Horse is chestnut colored and full grown. If you know of this horse or it's owner, please either come to 44-3125 Kula Kahiko to pick it up, or call or email Richard Goldman at 776-9966 or [rsgold@gmail.com](mailto:rsgold@gmail.com)

Best Regards,

Joe Clarkson  
President, PMKCA

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