



Letter of Support

22 July 2013

The Big Island LEAF Users Association is by far the most active electric vehicle (EV) users association in the state of Hawaii. Since our visit to Kona, Waimea, Hilo, Molokai, Honolulu, and Kaua'i in late February 2013 to share the results of our 105-page report*, we have kept abreast of their level of activity and commitment to wider EV adoption and push for infrastructure development. Of all the islands in the state, Hawai'i Island is the one most in need of DC Fast Chargers because of the vast distances and the growing number of electric vehicle owners. Hawai'i County is also the only one in the state that has no DC fast charger for its plug-in electric vehicles.

DC Fast Chargers not only reduce range anxiety for EV drivers but also increase confidence for EV infrastructure development. In Maui, for instance, the installation of the first DC Fast Charger in a central and strategic location motivated local residents to purchase electric vehicles. Its key location in Wailuku at the County Building has allowed EV drivers residing in the East Side and Upcountry to commute to the West Side and vice versa.

With the recent installation of 20 DC Fast Chargers in 5 locations on Maui through the JUMPsmart Maui project (Japan US smart grid demonstration project on Maui), our island now has one of the highest penetration of DC Fast Chargers. The sale of Nissan LEAFs has doubled that of last year, becoming the best selling Nissan car model on the island.

As Hawai'i County has neither the \$30 million JUMPsmart Maui project nor the ARRA-funded Aerovironment DC Fast Chargers that were installed on Oahu, Maui, and Kaua'i, a different approach and source of funding is needed.

We strongly believe the need to learn from user experience and to actively engage the stakeholders in getting the message of EVs across. The work of Doug Teeple and others demonstrates exactly that. We eagerly anticipate a supportive outcome from his testimony.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anne Ku".

Anne Ku

Project Director

Maui Electric Vehicle Alliance

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Maui Electric Vehicle Alliance (Maui EVA) is the name of a project at UH Maui College, seed-funded by a Department of Energy Clean Cities EV-readiness community planning grant, awarded on 1st October 2011 to UHMC and subawardees DBEDT, Honolulu Clean Cities, and UC San Diego. Named the third most innovative EV project in the USA by Green Tech Media (December 2011), our original vision is to give our visitors the experience of EVs in paradise. The grant was recently extended at no cost to allow our work to continue to support Maui and the neighbor islands. We disseminate through social media (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Youtube), our own newspaper column "EV in Paradise," cable television program "Maui EVA TV" and monthly newsletter.

Website: <http://www.mauieva.org>

* "EVs in Paradise: Planning for the Development of Electric Vehicle Infrastructure in Maui County" (revised, 2-12-2013), available from <http://www.mauieva.org/report/>