



Patti Epler <pattiepler2@gmail.com>

FOR RELEASE: Letter from Representative Gene Ward to Interior Secretary Doug Burgum

1 message

Rep. Gene Ward <repward@capitol.hawaii.gov>

Wed, Feb 19, 2025 at 3:32 PM

The following letter and attached files have been sent to Department of the Interior Secretary Doug Burgum from the Office of Representative Gene Ward regarding proposed offshore wind development off East Oahu.



REPRESENTATIVE GENE WARD, PhD
MINORITY CAUCUS LEADER
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 19, 2025

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Secretary
Department of Interior
[1100 Ohio Dr SW](#)
Washington, DC 20024

PROHIBITING HAWAI'I OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

Requesting that the Kaiwi Channel area off Oahu at a minimum, and all areas of the outer continental shelf off of Hawai'i in general, be withdrawn permanently from leasing for wind energy

Secretary Burgum:

I am writing to ensure you have the opportunity to personally review the attached letters from the Kaiwi Coalition and Hawaii's U.S. Congressman Ed Case regarding the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) plans to auction a lease in the Kaiwi Channel area off of southeast Oahu, Hawai'i for an industrial scale offshore wind (OSW) farm somewhere between 2026 and 2028.

BOEM has targeted Hawaii's outer continental shelf for OSW industrialization for over a decade, facing strong opposition from residents, especially Native Hawaiians, every time. **During the Biden administration, BOEM was turbocharged to implement an arbitrary "30 gigabyte by 2030" offshore wind mandate across the country which includes the current proposed Kaiwi Channel area lease that has been overwhelmingly opposed by the Kaiwi Coast community that will be most affected by OSW exploitation.**

I join Congressman Ed Case in his concerns. But in light of President Trump's welcome Executive Order temporarily withdrawing all areas of the outer continental shelf from leasing for wind energy, and the consistently strong opposition to OSW development in our ocean wilderness by the people of Hawai'i, **I urge you to permanently remove**

the Kaiwi Channel in particular, and Hawai'i in general, from BOEM's list of OSW project locations. OSW poses environmental, cultural, and national security threats to our island state that can never be mitigated by carbon offsets, reforestation projects, or arbitrary inhumane changes in "kill" numbers of species protected under the Endangered Species Act.

Offshore wind development is simply not a good fit for Hawai'i. It is not in any way part of Native Hawaiian culture. We don't want it desecrating our ocean wilderness and killing critically endangered wildlife. Every aspect of it relies on fossil fuels. It will not provide affordable or reliable energy for our State, which already pays the highest electricity rates in the nation. And with the increased tension in the Indo Pacific, OSW farms around our islands are a threat to our national security.

This is an important issue for my constituents who are counting on the President to at least save the Kaiwi Channel area, if not all of Hawai'i, from being exploited for OSW industrialization.

I can be reached at any time if you have any questions and look forward to your response.

With Aloha,



Representative Gene Ward

Hawaii State House of Representatives

House Minority Caucus Leader

State House District 18

Hawaii Kai – Kalama Valley - Portlock

repward@capitol.hawaii.gov

[\(808\) 586-6420](tel:(808)586-6420)

CC: Congressman Ed Case, repedcase@mail.house.gov
Council Chair Tommy Waters, tommy.waters@honolulu.gov

2 attachments



Letter from Rep. Ed Case to BOEM.pdf
113K



Letter from the Kaiwi Coalition to Secretary Burgum.pdf
220K