

## **Follow the Money: Geothermal Power in Hawaii** #14

The geothermal supporters all have two things in common: they live a safe distance from the Puna Geothermal Ventures (PGV) plant and they benefit from the money generated by PGV.

Puna Geothermal Venture (PGV) made gross revenue of \$43 million in 2011, selling electricity created at the plant to HELCO at "avoided cost," the price HELCO would pay if it were paying for oil-generated electricity.

The State of Hawaii made a total of \$1.8 million in geothermal royalties in 2011 from PGV. This represents 3 percent of PGV's gross revenues.

The County of Hawaii received 30 percent of the state's royalties in 2011, totaling \$568,000.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs received 20 percent of the state's royalties totaling, \$378,000.

After these distributions, the State of Hawaii netted almost a million dollars in 2011 from PGV. That is a vested interest in the continued running of the PGV plant and a conflict of interest for the state Department of Health (DOH) versus the health and safety of those that live near the plant.

Many people have asked: Why hasn't there been proper monitoring of PGV's emissions and comprehensive health studies of people who live near the plant?

The answer is money: If DOH did proper monitoring and studies and found that PGV was hurting the health of Puna residents, they would be compelled to shut PGV down, cutting the flow of money to the State and the County of Hawaii.

Please be aware that other vocal supporters of geothermal power in Hawaii are positioning themselves to cash in on the money flow.

When someone tells you that they are for geothermal power, please ask if they have a financial interest in a company who wants to exploit our 'aina and profit from a plant in Hawaii.

There are more than 20 companies competing to drill geothermal wells in Hawaii. If they succeed, they will make the money and you may have them as a noisy and toxic neighbor.

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If you wish to stay informed about community action and receive the Puna Pono Alliance Newsletter and Bob Petricci's Updates, email [newsletter@punapono.com](mailto:newsletter@punapono.com) with NEWSLETTER in the subject line.

***Puna Pono Alliance needs funds to keep up the fight for Puna. Please contribute by credit card or PayPal at [punapono.com/contribute](http://punapono.com/contribute) or by check to PO Box 492668, Keaau, HI 96749.***

If you want to help in other ways please call (808) 339-4344.