

1 POMERANTZ LLP
2 Jennifer Pafiti (SBN 282790)
3 1100 Glendon Avenue, 15th Floor
4 Los Angeles, California 90024
5 Telephone: (310) 405-7190
6 jpfafiti@pomlaw.com

7 *Attorney for Plaintiff*

8 *[Additional Counsel on Signature Page]*

9 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
10 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

11 BHAPINDERPAL S. BHANGAL,
12 Individually and on Behalf of All Others
13 Similarly Situated,

14 Plaintiff,

15 v.

16 HAWAIIAN ELECTRIC INDUSTRIES, INC.,
17 CONSTANCE H. LAU, SCOTT W. H. SEU,
18 GREGORY C. HAZELTON, and PAUL K. ITO,

19 Defendants.

Case No.

CLASS ACTION

COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE
FEDERAL SECURITIES LAWS

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

19 Plaintiff Bhapinderpal S. Bhangal (“Plaintiff”), individually and on behalf of all others
20 similarly situated, by Plaintiff’s undersigned attorneys, for Plaintiff’s complaint against
21 Defendants, alleges the following based upon personal knowledge as to Plaintiff and Plaintiff’s
22 own acts, and information and belief as to all other matters, based upon, *inter alia*, the
23 investigation conducted by and through Plaintiff’s attorneys, which included, among other
24 things, a review of the Defendants’ public documents, conference calls and announcements made
25 by Defendants, United States (“U.S.”) Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) filings,
26 wire and press releases published by and regarding Hawaiian Electric Industries, Inc. (“Hawaiian
27
28

1 Electric” or the “Company”), analysts’ reports and advisories about the Company, and
2 information readily obtainable on the Internet. Plaintiff believes that substantial, additional
3 evidentiary support will exist for the allegations set forth herein after a reasonable opportunity
4 for discovery.

5
6 **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

7 1. This is a federal securities class action on behalf of a class consisting of all persons
8 and entities other than Defendants that purchased or otherwise acquired Hawaiian Electric
9 securities between February 28, 2019 and August 16, 2023, both dates inclusive (the “Class
10 Period”), seeking to recover damages caused by Defendants’ violations of the federal securities
11 laws and to pursue remedies under Sections 10(b) and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of
12 1934 (the “Exchange Act”) and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder, against the Company and
13 certain of its top officials.

14
15 2. Hawaiian Electric, together with its subsidiaries, engages in the electric utility,
16 banking, and non-regulated renewable/sustainable infrastructure investment businesses in the
17 state of Hawaii. The Company provides service to 95% of Hawaiian residents and operates in
18 three segments, including the Electric Utility segment, which engages in the production,
19 purchase, transmission, distribution, and sale of electricity in the islands of Oahu, Hawaii, Maui,
20 Lanai, and Molokai.

21
22 3. In early August 2023, a series of severe wildfires broke out in Hawaii,
23 predominantly on the island of Maui. The most destructive fire began in West Maui near the
24 town of Lahaina on the morning of August 8, 2023. By that afternoon, intense winds had knocked
25 down approximately 30 utility poles throughout Maui, resulting in at least 15 separate outages
26 impacting more than 12,400 customers. Moreover, videos captured by local residents showed
27 that downed power lines belonging to Hawaiian Electric appeared to have ignited at least several
28

1 of the fires. Ultimately, the wind-driven fires prompted evacuations, caused widespread damage,
2 and have killed at least 114 people, with some 850 others still missing in Lahaina.

3 4. On August 12, 2023, news outlets began reporting that Hawaiian Electric lacked
4 the proper policies and procedures to mitigate the impact of the wildfires. Specifically, it was
5 revealed that, at the time the wildfires began, the Company did not maintain a public power
6 shutoff plan—*i.e.*, a plan in which electricity is intentionally cut off to areas where strong wind
7 events could cause the fires to spread.
8

9 5. On this news, Hawaiian Electric’s stock price fell \$10.94 per share, or 33.76%, to
10 close at \$21.46 per share on August 14, 2023.

11 6. Then, on August 16, 2023, the *Wall Street Journal* (“*WSJ*”) reported that
12 Hawaiian Electric is meeting with firms that specialize in restructuring advisory work, exploring
13 options for the various financial and legal challenges that the Company faces as a consequence
14 from the Maui wildfires.
15

16 7. Finally, on August 17, 2023, the *WSJ* reported that Hawaiian Electric had for years
17 been aware of the threat posed by wildfire but waited years to act. Indeed, the *WSJ* stated that
18 between 2019 and 2022 the Company spent less than \$245,000 on wildfire-specific projects on
19 Maui and did not seek state approval to raise utility rates to pay for broad wildfire safety
20 improvements until 2022.
21

22 8. Following the publication of the *WSJ* articles, Hawaiian Electric’s stock price fell
23 \$2.54 per share, or 17.43%, to close at \$12.03 per share on August 17, 2023.

24 9. Throughout the Class Period, Defendants made materially false and misleading
25 statements regarding the Company’s business, operations, and prospects. Specifically,
26 Defendants made false and/or misleading statements and/or failed to disclose that: (i) Hawaiian
27 Electric’s wildfire prevention and safety protocols and procedures were inadequate to meet the
28

1 challenges for which they were ostensibly designed; (ii) accordingly, despite knowing the degree
2 of risk that wildfires posed to Maui, the Company's inadequate safety protocols and procedures
3 placed Maui at a heightened risk of devastating wildfires; and (iii) as a result, the Company's
4 public statements were materially false and misleading at all relevant times.

5
6 10. As a result of Defendants' wrongful acts and omissions, and the precipitous
7 decline in the market value of the Company's securities, Plaintiff and other Class members have
8 suffered significant losses and damages.

9 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

10 11. The claims asserted herein arise under and pursuant to Sections 10(b) and 20(a)
11 of the Exchange Act (15 U.S.C. §§ 78j(b) and 78t(a)) and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder by
12 the SEC (17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5).

13
14 12. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant to 28
15 U.S.C. § 1331 and Section 27 of the Exchange Act.

16 13. Venue is proper in this Judicial District pursuant to Section 27 of the Exchange
17 Act (15 U.S.C. § 78aa) and 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b). Pursuant to Hawaiian Electric's most recently
18 filed Quarterly Report with the SEC, as of July 18, 2023, there were 109,611,599 shares of the
19 Company's common stock outstanding. Hawaiian Electric's securities trade on the New York
20 Stock Exchange ("NYSE"). Accordingly, there are presumably hundreds, if not thousands of
21 investors in Hawaiian Electric securities located within the U.S., some of whom undoubtedly
22 reside in this Judicial District. Moreover, Plaintiff resides in this Judicial District.

23
24 14. In connection with the acts alleged in this complaint, Defendants, directly or
25 indirectly, used the means and instrumentalities of interstate commerce, including, but not limited
26 to, the mails, interstate telephone communications, and the facilities of the national securities
27 markets.

PARTIES

1
2 15. Plaintiff, as set forth in the attached Certification, acquired Hawaiian Electric
3 securities at artificially inflated prices during the Class Period and was damaged upon the
4 revelation of the alleged corrective disclosures.

5
6 16. Defendant Hawaiian Electric is a Hawaiian corporation with principal executive
7 offices located at 1001 Bishop Street, Suite 2900, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813. Hawaiian Electric’s
8 common stock trades in an efficient market on the NYSE under the ticker symbol “HE”.

9 17. Defendant Constance H. Lau (“Lau”) served as Hawaiian Electric’s President and
10 Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”) from prior to the start of the Class Period until January 2022.

11 18. Defendant Scott W. H. Seu (“Seu”) has served as Hawaiian Electric’s President,
12 CEO, and Director since January 2022.

13 19. Defendant Gregory C. Hazelton (“Hazelton”) served as Hawaiian Electric’s
14 Executive Vice President (“V.P.”), Chief Financial Officer (“CFO”), and Treasurer from prior to
15 the start of the Class Period until July 2022.

16
17 20. Defendant Paul K. Ito (“Ito”) served as Hawaiian Electric’s Interim CFO from
18 July 2022 until January 2023, and has served as the Company’s Executive V.P., Treasurer, and
19 CFO since January 2023.

20
21 21. Defendants Lau, Seu, Hazelton, and Ito are sometimes referred to herein
22 collectively as the “Individual Defendants.”

23 22. The Individual Defendants possessed the power and authority to control the
24 contents of Hawaiian Electric’s SEC filings, press releases, and other market communications.
25 The Individual Defendants were provided with copies of Hawaiian Electric’s SEC filings and
26 press releases alleged herein to be misleading prior to or shortly after their issuance and had the
27 ability and opportunity to prevent their issuance or to cause them to be corrected. Because of
28

1 their positions with Hawaiian Electric, and their access to material information available to them
2 but not to the public, the Individual Defendants knew that the adverse facts specified herein had
3 not been disclosed to and were being concealed from the public, and that the positive
4 representations being made were then materially false and misleading. The Individual
5 Defendants are liable for the false statements and omissions pleaded herein.
6

7 **SUBSTANTIVE ALLEGATIONS**

8 **Background**

9 23. Hawaiian Electric, together with its subsidiaries, engages in the electric utility,
10 banking, and non-regulated renewable/sustainable infrastructure investment businesses in the
11 state of Hawaii. The Company provides service to 95% of Hawaiian residents and operates in
12 three segments, including the Electric Utility segment, which engages in the production,
13 purchase, transmission, distribution, and sale of electricity in the islands of Oahu, Hawaii, Maui,
14 Lanai, and Molokai.
15

16 **Materially False and Misleading Statements Issued During the Class Period**

17 24. The Class Period begins on February 28, 2019, when Hawaiian Electric filed an
18 Annual Report on Form 10-K with the SEC, reporting the Company's financial and operating
19 results for the year ended December 31, 2018 (the "2018 10-K"). In providing an overview of
20 the Company's business, the 2018 10-K stated, in relevant part:
21

22 *Electric Utility.* Hawaiian Electric and its operating utility subsidiaries,
23 Hawaii Electric Light Company, Inc. (Hawaii Electric Light) and Maui Electric
24 Company, Limited (Maui Electric), are regulated electric public utilities that
25 provide essential electric service to approximately 95% of Hawaii's population
26 through the operation of five separate grids that serve communities on the islands
27 of Oahu, Hawaii, and Maui, Lanai and Molokai. Hawaiian Electric's mission is to
28 provide innovative energy leadership for Hawaii, to meet the needs and
expectations of customers and communities, and to empower them with affordable,
reliable and clean energy. The goal is to create a modern, flexible and dynamic
electric grid that enables an optimal mix of distributed energy resources (such as
private rooftop solar and battery storage), demand response, and grid-scale
resources to achieve the statutory goal of 100% renewable energy by 2045

1 25. Further, in discussing the Company’s compliance with environmental regulations,
2 the 2018 10-K stated, in relevant part:

3 Hawaiian Electric, Hawaii Electric Light and Maui Electric [the “Utilities”], like
4 other utilities, are subject to periodic inspections by federal, state and, in some
5 cases, local environmental regulatory agencies, including agencies responsible for
6 the regulation of water quality, air quality, hazardous and other waste and
7 hazardous materials. These inspections may result in the identification of items
8 needing corrective or other action. Except as otherwise disclosed in this report [. .
9 .], ***the Company believes that each subsidiary has appropriately responded to
10 environmental conditions requiring action and that, as a result of such actions,
11 such environmental conditions will not have a material adverse effect on the
12 Company or Hawaiian Electric.***¹

13 26. Finally, in discussing the Company’s executive overview and strategy for its
14 electric utility segment, the 2018 10-K stated, in relevant part:

15 The Utilities provide electricity on all the principal islands in the state, other than
16 Kauai, to approximately 95% of the state’s population, and operate five separate
17 grids. ***The Utilities’ mission is to provide innovative energy leadership for Hawaii,
18 to meet the needs and expectations of customers and communities, and to
19 empower them with affordable, reliable and clean energy.*** The goal is to create a
20 modern, flexible, and dynamic electric grid that enables an optimal mix of
21 distributed energy resources, such as private rooftop solar, demand response, and
22 grid-scale resources to enable the creation of smart, sustainable, resilient
23 communities and achieve the statutory goal of 100% renewable energy by 2045.

24 27. Appended to the 2018 10-K as an exhibit was a signed certification pursuant to
25 the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (“SOX”) by Defendants Lau and Hazelton, attesting that “[t]he
26 consolidated information contained in the [2018 10-K] fairly presents, in all material respects,
27 the financial condition and results of operations of [the Company] and its subsidiaries as of, and
28 for, the periods presented in this report.”

28 28. On May 7, 2019, Hawaiian Electric filed a Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q with
the SEC, reporting the Company’s financial and operating results for the quarter ended March
31, 2019 (the “Q1 2019 10-Q”). The Q1 2019 10-Q contained a substantively similar description

¹ All emphases included herein are added unless otherwise indicated.

1 of the Company’s executive overview and strategy for its electric utility segment as discussed,
2 *supra*, in ¶ 26, and appended to the Q1 2019 10-Q as an exhibit was substantively the same
3 certification as discussed, *supra*, in ¶ 27, signed pursuant to SOX by Defendants Lau and
4 Hazelton.

5
6 29. On August 2, 2019, Hawaiian Electric filed a Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q
7 with the SEC, reporting the Company’s financial and operating results for the quarter ended June
8 30, 2019 (the “Q2 2019 10-Q”). The Q2 2019 10-Q contained a substantively similar description
9 of the Company’s executive overview and strategy for its electric utility segment as discussed,
10 *supra*, in ¶ 26, and appended to the Q2 2019 10-Q as an exhibit was substantively the same
11 certification as discussed, *supra*, in ¶ 27, signed pursuant to SOX by Defendants Lau and
12 Hazelton.

13
14 30. On November 1, 2019, Hawaiian Electric filed a Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q
15 with the SEC, reporting the Company’s financial and operating results for the quarter ended
16 September 30, 2019 (the “Q3 2019 10-Q”). The Q3 2019 10-Q contained a substantively similar
17 description of the Company’s executive overview and strategy for its electric utility segment as
18 discussed, *supra*, in ¶ 26, and appended to the Q3 2019 10-Q as an exhibit was substantively the
19 same certification as discussed, *supra*, in ¶ 27, signed pursuant to SOX by Defendants Lau and
20 Hazelton.

21
22 31. On February 28, 2020, Hawaiian Electric filed an Annual Report on Form 10-K
23 with the SEC, reporting the Company’s financial and operating results for the year ended
24 December 31, 2019 (the “2019 10-K”). The 2019 10-K contained substantively similar
25 descriptions of the Company’s business, compliance with environmental regulations, and
26 executive overview and strategy of its electric utility segment, as discussed, *supra*, in ¶¶ 24-26,
27
28

1 and appended to the 2019 10-K as an exhibit was substantively the same certification as
2 discussed, *supra*, in ¶ 27, signed pursuant to SOX by Defendants Lau and Hazelton.

3 32. In addition, in discussing the Company’s environmental, social and governance
4 (“ESG”) risks and opportunities, the 2019 10-K stated, in relevant part:

5 [ESG] considerations have long been an integral part of HEI’s strategy to
6 be a “catalyst for a better Hawaii” for the benefit of all stakeholders. The Company
7 firmly believes that effective management of its ESG risks and opportunities creates
8 a strategic business advantage; improves the lives of our employees, through focus
9 on employee health, wellness, safety, empowerment and increased engagement;
10 improves the sustainability, well-being and resilience of our communities, the state
11 and the environment; and ultimately leads to sustained long-term value creation for
12 our investors.

13 The [Hawaiian Electric] Board of Directors is responsible for the oversight
14 of the Company’s enterprise risk management (ERM) programs, which are
15 designed to address all material risks and opportunities, including ESG
16 considerations. The Board of Directors has delegated the day-to-day responsibility
17 to execute on these action plans to management. The Company believes ESG
18 considerations are embedded in our daily actions and drive how we engage with
19 our employees, communities, and shareholders.

20 The Company intends to leverage the frameworks developed by the Task
21 Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosure (TCFD) and the Sustainability
22 Accounting Standards Board (SASB) to communicate our approach and progress
23 on ESG matters in future filings.

24 We are committed to achieving a renewable, sustainable energy future,
25 providing leadership in corporate social responsibility, and adhering to governance
26 best practices.

27 33. On May 5, 2020, Hawaiian Electric filed a Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q with
28 the SEC, reporting the Company’s financial and operating results for the quarter ended March
31, 2020 (the “Q1 2020 10-Q”). The Q1 2020 10-Q contained a substantively similar description
of the Company’s executive overview and strategy for its electric utility segment as discussed,
supra, in ¶ 26, and appended to the Q1 2020 10-Q as an exhibit was substantively the same
certification as discussed, *supra*, in ¶ 27, signed pursuant to SOX by Defendants Lau and
Hazelton.

1 34. On August 6, 2020, Hawaiian Electric filed a Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q
2 with the SEC, reporting the Company’s financial and operating results for the quarter ended June
3 30, 2020 (the “Q2 2020 10-Q”). The Q2 2020 10-Q contained a substantively similar description
4 of the Company’s executive overview and strategy for its electric utility segment as discussed,
5 *supra*, in ¶ 26, and appended to the Q2 2020 10-Q as an exhibit was substantively the same
6 certification as discussed, *supra*, in ¶ 27, signed pursuant to SOX by Defendants Lau and
7 Hazelton.
8

9 35. On September 15, 2020, Hawaiian Electric issued a press release announcing that
10 the Company had released its first ESG report (the “2019 ESG Report”). The press release stated,
11 in relevant part:

12 Hawaiian Electric [. . .] today released its first consolidated report describing its
13 policies, actions and performance data with respect to [ESG] and sustainability-
14 related matters. Such reports are frequently referred to as “ESG” reports and are
15 becoming increasingly common as investors seek to understand how public
16 companies are impacting the environment and society, as well as potential
17 opportunities and risks to companies’ long-term financial and operational strength.

18 “We’re proud to issue our first consolidated [Hawaiian Electric] ESG report to help
19 customers, employees, investors and other stakeholders understand how [Hawaiian
20 Electric’s] strategies and operations advance ESG outcomes and create long-term
21 value for all stakeholders,” said [Defendant Lau].

22 “While this is our first consolidated [Hawaiian Electric] ESG report, ESG
23 principles and sustainability have long been fundamental values of [Hawaiian
24 Electric], so much so that we’ve often said that ESG is in our DNA. With all of our
25 operations in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, we know that our company’s long-
26 term health is inextricably linked with the strength of the economy, communities,
27 and environment of the Hawaiian Islands. This linkage is all the more clear in the
28 context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and we’re working hard to help our customers,
employees and communities through this period and to help our economy recover,”
said Lau.

36. That same day, Hawaiian Electric published its 2019 ESG Report. In discussing
sustainability governance, the 2019 ESG Report stated, in relevant part:

We see ESG-related strategies and risks as having the same potential as other
strategies and risks to impact long-term value creation. As such, we’ve integrated

1 material ESG factors into company governance structures and management
2 activities. Just like other strategies and risks, we're identifying, measuring,
3 managing and assigning accountability for material ESG issues.

4 Company strategies are overseen by the Board as a whole and are managed through
5 our strategic planning and oversight process. The Board provides guidance on
6 strategic priorities and plans, including at its annual strategic retreat, and approves
7 the budget to allocate resources for agreed upon strategies.

8 Our full Board reviews and provides input on major risks for our companies and
9 determines our risk appetite. ***This includes risks relating to safety and potential
10 physical risk to utility infrastructure or to bank loan collateral from climate
11 change impacts. The [Hawaiian Electric] Audit & Risk Committee assists the
12 Board in its risk oversight role by overseeing our Enterprise Risk Management
13 (ERM) program, which is designed to identify and assess key risks across the
14 [Hawaiian Electric] enterprise and report such risks to the Board, along with
15 strategies for mitigating such risks.*** The Hawaiian Electric Audit & Risk
16 Committee and the ASB Audit Committee and Risk Committee assist in risk
17 oversight of those subsidiaries.

18 The [Hawaiian Electric] Nominating & Corporate Governance Committee (NCG
19 Committee) reviews strategies and risks involving governance and assesses
20 leadership development and succession planning to ensure we have the right
21 leadership to execute our strategies. The role of the NCG Committee has recently
22 expanded to include review of human capital management and ensuring ESG
23 oversight.

24 37. Further, in discussing environmental commitment and management, the 2019
25 ESG Report stated, in relevant part:

26 Our customers and communities expect that through our daily operations we will
27 protect our air and water, reduce waste, and conserve natural resources. More than
28 30 environmental professionals, including scientists, engineers, chemists, and a
wildlife biologist work full-time at our company to ensure that employees and
external contractors understand and comply with all applicable environmental laws,
regulations, permitting requirements and procedures regarding air and water
quality, noise control, hazardous materials, and protected species.

Our Environmental Division's mission is to ensure that the company fulfills its
kuleana, responsibility, to protect Hawai'i's unique environment through
environmental compliance and stewardship and timely, innovative, cost-effective
Environmental Management Programs and Standard Operating Procedures, which
are comprehensive and formalized.

Critical elements of the programs and procedures include year-round risk and
opportunities assessment, continuous improvement, compliance management and
tracking, air and water quality monitoring, and extensive environmental

1 compliance training in air quality requirements, spill prevention control and
2 countermeasures, storm water runoff, proper handling and disposal of hazardous
3 materials, and protected species awareness and protection. All contractors and
4 subcontractors working at Hawaiian Electric sites are required to attend Contractor
5 Environmental Orientation training, conducted by our environmental staff.

6 Internal audits are conducted to verify compliance with environmental permits,
7 regulations and policies, and fulfill corporate risk management requirements. Our
8 internal Corporate Audit Team audits the Environmental Division at least once
9 every three years. Audit reports are used to create Management Action Plans,
10 ensuring that highest risk items are given priority and addressed in a timely manner.
11 The Environmental Division also performs periodic environmental compliance
12 audits of our company facilities to identify areas for improvement.

13 38. Finally, in discussing the Company's purported commitment to safety, the 2019
14 ESG Report stated, in relevant part:

15 Safety is our number one priority at Hawaiian Electric. Our goal is to provide a safe
16 and healthy work environment, where every employee makes safety a central part
17 of his or her job.

18 Our safety commitment is to provide and support:

- 19 • Managerial responsibility for health and safety issues
- 20 • Procedures for hazard identification and safety risk assessment
- 21 • Operating health and safety guidelines, procedures, and policies
- 22 • ***Emergency planning and preparedness procedures***
- 23 • Safety performance monitoring, measurement, and reporting
- 24 • Internal and external health and safety audits

25 39. On November 6, 2020, Hawaiian Electric filed a Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q
26 with the SEC, reporting the Company's financial and operating results for the quarter ended
27 September 30, 2020 (the "Q3 2020 10-Q"). The Q3 2020 10-Q contained a substantively similar
28 description of the Company's executive overview and strategy for its electric utility segment as
discussed, *supra*, in ¶ 26, and appended to the Q3 2020 10-Q as an exhibit was substantively the

1 same certification as discussed, *supra*, in ¶ 27, signed pursuant to SOX by Defendants Lau and
2 Hazelton.

3 40. On February 26, 2021, Hawaiian Electric filed an Annual Report on Form 10-K
4 with the SEC, reporting the Company’s financial and operating results for the year ended
5 December 31, 2020 (the “2020 10-K”). The 2020 10-K contained substantively similar
6 descriptions of the Company’s business, compliance with environmental regulations, executive
7 overview and strategy of its electric utility segment, and purported commitment to ESG
8 principles as discussed, *supra*, in ¶¶ 24-26 and 32, and appended to the 2020 10-K as an exhibit
9 was substantively the same certification as discussed, *supra*, in ¶ 27, signed pursuant to SOX by
10 Defendants Lau and Hazelton.
11

12 41. On April 22, 2021, Hawaiian Electric issued a press release announcing that the
13 Company had issued a consolidated ESG report (the “2020 ESG Report”). The press release
14 stated, in relevant part:
15

16 Hawaiian Electric [. . .] today released an updated consolidated report describing
17 its policies, actions and performance with respect to a number of [ESG] matters,
including climate-related risks and opportunities.

18 ***

19 “With all of our operations in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, we know that our
20 company’s long-term health is inextricably linked with the strength of the economy,
21 communities, and environment of the Hawaiian Islands. That’s why ESG and
22 sustainability considerations are at the core of our mission to be a catalyst for a
better Hawai’i,” said [Defendant] Lau[.]

23 “Since issuing our inaugural ESG report last fall, we have continued our cross-
24 enterprise work to further integrate ESG and climate-related factors into our
25 governance, strategies, risk management and reporting. This second consolidated
26 ESG report provides an update on our ESG efforts and reflects our commitment to
continuous improvement, transparency and accountability surrounding these very
important issues,” said Lau.

27 42. That same day, Hawaiian Electric published its 2020 ESG Report. The 2020 ESG
28 Report contained substantively similar descriptions of the Company’s policies regarding

1 sustainability governance and risk management, environmental management, and purported
2 commitment to safety as discussed, *supra*, in ¶¶ 36-38.

3 43. On May 10, 2021, Hawaiian Electric filed a Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q with
4 the SEC, reporting the Company's financial and operating results for the quarter ended March
5 31, 2021 (the "Q1 2021 10-Q"). The Q1 2021 10-Q contained a substantively similar description
6 of the Company's executive overview and strategy for its electric utility segment as discussed,
7 *supra*, in ¶ 26, and appended to the Q1 2021 10-Q as an exhibit was substantively the same
8 certification as discussed, *supra*, in ¶ 27, signed pursuant to SOX by Defendants Lau and
9 Hazelton.
10

11 44. On August 9, 2021, Hawaiian Electric filed a Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q
12 with the SEC, reporting the Company's financial and operating results for the quarter ended June
13 30, 2021 (the "Q2 2021 10-Q"). The Q2 2021 10-Q contained a substantively similar description
14 of the Company's executive overview and strategy for its electric utility segment as discussed,
15 *supra*, in ¶ 26, and appended to the Q2 2021 10-Q as an exhibit was substantively the same
16 certification as discussed, *supra*, in ¶ 27, signed pursuant to SOX by Defendants Lau and
17 Hazelton.
18

19 45. On November 5, 2021, Hawaiian Electric filed a Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q
20 with the SEC, reporting the Company's financial and operating results for the quarter ended
21 September 30, 2021 (the "Q3 2021 10-Q"). The Q3 2021 10-Q contained a substantively similar
22 description of the Company's executive overview and strategy for its electric utility segment as
23 discussed, *supra*, in ¶ 26, and appended to the Q3 2021 10-Q as an exhibit was substantively the
24 same certification as discussed, *supra*, in ¶ 27, signed pursuant to SOX by Defendants Lau and
25 Hazelton.
26
27
28

1 46. On February 25, 2022, Hawaiian Electric filed an Annual Report on Form 10-K
2 with the SEC, reporting the Company’s financial and operating results for the year ended
3 December 31, 2021 (the “2021 10-K”). The 2021 10-K contained substantively similar
4 descriptions of the Company’s business, compliance with environmental regulations, executive
5 overview and strategy of its electric utility segment, and purported commitment to ESG
6 principles as discussed, *supra*, in ¶¶ 24-26 and 32, and appended to the 2021 10-K as an exhibit
7 was substantively the same certification as discussed, *supra*, in ¶ 27, signed pursuant to SOX by
8 Defendants Seu and Hazelton.
9

10 47. On April 12, 2022, Hawaiian Electric issued a press release announcing that the
11 Company had issued a consolidated ESG report (the “2021 ESG Report”). The press release
12 quoted Defendant Seu, stating, in relevant part, “[o]ur ESG progress demonstrates our
13 commitment not only to operating a sustainable business, but also to building a sustainable
14 Hawai’i in which our children and grandchildren, our communities, our customers and our fellow
15 employees will thrive together now and for generations to come,” and “[o]ur company has been
16 serving Hawai’i for over 130 years, and this deep-felt mindset comes naturally to us as a
17 longstanding business in our island state. The alignment between ESG principles, state policy in
18 Hawai’i, community expectations, and our goals as a company has never been stronger.”
19

20 48. That same day, Hawaiian Electric published the 2021 ESG Report. The 2021
21 ESG Report contained substantively similar descriptions of the Company’s policies regarding
22 sustainability governance and risk management, environmental management, and purported
23 commitment to safety as discussed, *supra*, in ¶¶ 36-38.
24

25 49. In addition, in discussing reliability and resilience, the 2021 ESG Report stated,
26 in relevant part:

27 We are focused on ensuring the resilience of our system. Our efforts include:
28

1 Both the company (through performance incentives) and executives (through
2 executive compensation goals) have financial incentives to promote strong
reliability performance.

3 We are working on a multi-year plan and PUC application focused on foundational
4 investments in transmission and distribution system resilience. Our proposed plan
will include:

- 5 • Strengthening our most critical transmission lines to withstand extreme
6 winds
- 7 • Hardening distribution lines serving critical community lifeline facilities
8 such as hospitals, military sites, communications infrastructure, water and
9 wastewater facilities, ports and emergency response facilities
- 10 • Upgrading specific poles to improve restoration after a storm or hurricane
- 11 • Moving lines underground in targeted areas prone to vegetation-related
12 damage
- 13 • Removing large trees that are at risk of falling into lines during a storm
- 14 • ***Strengthening lines and deploying devices to help prevent and respond to
wildfires***
- 15 • Installing equipment in select substations to reduce flood impacts

16
17 50. Finally, in discussing wildfire prevention and mitigation, the 2021 ESG Report
18 stated, in relevant part:

19 Episodic drought, a warming climate and the expansion of nonnative fire-prone
20 grasses and shrubs has led to an increase in wildfires in Hawai'i. 98% of wildfires
in Hawai'i are human caused¹⁷ and the threat to communities is high year-round.
21 ***In addition to the utility's own wildfire mitigation plans, we have joined with
community members and wildfire collaborators to help prevent and mitigate
22 wildfires in known hot spots across our service areas.*** As members of the
Wai'anae Wildfire Hui in West O'ahu and Pacific Fire Exchange on Maui, we meet
23 monthly to share ideas and discuss priority projects. We support the Hawai'i
Wildfire Management Organization on Hawai'i Island, which works with
24 communities across the state on wildfire planning, prevention and mitigation
activities. By raising awareness, implementing key land management practices and
25 collaborating on projects, these organizations are working to reduce the wildfire
risk in Hawai'i and build strong, resilient communities.
26
27
28

1 51. On May 9, 2022, Hawaiian Electric filed a Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q with
2 the SEC, reporting the Company’s financial and operating results for the quarter ended March
3 31, 2022 (the “Q1 2022 10-Q”). The Q1 2022 10-Q contained a substantively similar description
4 of the Company’s executive overview and strategy for its electric utility segment as discussed,
5 *supra*, in ¶ 26, and appended to the Q1 2022 10-Q as an exhibit was substantively the same
6 certification as discussed, *supra*, in ¶ 27, signed pursuant to SOX by Defendants Seu and
7 Hazelton.
8

9 52. On August 8, 2022, Hawaiian Electric filed a Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q
10 with the SEC, reporting the Company’s financial and operating results for the quarter ended June
11 30, 2022 (the “Q2 2022 10-Q”). The Q2 2022 10-Q contained a substantively similar description
12 of the Company’s executive overview and strategy for its electric utility segment as discussed,
13 *supra*, in ¶ 26, and appended to the Q2 2022 10-Q as an exhibit was substantively the same
14 certification as discussed, *supra*, in ¶ 27, signed pursuant to SOX by Defendants Seu and Ito.
15

16 53. On November 7, 2022, Hawaiian Electric filed a Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q
17 with the SEC, reporting the Company’s financial and operating results for the quarter ended
18 September 30, 2022 (the “Q3 2022 10-Q”). The Q3 2022 10-Q contained a substantively similar
19 description of the Company’s executive overview and strategy for its electric utility segment as
20 discussed, *supra*, in ¶ 26, and appended to the Q3 2022 10-Q as an exhibit was substantively the
21 same certification as discussed, *supra*, in ¶ 27, signed pursuant to SOX by Defendants Seu and
22 Ito.
23

24 54. On February 27, 2023, Hawaiian Electric filed an Annual Report on Form 10-K
25 with the SEC, reporting the Company’s financial and operating results for the year ended
26 December 31, 2022 (the “2022 10-K”). The 2022 10-K contained substantively similar
27 descriptions of the Company’s business, compliance with environmental regulations, executive
28

1 overview and strategy of its electric utility segment, and purported commitment to ESG
2 principles, as discussed, *supra*, in ¶¶ 24-26 and 32, and appended to the 2022 10-K as an exhibit
3 was substantively the same certification as discussed, *supra*, in ¶ 27, signed pursuant to SOX by
4 Defendants Seu and Ito.

5
6 55. On April 4, 2023, Hawaiian Electric issued a press release announcing that the
7 Company had released its latest ESG report (the “2022 ESG Report”). The press release stated,
8 in relevant part:

9 Hawaiian Electric [. . .] today announced the publication of its newest consolidated
10 report describing its updated policies, actions and performance for 2022 with
11 respect to a range of environmental, social and governance (ESG) matters. This is
HEI’s fourth annual ESG report.

12 “Our [Hawaiian Electric] family of companies is guided by a common purpose to
13 create a better Hawai’i – one that is thriving economically, environmentally,
14 culturally and socially,” said [Defendant] Seu[.] “We believe this purpose serves
15 the long-term interests of all of our stakeholders – it inspires us to act in ways that
allow us not simply to advance, but to leap forward into a future that’s brighter for
us all.”

16 The theme of HEI’s latest ESG report is “Laulima,” which translates to “many
17 hands working together.” The report details the work of all of the [Hawaiian
18 Electric] companies in 2022 toward their common purpose, including in areas such
as decarbonization; economic health and affordability; reliability and resilience;
diversity, equity and inclusion; and human capital management.

19 56. That same day, Hawaiian Electric published its 2022 ESG Report. The 2022 ESG
20 Report contained substantively similar descriptions of the Company’s policies regarding
21 sustainability governance and risk management, environmental management, purported
22 commitment to safety, reliability and resilience, and wildfire prevention and mitigation, as
23 discussed, *supra*, in ¶¶ 36-38, and 49-50.

24
25 57. On May 9, 2023, Hawaiian Electric filed a Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q with
26 the SEC, reporting the Company’s financial and operating results for the quarter ended March
27 31, 2023 (the “Q1 2023 10-Q”). The Q1 2023 10-Q contained a substantively similar description
28

1 of the Company's executive overview and strategy for its electric utility segment as discussed,
2 *supra*, in ¶ 26, and appended to the Q1 2023 10-Q as an exhibit was substantively the same
3 certification as discussed, *supra*, in ¶ 27, signed pursuant to SOX by Defendants Seu and Ito.

4 58. On August 7, 2023, Hawaiian Electric filed a Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q
5 with the SEC, reporting the Company's financial and operating results for the quarter ended June
6 30, 2023 (the "Q2 2023 10-Q"). The Q2 2023 10-Q contained a substantively similar description
7 of the Company's executive overview and strategy for its electric utility segment as discussed,
8 *supra*, in ¶ 26, and appended to the Q2 2023 10-Q as an exhibit was substantively the same
9 certification as discussed, *supra*, in ¶ 27, signed pursuant to SOX by Defendants Seu and Ito.

10 59. The statements referenced in ¶¶ 24-58 were materially false and misleading
11 because Defendants made false and/or misleading statements, as well as failed to disclose
12 material adverse facts about the Company's business, operations, and prospects. Specifically,
13 Defendants made false and/or misleading statements and/or failed to disclose that: (i) Hawaiian
14 Electric's wildfire prevention and safety protocols and procedures were inadequate to meet the
15 challenges for which they were ostensibly designed; (ii) accordingly, despite knowing the degree
16 of risk that wildfires posed to Maui, the Company's inadequate safety protocols and procedures
17 placed Maui at a heightened risk of devastating wildfires; and (iii) as a result, the Company's
18 public statements were materially false and misleading at all relevant times.

21 **The Truth Emerges**

22 60. On August 12, 2023, news outlets began reporting that Hawaiian Electric did not
23 have a plan to shut off power in advance of the Hawaii wildfires. For example, in an article
24 entitled "Hawaii utility faces scrutiny for not cutting power to reduce fire risks," the *Washington*
25 *Post* stated, in relevant part:
26
27
28

1 Four days before fast-moving brush fires engulfed parts of Maui, weather
2 forecasters warned authorities that powerful wind gusts would trigger dangerous
3 fire conditions across much of the island and Hawaii.

4 The state's electric utility responded with some preemptive steps but did not use
5 what is widely regarded as the most aggressive but effective safety measure:
6 shutting down the power.

7 Hawaiian Electric, the utility that oversees Maui Electric and provides service to
8 95 percent of the state's residents, did not deploy what's known as a "public power
9 shutoff plan," which involves intentionally cutting off electricity to areas where big
10 wind events could spark fires. A number of states, including California, have
11 increasingly adopted this safety strategy after what were then the nation's most
12 destructive and deadliest modern fires, in 2017 and 2018.

13 Hawaiian Electric was aware that a power shut-off was an effective strategy,
14 documents show, but had not adopted it as part of its fire mitigation plans,
15 according to the company and two former power and energy officials interviewed
16 by The Washington Post. Nor, in the face of predicted dangerous winds, did it act
17 on its own, utility officials said, fearing uncertain consequences.

18 The decision to avoid shutting off power is reflective of the utility's struggles to
19 bolster its aging and vulnerable infrastructure against wildfires, said Jennifer Potter,
20 who lives in Lahaina and was a member of the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission
21 until just nine months ago.

22 "They were not as proactive as they should have been," Potter said about Hawaiian
23 Electric's fire-prevention planning, adding that there had not been any real
24 meaningful action to "address some of those inadequacies in terms of wildfire."

25 Doug McLeod, a former energy commissioner for Maui County, also said the utility
26 was aware of the need for a regular shut-down system and to bury lines, especially
27 given the "number of close calls in the past."

28 Earlier this week, high winds caused widespread damage to utility infrastructure.
The intense gusts knocked down about 30 utility poles across the region, many onto
trees and roads, complicating evacuations, according to Maui County Mayor
Richard Bissen. He confirmed that some electrical lines were energized when they
hit the ground.

61. On this news, Hawaiian Electric's stock price fell \$10.94 per share, or 33.76%, to
close at \$21.46 per share on August 14, 2023.

62. Then, on August 16, 2023, the *WSJ* published an article entitled "Hawaiian Electric
Is in Talks With Restructuring Firms." The article stated, in relevant part:

1 Hawaiian Electric is speaking with firms that specialize in restructuring advisory
2 work, exploring options to address the electric utility’s financial and legal
3 challenges arising from the Maui wildfires, said people familiar with the matter.

4 Hawaiian Electric is facing a selloff in its stock and bonds, and has been hit with
5 lawsuits alleging that its actions both before and during the wildfires exacerbated
6 the devastation Maui residents have suffered.

7 The company is in discussions over the strategies it can pursue and to determine
8 whether it needs to hire legal and financial advisers, the people said.

9 On Thursday evening, a day after the publication of this report, a company
10 spokesperson said: “Like any company in this situation would do, and as we do in
11 the normal course of business, we are seeking advice from experts—the goal is not
12 to restructure the company but to endure as a financially strong utility that Maui
13 and this state need.”

14 More customer lawsuits are expected in coming weeks to increase the costs of
15 defending and settling claims for Hawaiian Electric just as its access to financing
16 is being threatened.

17 S&P Global Ratings downgraded Hawaiian Electric’s credit rating to junk on
18 Tuesday, saying the wildfires destroyed a significant segment of the company’s
19 customer base and will take many years to restore. S&P also said that wildfire
20 lawsuits seeking compensation for injuries, deaths and property damage will weigh
21 on the company’s credit quality.

22 63. Finally, on August 17, 2023, the *WSJ* published an article entitled “Hawaiian
23 Electric Knew of Wildfire Threat, but Waited Years to Act.” The article stated, in relevant part:

24 During the 2019 wildfire season, one of the worst Maui had ever seen, Hawaiian
25 Electric concluded that it needed to do far more to prevent its power lines from
26 emitting sparks.

27 The utility examined California’s plans to reduce fires ignited by power lines,
28 started flying drones over its territory and vowed to take steps to protect its
equipment and its customers from the threat of fire.

Nearly four years later, the company has completed little such work. Between 2019
and 2022, it invested less than \$245,000 on wildfire-specific projects on the island,
regulatory filings show. It didn’t seek state approval to raise rates to pay for broad
wildfire-safety improvements until 2022, and has yet to receive it.

Now, the company is facing scrutiny, litigation and a financial crisis over
indications that its power lines might have played a role in igniting the deadliest
U.S. wildfire in more than a century. The blaze has caused at least 110 deaths,

1 destroyed the historic town of Lahaina and resulted in an estimated billions of
2 dollars in damage.

3 The fire's cause hasn't been determined, but mounting evidence suggests the
4 utility's equipment was involved. One video taken by a resident shows a downed
5 power line igniting dry grass along a road near Lahaina. A firm that monitors grid
6 sensors reported dozens of electrical disruptions in the hours before the fire began,
7 including one that coincided in time with video footage of a flash of light from
8 power lines.

9 Hawaiian Electric said it would investigate any role its infrastructure may have
10 played and cooperate with a separate probe into the fire launched last week by the
11 Hawaii attorney general.

12 "We all believe it's important to understand what happened. And I think we all
13 believe it's important to make sure it doesn't happen again," said Shelee Kimura,
14 Hawaiian Electric's chief executive.

15 In response to questions about its wildfire-mitigation spending, a spokesman for
16 Hawaiian Electric said the company reduces wildfire risk through its routine utility
17 work, including trimming or removing trees and upgrading, replacing and
18 inspecting equipment. It said it has spent about \$84 million on maintenance and
19 tree work in Maui County since 2018.

20 The utility has long been a force in Hawaii politics and business. In the wake of the
21 fire, its finances are reeling. Its stock has plunged 49% this week, and its credit
22 rating was downgraded to junk by S&P.

23 ***

24 At the end of 2019, Hawaiian Electric issued a press release about wildfire risk. It
25 said it would install heavier, insulated conductors on Maui and Oahu to minimize
26 the risk of sparks when winds picked up, as well as technology to detect disruptions
27 when the conductors came into contact with vegetation or each other. It said it
28 would apply fire retardant on poles in risky areas and consider installing cameras
and other devices to monitor weather conditions during fire season.

In filings over the next two years with the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission,
which is tasked with approving utility projects and spending, the company made
only passing reference to wildfire mitigation.

64. Following publication of the *WSJ* articles, Hawaiian Electric's stock price fell
\$2.54 per share, or 17.43%, to close at \$12.03 per share on August 17, 2023.

1 65. As a result of Defendants’ wrongful acts and omissions, and the precipitous
2 decline in the market value of the Company’s securities, Plaintiff and other Class members have
3 suffered significant losses and damages.

4 **PLAINTIFF’S CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

5 66. Plaintiff brings this action as a class action pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil
6 Procedure 23(a) and (b)(3) on behalf of a Class, consisting of all those who purchased or
7 otherwise acquired Hawaiian Electric securities during the Class Period (the “Class”); and were
8 damaged upon the revelation of the alleged corrective disclosures. Excluded from the Class are
9 Defendants herein, the officers and directors of the Company, at all relevant times, members of
10 their immediate families and their legal representatives, heirs, successors or assigns and any
11 entity in which Defendants have or had a controlling interest.
12

13 67. The members of the Class are so numerous that joinder of all members is
14 impracticable. Throughout the Class Period, Hawaiian Electric securities were actively traded
15 on the NYSE. While the exact number of Class members is unknown to Plaintiff at this time and
16 can be ascertained only through appropriate discovery, Plaintiff believes that there are hundreds
17 or thousands of members in the proposed Class. Record owners and other members of the Class
18 may be identified from records maintained by Hawaiian Electric or its transfer agent and may be
19 notified of the pendency of this action by mail, using the form of notice similar to that customarily
20 used in securities class actions.
21

22 68. Plaintiff’s claims are typical of the claims of the members of the Class as all
23 members of the Class are similarly affected by Defendants’ wrongful conduct in violation of
24 federal law that is complained of herein.
25
26
27
28

1 69. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the members of the
2 Class and has retained counsel competent and experienced in class and securities litigation.
3 Plaintiff has no interests antagonistic to or in conflict with those of the Class.

4 70. Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Class and
5 predominate over any questions solely affecting individual members of the Class. Among the
6 questions of law and fact common to the Class are:
7

- 8 • whether the federal securities laws were violated by Defendants' acts as alleged
9 herein;
- 10 • whether statements made by Defendants to the investing public during the Class
11 Period misrepresented material facts about the business, operations and
12 prospects of Hawaiian Electric;
- 13 • whether the Individual Defendants caused Hawaiian Electric to issue false and
14 misleading financial statements during the Class Period;
- 15 • whether Defendants acted knowingly or recklessly in issuing false and
16 misleading financial statements;
- 17 • whether the prices of Hawaiian Electric securities during the Class Period were
18 artificially inflated because of the Defendants' conduct complained of herein;
19 and
- 20 • whether the members of the Class have sustained damages, and, if so, what is
21 the proper measure of damages.

22 71. A class action is superior to all other available methods for the fair and efficient
23 adjudication of this controversy since joinder of all members is impracticable. Furthermore, as
24 the damages suffered by individual Class members may be relatively small, the expense and
25 burden of individual litigation make it impossible for members of the Class to individually
26 redress the wrongs done to them. There will be no difficulty in the management of this action as
27 a class action.

28 72. Plaintiff will rely, in part, upon the presumption of reliance established by the
fraud-on-the-market doctrine in that:

- 1 • Defendants made public misrepresentations or failed to disclose material facts
2 during the Class Period;
- 3 • the omissions and misrepresentations were material;
- 4 • Hawaiian Electric securities are traded in an efficient market;
- 5 • the Company's shares were liquid and traded with moderate to heavy volume
6 during the Class Period;
- 7 • the Company traded on the NYSE and was covered by multiple analysts;
- 8 • the misrepresentations and omissions alleged would tend to induce a reasonable
9 investor to misjudge the value of the Company's securities; and
- 10 • Plaintiff and members of the Class purchased, acquired and/or sold Hawaiian
11 Electric securities between the time the Defendants failed to disclose or
12 misrepresented material facts and the time the true facts were disclosed, without
13 knowledge of the omitted or misrepresented facts.

14 73. Based upon the foregoing, Plaintiff and the members of the Class are entitled to a
15 presumption of reliance upon the integrity of the market.

16 74. Alternatively, Plaintiff and the members of the Class are entitled to the
17 presumption of reliance established by the Supreme Court in *Affiliated Ute Citizens of the State*
18 *of Utah v. United States*, 406 U.S. 128, 92 S. Ct. 2430 (1972), as Defendants omitted material
19 information in their Class Period statements in violation of a duty to disclose such information,
20 as detailed above.

21 COUNT I

22 **(Violations of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5 Promulgated Thereunder** 23 **Against All Defendants)**

24 75. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each and every allegation contained above as if
25 fully set forth herein.

26 76. This Count is asserted against Defendants and is based upon Section 10(b) of the
27 Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78j(b), and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder by the SEC.

1 77. During the Class Period, Defendants engaged in a plan, scheme, conspiracy and
2 course of conduct, pursuant to which they knowingly or recklessly engaged in acts, transactions,
3 practices and courses of business which operated as a fraud and deceit upon Plaintiff and the
4 other members of the Class; made various untrue statements of material facts and omitted to state
5 material facts necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under
6 which they were made, not misleading; and employed devices, schemes and artifices to defraud
7 in connection with the purchase and sale of securities. Such scheme was intended to, and,
8 throughout the Class Period, did: (i) deceive the investing public, including Plaintiff and other
9 Class members, as alleged herein; (ii) artificially inflate and maintain the market price of
10 Hawaiian Electric securities; and (iii) cause Plaintiff and other members of the Class to purchase
11 or otherwise acquire Hawaiian Electric securities and options at artificially inflated prices. In
12 furtherance of this unlawful scheme, plan and course of conduct, Defendants, and each of them,
13 took the actions set forth herein.
14
15

16 78. Pursuant to the above plan, scheme, conspiracy and course of conduct, each of the
17 Defendants participated directly or indirectly in the preparation and/or issuance of the quarterly
18 and annual reports, SEC filings, press releases and other statements and documents described
19 above, including statements made to securities analysts and the media that were designed to
20 influence the market for Hawaiian Electric securities. Such reports, filings, releases and
21 statements were materially false and misleading in that they failed to disclose material adverse
22 information and misrepresented the truth about Hawaiian Electric's finances and business
23 prospects.
24

25 79. By virtue of their positions at Hawaiian Electric, Defendants had actual
26 knowledge of the materially false and misleading statements and material omissions alleged
27 herein and intended thereby to deceive Plaintiff and the other members of the Class, or, in the
28

1 alternative, Defendants acted with reckless disregard for the truth in that they failed or refused to
2 ascertain and disclose such facts as would reveal the materially false and misleading nature of
3 the statements made, although such facts were readily available to Defendants. Said acts and
4 omissions of Defendants were committed willfully or with reckless disregard for the truth. In
5 addition, each Defendant knew or recklessly disregarded that material facts were being
6 misrepresented or omitted as described above.
7

8 80. Information showing that Defendants acted knowingly or with reckless disregard
9 for the truth is peculiarly within Defendants' knowledge and control. As the senior managers
10 and/or directors of Hawaiian Electric, the Individual Defendants had knowledge of the details of
11 Hawaiian Electric's internal affairs.
12

13 81. The Individual Defendants are liable both directly and indirectly for the wrongs
14 complained of herein. Because of their positions of control and authority, the Individual
15 Defendants were able to and did, directly or indirectly, control the content of the statements of
16 Hawaiian Electric. As officers and/or directors of a publicly-held company, the Individual
17 Defendants had a duty to disseminate timely, accurate, and truthful information with respect to
18 Hawaiian Electric's businesses, operations, future financial condition and future prospects. As a
19 result of the dissemination of the aforementioned false and misleading reports, releases and
20 public statements, the market price of Hawaiian Electric securities was artificially inflated
21 throughout the Class Period. In ignorance of the adverse facts concerning Hawaiian Electric's
22 business and financial condition which were concealed by Defendants, Plaintiff and the other
23 members of the Class purchased or otherwise acquired Hawaiian Electric securities at artificially
24 inflated prices and relied upon the price of the securities, the integrity of the market for the
25 securities and/or upon statements disseminated by Defendants, and were damaged thereby.
26
27
28

1 86. During the Class Period, the Individual Defendants participated in the operation
2 and management of Hawaiian Electric, and conducted and participated, directly and indirectly,
3 in the conduct of Hawaiian Electric’s business affairs. Because of their senior positions, they
4 knew the adverse non-public information about Hawaiian Electric’s misstatement of income and
5 expenses and false financial statements.
6

7 87. As officers and/or directors of a publicly owned company, the Individual
8 Defendants had a duty to disseminate accurate and truthful information with respect to Hawaiian
9 Electric’s financial condition and results of operations, and to correct promptly any public
10 statements issued by Hawaiian Electric which had become materially false or misleading.

11 88. Because of their positions of control and authority as senior officers, the
12 Individual Defendants were able to, and did, control the contents of the various reports, press
13 releases and public filings which Hawaiian Electric disseminated in the marketplace during the
14 Class Period concerning Hawaiian Electric’s results of operations. Throughout the Class Period,
15 the Individual Defendants exercised their power and authority to cause Hawaiian Electric to
16 engage in the wrongful acts complained of herein. The Individual Defendants, therefore, were
17 “controlling persons” of Hawaiian Electric within the meaning of Section 20(a) of the Exchange
18 Act. In this capacity, they participated in the unlawful conduct alleged which artificially inflated
19 the market price of Hawaiian Electric securities.
20

21 89. Each of the Individual Defendants, therefore, acted as a controlling person of
22 Hawaiian Electric. By reason of their senior management positions and/or being directors of
23 Hawaiian Electric, each of the Individual Defendants had the power to direct the actions of, and
24 exercised the same to cause, Hawaiian Electric to engage in the unlawful acts and conduct
25 complained of herein. Each of the Individual Defendants exercised control over the general
26 operations of Hawaiian Electric and possessed the power to control the specific activities which
27
28

1 comprise the primary violations about which Plaintiff and the other members of the Class
2 complain.

3 90. By reason of the above conduct, the Individual Defendants are liable pursuant to
4 Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act for the violations committed by Hawaiian Electric.
5

6 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

7 **WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendants as follows:

8 A. Determining that the instant action may be maintained as a class action under Rule
9 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and certifying Plaintiff as the Class representative;

10 B. Requiring Defendants to pay damages sustained by Plaintiff and the Class by
11 reason of the acts and transactions alleged herein;

12 C. Awarding Plaintiff and the other members of the Class prejudgment and post-
13 judgment interest, as well as their reasonable attorneys' fees, expert fees and other costs; and

14 D. Awarding such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.
15

16 **DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY**

17 Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury.

18 Dated: August 24, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

19 POMERANTZ LLP

20 */s/ Jennifer Pafiti*

21 _____
Jennifer Pafiti (SBN 282790)
22 1100 Glendon Avenue, 15th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90024
23 Telephone: (310) 405-7190
jpafiti@pomlaw.com

24 POMERANTZ LLP
25 Jeremy A. Lieberman
(*pro hac vice* application forthcoming)
26 J. Alexander Hood II
(*pro hac vice* application forthcoming)
27 600 Third Avenue, 20th Floor
28 New York, New York 10016

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

Telephone: (212) 661-1100
Facsimile: (917) 463-1044
jalieberman@pomlaw.com
ahood@pomlaw.com

PORTNOY LAW FIRM
Lesley F. Portnoy, Esq.
1800 Century Park East, Suite 600
Los Angeles, California 90067
Telephone: (310) 692-8883
lesley@portnoylaw.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff

**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT
TO FEDERAL SECURITIES LAWS**

1. I, BHAPINDERPAL S BHANGAL, make this declaration pursuant to Section 27(a)(2) of the Securities Act of 1933 (“Securities Act”) and/or Section 21D(a)(2) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Exchange Act”) as amended by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995.

2. I have reviewed a Complaint against Hawaiian Electric Industries, Inc. (“Hawaiian Electric”) and authorize the filing of a comparable complaint on my behalf.

3. I did not purchase or acquire Hawaiian Electric securities at the direction of plaintiffs’ counsel or in order to participate in any private action arising under the Securities Act or Exchange Act.

4. I am willing to serve as a representative party on behalf of a Class of investors who purchased or otherwise acquired Hawaiian Electric securities during the Class Period as specified in the Complaint, including providing testimony at deposition and trial, if necessary. I understand that the Court has the authority to select the most adequate lead plaintiff in this action.

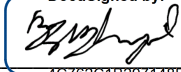
5. The attached sheet lists all of my transactions in Hawaiian Electric securities during the Class Period as specified in the Complaint.

6. During the three-year period preceding the date on which this Certification is signed, I have not served or sought to serve as a representative party on behalf of a class under the federal securities laws.

7. I agree not to accept any payment for serving as a representative party on behalf of the Class as set forth in the Complaint, beyond my pro rata share of any recovery, except such reasonable costs and expenses directly relating to the representation of the class as ordered or approved by the Court.

8. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed 8/15/2023
(Date)

DocuSigned by:

4C762C1B297148F...
(Signature)

BHAPINDERPAL S BHANGAL
(Type or Print Name)

Hawaiian Electric Industries, Inc. (HE)

Bhupinderpal S Bhangal

List of Purchases and Sales

Transaction Type	Date	Number of Shares/Unit	Price Per Share/Unit
Purchase	8/10/2023	29	\$33.5800
Purchase	8/10/2023	29	\$33.6500
Purchase	8/10/2023	3	\$33.5500
Purchase	8/11/2023	2	\$32.4999

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS-CAND 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved in its original form by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the Clerk of Court to initiate the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

BHAPINDERPAL S. BHANGAL, Individually and on Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Alameda County, California (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

Jennifer Pafiti, Pomerantz LLP, 1100 Glendon Avenue, 15th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90024 Telephone: (310) 405-7190

DEFENDANTS

HAWAIIAN ELECTRIC INDUSTRIES, INC., CONSTANCE H. LAU, SCOTT W. H. SEU, GREGORY C. HAZELTON, and PAUL K. ITO

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Honolulu County, Hawaii (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff
2 U.S. Government Defendant
3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

Table with columns for Plaintiff (PTF) and Defendant (DEF) citizenship and incorporation status.

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

Large table with categories: CONTRACT, REAL PROPERTY, TORTS, CIVIL RIGHTS, PRISONER PETITIONS, HABEAS CORPUS, OTHER, FORFEITURE/PENALTY, LABOR, IMMIGRATION, BANKRUPTCY, SOCIAL SECURITY, FEDERAL TAX SUITS, OTHER STATUTES.

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- 1 Original Proceeding
2 Removed from State Court
3 Remanded from Appellate Court
4 Reinstated or Reopened
5 Transferred from Another District (specify)
6 Multidistrict Litigation-Transfer
8 Multidistrict Litigation-Direct File

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity): 15 U.S.C. §§ 78j(b) and 78t(a) and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder by the SEC (17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5).

Brief description of cause: Violations of the federal securities laws.

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, Fed. R. Civ. P. DEMAND \$

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: Yes No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S), IF ANY (See instructions):

JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER

IX. DIVISIONAL ASSIGNMENT (Civil Local Rule 3-2)

(Place an "X" in One Box Only) SAN FRANCISCO/OAKLAND SAN JOSE EUREKA-MCKINLEYVILLE

DATE 08/24/2023

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

/s/ Jennifer Pafiti

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS-CAND 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet. The JS-CAND 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved in its original form by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the Clerk of Court to initiate the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I. a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- b) County of Residence.** For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the “defendant” is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- c) Attorneys.** Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section “(see attachment).”
- II. Jurisdiction.** The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a), which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an “X” in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.
- (1) United States plaintiff. Jurisdiction based on 28 USC §§ 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.
 - (2) United States defendant. When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an “X” in this box.
 - (3) Federal question. This refers to suits under 28 USC § 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.
 - (4) Diversity of citizenship. This refers to suits under 28 USC § 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; **NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.**)
- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties.** This section of the JS-CAND 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit.** Place an “X” in the appropriate box. If the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerk(s) in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.
- V. Origin.** Place an “X” in one of the six boxes.
- (1) Original Proceedings. Cases originating in the United States district courts.
 - (2) Removed from State Court. Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 USC § 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.
 - (3) Remanded from Appellate Court. Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.
 - (4) Reinstated or Reopened. Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.
 - (5) Transferred from Another District. For cases transferred under Title 28 USC § 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.
 - (6) Multidistrict Litigation Transfer. Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 USC § 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.
 - (8) Multidistrict Litigation Direct File. Check this box when a multidistrict litigation case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket. Please note that there is no Origin Code 7. Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statute.
- VI. Cause of Action.** Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. **Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.** Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC § 553. Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service.
- VII. Requested in Complaint.** Class Action. Place an “X” in this box if you are filing a class action under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23. Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction. Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases.** This section of the JS-CAND 44 is used to identify related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.
- IX. Divisional Assignment.** If the Nature of Suit is under Property Rights or Prisoner Petitions or the matter is a Securities Class Action, leave this section blank. For all other cases, identify the divisional venue according to Civil Local Rule 3-2: “the county in which a substantial part of the events or omissions which give rise to the claim occurred or in which a substantial part of the property that is the subject of the action is situated.”
- Date and Attorney Signature.** Date and sign the civil cover sheet.