

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

544

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 16 2007

RE: S.B. No. 991
S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2007
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committees on Energy and Environment and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs, to which was referred S.B. No. 991 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ENERGY,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to further the State's policies of developing indigenous renewable energy resources and decreasing the State's dependence on imported fossil fuels.

Specifically, this measure establishes that it is the policy of state and county governments to provide priority handling and processing, and expedite action on all state and county permits required for renewable energy projects.

Testimony in support of this measure was submitted by the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs; Department of Land and Natural Resources; Hawaiian Electric Company, Maui Electric Company, Hawaii Electric Light Company, Hawaii Renewable Energy Alliance, Honolulu Seawater Air Conditioning, LLC; and Puna Geothermal Venture. Testimony in opposition to this measure was submitted by the Department of Planning and Permitting of the City and County of Honolulu and Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter. The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism submitted comments.

Your Committees find that attempts at encouraging private sector development of renewable energy projects have not been

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successful primarily due to the impediments of obtaining permits and approvals. Given the multiple laws and rules that must be complied with, including land use, planning, and environmental laws, some existing procedures are duplicative and lack coordination.


Your Committees find that providing priority handling and processing of renewable energy project permits is necessary to decrease the financial and time costs that are prevalent in the existing system. However, your Committees are concerned that expediting decisions could have an adverse impact if environmental considerations and public input opportunities are curtailed in the effort to comply with the "expedited action" requirement.

This measure was amended to delete the provision requiring state and county agencies to expedite action on the permits.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Energy and Environment and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 991, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 991, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Energy and
Environment and
Intergovernmental and Military
Affairs,

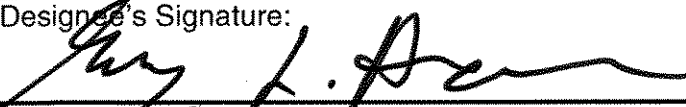

LORRAINE R. INOUE, Chair


RON MENOR, Chair



The Senate
Twenty-Fourth Legislature
State of Hawaii

Record of Votes
Committee on Energy and Environment
ENE

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 991	Committee Referral: ENE/IGM, WAM	Date: 2/13/07		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
MENOR, Ron (C)	✓			
HOOSER, Gary L. (VC)	✓			
IHARA, Jr., Les	✓	✓		
KOKUBUN, Russell S.				✓
TRIMBLE, Gordon	✓			
TOTAL	3	1		1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes

