



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

TESTIMONY OF THE HAWAII SOLAR ENERGY ASSOCIATION
IN REGARD TO H.B. 2502
RELATING TO SOLAR ENERGY
BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING
ON
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2008

Chair Morita, Vice-Chair Carroll and members of the committee, my name is Richard Reed and I represent the Hawaii Solar Energy Assn. (HSEA). HSEA strongly supports the passage of H.B. 2502.

This bill amends HRS Section 205-2 by adding a new subsection to allow solar energy facilities on agricultural district land with soil classifications D or E. These are the two least productive of the five soil classification categories. In short, this is typically very marginal land for full scale agricultural activities.

Wind generators are already allowed in all five categories of agricultural land providing that the facilities and appurtenance are compatible with agricultural uses and cause minimal adverse impact on the agricultural land per se.

We believe solar energy facilities are complementary to the uses prescribed for D & E agricultural lands, will enhance the value of such lands to all those promoting accelerated renewable energy development in Hawaii, and should have no adverse impacts on these marginal lands.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**Testimony before the
House Committee on
Energy & Environmental Protection**

H.B. 2502 – Relating to Solar Energy

**Tuesday, February 5, 2008
8:45 am, Conference Room 312**

**By Arthur Seki
Director of Technology
Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.**

Chair Morita, Vice Chair Carroll, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Arthur Seki – I am the Director of Technology in the Energy Solutions & Technology Department at Hawaiian Electric Company. I am testifying on behalf of Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) and its subsidiary utilities, Maui Electric Company (MECO) and Hawaii Electric Light Company (HELCO), hereby referred to collectively as the HECO.

HECO supports H.B. 2502 and other similar bills in the legislative session that will help renewable energy development on agriculture and other zoned lands.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.