



**To: Representative Ken Ito, Chair
Committee on Water, Land, Ocean Resources & Hawaiian Affairs**

**Representative Clift Tsuji, Chair
Committee on Agriculture**

From: Sopogy, Inc.

Date: February 20, 2008, 9:00 a.m.

Subject: Support for HB 2502 - Relating to Solar Energy.

Chair Ito and Tsuji, Vice-Chair Karamatsu and Brower and Members of the Committees:

Sopogy, Inc. is a solar power technology company based in Hawaii. Our purpose is to bring renewable solar energy technologies to Hawaii and its people for the betterment of our environment, independence from volatile imported fossil fuels, and energy stability.

Sopogy supports HB2502 in that it would allow solar energy projects on agricultural lands. Such solar projects are essential for the state to meet its aggressive goals of 20% renewables by 2020, as well as it's recently stated target of 70% renewables by 2030.

In general, Sopogy supports the use of solar energy facilities in the agricultural districts on class D and E land as it will lessen the state's dependence on oil, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and provide energy price stability to Hawaii's consumers.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Tim Wong
Vice President Finance



Power | Process Heat | Air Conditioning

**DOWLING
COMPANY, INC**

February 20, 2008

HB2502, Relating to Solar Energy
Before the House Committees on Water, Land, Ocean Resources & Hawaiian
Affairs and Agriculture
Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2008 at 9 a.m. in Conference Room 325

Dear Chairs Ito and Tsuji, and members of the Committees:

My name is Jennifer Stites and I am the Green Development Manager for Dowling Company, Inc. ("DCI"). DCI is a Maui-based real estate development company that is committed to sustainable development. As the land owner of 1800 acres in Makena, including the Maui Prince Hotel and Makena North and South Golf Courses, we have set the very ambitious goal of developing a net-zero energy community. Through energy reduction and renewable energy production on-site, we hope to develop a model sustainable community for Hawaii.

Therefore, we are in strong support of the intent of HB2502, HD1, but would propose the following amendments to further encourage the use of solar energy in the State of Hawaii and reduce Hawaii's dependency on fossil fuels:

In Section 2 (6)(B) we would increase the total acreage to 50 acres; and would eliminate Section 2(6)(D) in its entirety or change to land that has a solar radiation of at least 4.6 peak sun hours per day.

The increase in acreage will allow more solar energy facilities to be developed, thus, reducing the use of fossil fuels in Hawaii. DCI currently has 40-50 acres of land in Makena that it plans to use for a solar farm. The land is in the agricultural district and is classified as E land. They are not suitable for the cultivation of crops and because of the limited acreage they are not suitable for grazing or pasture lands. If we do not use this land for a solar farm, it will remain barren and unproductive.

Additionally, we would discourage listing technology in the statute since solar technology is fluid and rapidly advancing. The technology cited in the HD1 is either currently obsolete or will soon be.

Thus, we would strongly recommend to the Committees to amend HD1 with these proposed amendments.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.