



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
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TESTIMONY OF THE HAWAII SOLAR ENERGY ASSOCIATION
IN REGARD TO H.B. 2507
RELATING TO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTION
BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
ON
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2008

Chair Morita, Vice-Chair Carroll, my name is Richard Reed and I represent the Hawaii Solar Energy Assn. (HSEA). HSEA supports the passage of H.B. 2507.

H.B. 2507 creates within DBEDT two temporary full time “specialized personnel” to provide professional and technical support to the greenhouse gas emission task force established in 2007 by Act 234.

In recent memory the DBEDT Energy Division has been under funded relative to the many tasks they have been asked to administer. The problems that will be addressed by the task force are intractable. They will not go away in a year and neither should the funding. In my experience it will take the new appointments at least that long simply to come up to speed.

Per our previous testimony on H.B. 2505, we believe that DBEDT’s Energy Division is at a crossroads. It must rebuild and reconstitute itself very quickly. The federal funds that have employed the majority of positions in the Division for approximately twenty-eight years will be depleted in four years at the current burn rate.

It is imperative that DBEDT acquire a number of competent full-time staff over the next few years to administer, analyze, and manage the incredibly important transition that is now underway in Hawaii from a fossil to renewable-based economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Tuesday, February 5, 2008

8:45 a.m.

Conference Room 312, State Capitol

H. B. No. 2507

By: Sherri Loo
Manager, Environmental Department
Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.

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

My name is Sherri Loo, testifying on behalf of Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc. and our subsidiary companies, Hawaii Electric Light Company, Inc. and Maui Electric Company, Ltd.

Act 234 requires statewide reduction of green house gases to 1990 levels by the year 2020. Administration of this effort is assigned to the Department of Business Economic Development & Tourism (DBED&T) In addition to its existing duties, DBED&T was given significant additional responsibility as a result of Act 234, but without commensurate staffing and financial resources. HB 2507 is a step in the right direction to equip the Department to handle the task of managing the task force created under Act 234. Given the importance of the work, more resources and support will be needed, and it is hoped that this bill is the precursor of additional support to come.

For these reasons, we support HB 2507 and recommend its passage.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.