



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

**Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
February 25, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.**

by

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 2811 – RELATING TO ENERGY

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. Unfortunately, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa can only support the intent of the bill at this time because of our pressing priorities, such as our tremendous need for repairs and maintenance and health and safety issues, which are critical to our ability to perform our core mission for the State of Hawai'i. We recognize you have many priorities and issues to weigh for the state. We are proud of the work of the Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and thank you for your support.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, we appreciate all interest in the University, and want to emphasize that we will be able to perform better in all arenas and best serve the state with support of the current campus priorities approved by the Board of Regents.

HAWAII RENEWABLE ENERGY ALLIANCE

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TESTIMONY OF WARREN BOLLMEIER ON BEHALF OF THE HAWAII
RENEWABLE ENERGY ALLIANCE BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

HB 2811, RELATING TO ENERGY

January 31, 2008

Chair Morita, Vice-Chair Carroll and members of the Committee I am Warren Bollmeier, testifying on behalf of the Hawaii Renewable Energy Alliance (HREA). HREA is a nonprofit corporation in Hawaii, established in 1995 by a group of individuals and organizations concerned about the energy future of Hawaii. HREA's mission is to support, through education and advocacy, the use of renewables for a sustainable, energy-efficient, environmentally-friendly, economically-sound future for Hawaii. One of HREA's goals is to support appropriate policy changes in state and local government, the Public Utilities Commission and the electric utilities to encourage increased use of renewables in Hawaii.

The purposes of HB 2811 are to: (1) transfer general funds into the energy systems development special fund, and (2) appropriate funds from the energy systems development special fund for the Hawaii Natural Energy Institute. HREA strongly supports this bill with the following comments:

1. Funding. HREA suggests that a minimum amount of \$10M be entered into the blank spots on lines 10 and 14 on page two of the bill;
2. Pilot Projects. HREA suggests that the fund be used to support for renewable technologies that are in their initial commercial phase in Hawaii, i.e., pilot commercial projects for such technologies as ocean thermal and wave energy systems: and
3. Support and Matching Funds. HREA encourages HNEI to work closely with interested stakeholders, such as the utility, government, industry, environmental groups and the community to get support for specific pilot projects. We also encourage HNEI to highly leverage its energy systems development funds with funds from other entities.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

BY

RICHARD ROCHELEAU

Monday, 4:00 p.m.

Conference Room 308

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

HB 2811 Relating to Energy

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to testify today **in support** of HB 2811. I am Dr. Richard Rocheleau, Director of the Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute (HNEI) of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, but am testifying today as an individual.

In 2007, this legislature passed ACT 253 (HB 1003) which established HNEI in statute and directed HNEI to undertake a number of activities including: transportation fuels by working in coordination with state and federal agencies, and private entities to:

- Develop renewable sources of energy for power generation;
- Conduct research and development of renewable sources of energy;
- Demonstrate and deploy efficient energy end-use technologies including those that address peak electric demand issues ;
- Aggressively seek matching funding from federal agencies and private entities for research and development and demonstration issues; and,
- Report annually to the legislature.

Act 253 also established the Energy Systems Special Fund to be administered by HNEI for the purpose of developing an integrated approach and portfolio management of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. The portfolio approach and oversight provided for in Act 253 was designed to ensure that technologies selected for funding were those most likely to reduce Hawai'i 's dependence on fossil fuels and move Hawai'i quickly toward energy self-sufficiency.

The purposes of HB 2811 are to: (1) transfer general funds into the energy systems development special fund, and (2) appropriate funds from the energy systems development special fund for the Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute. As demonstrated in similar programs in other states, funding of the Energy Systems Special Fund can be expected to leverage federal and private investments to accelerate acceptance and deployment of critically needed emerging technologies in both renewable energy generation and energy efficiency benefiting all stakeholders. Similar results should be expected for Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2811.



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TESTIMONY OF ROBERT SHLESER ON BEHALF OF CLEAR FUELS TECHNOLOGY INC
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

HB 2811, RELATING TO ENERGY

February 25, 2008

Chair Morita, Vice-Chair Carroll and members of the Committee I am Robert Shleser, Chief Technology Officer testifying on behalf of ClearFuels Technology Inc. a Hawaii Company developing businesses based on the conversion of renewable sources of biomass to energy products such as ethanol and hydrogen.

The purposes of HB 2811 are to: (1) transfer general funds into the energy systems development special fund, and (2) appropriate funds from the energy systems development special fund for the Hawaii Natural Energy Institute. ClearFuels **strongly supports this bill** with the following comment:

In addition to conducting outstanding research on renewable energy benefiting the state, the Hawaii Natural Energy Institute of the University of Hawaii has consistently provided guidance to the private sector on technical issues related to renewable energy production. The funds identified will help HNEi continue this important activity

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R Shleser", written in a cursive style.

Robert Shleser. CTO