

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 2825, RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS TO ASSIST SOPOGY INC. IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

February 7, 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 purpose of HB 2825 is to authorize issuance of special purpose revenue bonds in an amount not exceeding \$35,000,000 to assist Sopogy Inc. with planning, designing, construction, equipping, and operating a solar farm power plant on the island of Oahu to produce electricity from solar power. HREA supports this measure and offers the following comments in support:

- (1) Sopogy Inc. is currently developing a solar power plant to be located at NELHA near Kona on the Big Island to generate 1 MW of electricity for export to HELCO and possibly for meeting power needs at NELHA. Sopogy's technology includes the integration of an array of concentrating solar collectors (parabolic dish troughs) to produce steam to power turbine-generators. The Sopogy technology could also incorporate thermal storage to "firm" up power delivery to the grid for up to several hours after sunset; and
- (2) Potential Sopogy Project Benefits. Sopogy is current evaluating projects sites and facility size on Oahu. However, as an example of what a potential facility could provide HECO in the way of solar electricity to help HECO meet their RPS requirements, HREA estimates that a 10 MW system could potentially be operated up to 40% to 60% capacity factor, resulting in delivery of 35,040 MWhs to 52,560 MWhs of electricity per year and save 58,400 to 87,600 barrels of oil per year.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.