

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 2903, RELATING TO VERTICAL AXIS WIND TURBINES

January 29, 2007

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 2903 is to prohibit any county from prohibiting the installation of vertical axis wind turbines in any area zoned residential, where the vertical axis wind turbines meet certain size, output, and noise restrictions. HREA supports what it believes the intent of this bill to be, i.e. to encourage the use of small wind turbines in Hawaii.

HREA applauds the legislature for seeking to develop friendly standards for small wind turbines. However, we encourage a bill that includes all small wind turbines, i.e., not one that is specific to one technology such as vertical axis machines. In this regard, we recommend that the Committee consider a small wind turbine zoning ordinance guideline. This guideline, in turn, could be used by the Counties to develop county-specific ordinances. See also our testimony on HB 2554, in which we provide more specific recommendations.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.