

LIFE OF THE LAND

Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka 'Aina I Ka Pono

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Committee on Health
Chair: Rep. Josh Green, M.D
Vice Chair: Rep. John Mizuno

Date: Wednesday, February 13, 2008
Time: 8:00 a.m.
Room: 329

Bill: HB 3347 Queens Medical Center

Aloha Chair Green, Vice Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee,

Life of the Land is Hawai'i's own environmental and community action group advocating for the people and the 'aina since 1970. Our mission is to preserve and protect the life of the land through sustainable land use and energy policies and by promoting open government through research, education, advocacy, and litigation.

Queen's Medical Center has been in the forefront of energy policy for a number of years. They have an overlapping board with Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO #2 person, Eric Yeaman, HECO's Senior Executive Vice President is a QMC Trustee). Queen's Medical Center has, over the years, received large rebates from HECO (6-7 digits). Queen's Medical Center may have turned down on-site primary generation that could have provided a permanent solution to grid unreliability.

Before allocating \$10M it is important to understand whether this proposal is the best solution. Queen's Medical Center could be a regional photovoltaic, fuel cell, battery storage center and that may offer better options for Queen's Medical Center and for the electric grid. Recently the Public Utilities Commission has adopted a competitive bidding process for new generation. Perhaps competition for solutions would lead to a sounder solution.

We look forward to additional information and dialogue as this bill advances.

Mahalo,

Henry Curtis
Executive Director

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HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

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The Twenty-Fourth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The House of Representatives
Committee on Health

Testimony by
HGEA/AFSCME, Local 152, AFL-CIO
February 13, 2008

H.B. 3347 – Making an Appropriation to the Queen's Medical
Center to Provide Emergency Energy Capacity

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the purpose and intent of H.B. 3347. This legislation will provide financial support for the emergency energy needs of the Queen's Medical Center so that it will be ready to provide critical services in the event of a natural disaster or other emergency.

Queen's Medical Center is the only medical facility in Hawaii with a trauma center verified by the American College of Surgeons. A properly equipped trauma center must have operating rooms served by various medical specialists, diagnostic equipment and other life-support systems. The continuing operation of a trauma center in the midst of a natural disaster or other emergency depends on sufficient energy capacity. H.B. 3347 appropriates \$10 million as a grant under Chapter 42F, HRS to increase its emergency power generator system to a level where it can continue to operate if a natural disaster occurs.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 3347.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Randy Perreira', is written over the typed name.

Randy Perreira
Executive Director

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