

Testimony of
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Before:
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
The Honorable Hermina M. Morita, Chair
The Honorable Mele Carroll, Vice Chair
and
House Committee on Judiciary
The Honorable Tommy Waters, Chair
The Honorable Blake K. Oshiro, Vice Chair

April 1, 2008
10:05 am
Conference Room 312

HCR 350, Proposed HD1 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO PROVIDE AN EXEMPTION FROM ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR WORK DONE BY THE GAS COMPANY TO EXTEND A UTILITY GAS LINE UNDER MOANALUA ROAD FOR KAISER PERMANENTE AND MOANALUA MEDICAL CENTER

Chairs, Vice Chairs, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HCR350, Proposed HD1 requesting the Department of Transportation to provide an exemption from environmental assessment requirements for work done by The Gas Company to extend a utility gas line under Moanalua Road for Kaiser Permanente and Moanalua Medical Center.

Kaiser Permanente Hawaii supports this resolution.

Kaiser Hospital has built a tower extension to its Medical Center at Moanalua that will initially increase bed capacity at the Medical Center by 70 beds, or approximately 35%, when it opens in mid-April 2008, eventually adding an additional 92 beds over the following year or so. This project has already received all necessary permitting, and the grand opening ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for April 17, 2008.

Kaiser's primary emergency fuel source for this project is Synthetic Natural Gas, with diesel as the emergency backup fuel. The Gas Company has recently informed Kaiser that the Department of Transportation (DOT) is requiring an Environmental Assessment (EA) to bring a 6" gas line 1600 ft. down Moanalua Road, and under the road, to link up with Kaiser's piping which is already in place to the point of the tie in. An EA will delay gas line tie in at least 4-5

months, which will result in Kaiser's reliance on diesel, a much dirtier fuel, as its only emergency fuel source.

Because the work to extend the gas line under Moanalua Road will require minimal intrusion into state or county land, and will have no significant environmental impact, Kaiser supports this resolution requesting the DOT to grant The Gas Company an exemption to complete this important project.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.