



LATE TESTIMONY

Hawaii Solar Energy Association
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TESTIMONY OF THE HAWAII SOLAR ENERGY ASSOCIATION
IN REGARD TO S.B. 2623
RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES
BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
ON
THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 2008

Chair Menor, Vice-Chair Hooser and members of the committee, my name is Richard Reed and I represent the Hawaii Solar Energy Assn. (HSEA). HSEA strongly supports S.B. 2623.

The realm of solar energy includes both heat (solar thermal) and light (solar electricity). Solar thermal energy is particularly versatile in that it can be used to provide air conditioning, to heat water and air, or to generate electricity. High temperature solar thermal steam generators, often referred to generically as concentrating solar power (CSP) technologies, are capable of generating enormous amount of electricity.

S.B. 2623 provides a definitional change (line 15) that acknowledges that both PV and solar thermal systems are capable of generating electricity. The bill deletes the reference to “photovoltaic energy systems” and replaces it with “solar electric energy systems”, which is more accurate and clarifies the range of solar technologies capable of generating power.

S.B. 2623 also provides a definition for qualifying “solar thermal energy systems” – that Do Not generate electricity – to include solar water heating, solar air conditioning, solar space heating, solar drying, and solar process heat systems.

These changes provide clarity to the law and make this statute more consistent with the real world technical applications for solar energy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

HAWAII ENERGY POLICY FORUM

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA

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Murray Towill, Hawai'i
Hotel Assn
Joan White, Hon Community
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Testimony of
Warren Bollmeier
Co-Chair – Renewable Energy Working Group
Hawai'i Energy Policy Forum

Senate Committee on Energy & Environment
Thursday, January 31, 2008
2:15 p.m.
Conference Room 414

IN SUPPORT OF S.B. 2623 - Relating to Renewable Energy Technologies

I am Warren Bollmeier, Co-Chair of the Renewable Energy Working Group of the Hawaii Energy Policy Forum ("Forum"). The Forum is comprised of 46 representatives from the electric utilities, oil and natural gas suppliers, environmental and community groups, renewable energy industry, and federal, state and local government, including representatives from the neighbor islands. We have been meeting since 2002 and have adopted a common vision and mission, and a comprehensive "10 Point Action Plan," which serves as a framework and guide for meeting our preferred energy vision and goals. The Forum supports the passage of SB 2623 as it helps achieve the goal of Point One - expand renewable energy opportunities.

The purpose of SB 2623 is to expand the renewable energy technologies tax credit to include solar electric energy systems. Specifically, the section on "Photovoltaic energy systems" is amended to read "Solar electric energy systems." Solar electric systems are defined as "solar thermal electric and photovoltaic systems." The term "solar thermal systems" is also defined. HREA supports this bill as it clearly distinguishes the two types of solar systems (solar thermal and solar electric), which are subject to different Renewable Energy Technology Income Tax Credit ("RETITC") treatments. This is particularly important as there are more types of solar systems that are being installed in or being considered for Hawaii.

Solar thermal systems include the solar water heating (flat-plate collectors) that we see now on at least 25% of our single-family homes in Hawaii. While the flat-plate collectors are used to heat our water, solar thermal electric systems use technologies, such as parabolic dish troughs, to heat water or a working fluid to higher temperatures in order to generate electricity. A utility scale parabolic dish trough system is currently under development in Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

This testimony reflects the position of the Forum as a whole and not necessarily of the individual Forum members or their companies or organizations.