

SB 2765

HAWAII RENEWABLE ENERGY ALLIANCE

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TESTIMONY OF WARREN BOLLMEIER ON BEHALF OF THE HAWAII
RENEWABLE ENERGY ALLIANCE BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

SB 2765, RELATING TO ENERGY

February 5, 2008

Chair Menor, Vice-Chair Hooser 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 purposes of SB 2765 are to: (1) transfer general funds into the energy systems development special fund, and (2) appropriate funds from the energy systems development special fund for the Hawaii Natural Energy Institute. HREA strongly supports this bill with the following comments:

1. Funding. HREA suggests that a minimum amount of \$10M be entered into the blank spots on lines 10 and 14 on page two of the bill;
2. Pilot Projects. HREA suggests that the fund be used to support for renewable technologies that are in their initial commercial phase in Hawaii, i.e., pilot commercial projects for such technologies as ocean thermal and wave energy systems: and
3. Support and Matching Funds. HREA encourages HNEI to work closely with interested stakeholders, such as the utility, government, industry, environmental groups and the community to get support for specific pilot projects. We also encourage HNEI to highly leverage its energy systems development funds with funds from other entities.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.