



Hawaii Solar Energy Association

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TESTIMONY OF THE HAWAII SOLAR ENERGY ASSOCIATION
IN REGARD TO S.B. 3190
RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS TO
ASSIST SOPOGY INC. IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY ON
THE ISLAND OF OAHU
BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
ON
THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2008

Chair Morita, Vice-Chair Carroll and members of the committee, my name is Ron Richmond and I represent the Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA). HSEA is a professional trade association established in 1977 and affiliated with the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA). HSEA represents manufacturers, distributors, contractors, financial entities and utility companies active in the solar energy industry.

HSEA strongly support the passage of S.B. 3190.

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.

CSP technologies can make a significant contribution to Hawaii's transition away from fossil fuels and toward renewable energy. Sopogy Inc. is a local innovator of CSP technology. HSEA respectfully asks this committee to support Sopogy's request for special purpose revenue bond for its planned Oahu solar power project.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HAWAII RENEWABLE ENERGY ALLIANCE

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Cully Judd
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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

SB 3190, RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS TO ASSIST SOPOGY INC. IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

March 13, 2008

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 SB 3190 is to authorize issuance of special purpose revenue bonds in an amount not exceeding \$35,000,000 to assist Sopogy Inc. with planning, designing, construction, equipping, and operating a solar farm power plant on the island of Oahu to produce electricity from solar power. HREA supports this measure and offers the following comments in support:

- (1) Sopogy Inc. is currently developing a solar power plant to be located at NELHA near Kona on the Big Island to generate 1 MW of electricity for export to HELCO and possibly for meeting power needs at NELHA. Sopogy's technology includes the integration of an array of concentrating solar power collectors (parabolic dish troughs) to produce steam to power turbine-generators. The Sopogy technology could also incorporate thermal storage to "firm" up power delivery to the grid for up to several hours after sunset; and
- (2) Potential Sopogy Project Benefits. Sopogy is currently evaluating project sites and alternative facility sizes for a solar farm on Oahu. As an example of what a potential facility could provide HECO in the way of solar electricity to help HECO meet their RPS requirements, HREA estimates that a 10 MW system could potentially be operated up to 40% to 60% capacity factor, resulting in delivery of 35,040 MWhs to 52,560 MWhs of electricity per year and save 58,400 to 87,600 barrels of oil per year.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



**To: Representative Morita, Chair
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection**

From: Sopogy Inc.

Date: March 13, 2008

Subject: Support for SB 3190 - Relating to the issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to assist Sopogy, Inc., in the development of renewable energy on the Island of Oahu.

Chair Morita, Vice-Chair Carroll and Members of the Committees:

Sopogy, Inc. is a solar power technology company based in Hawaii. Our purpose is to bring renewable solar energy technologies to Hawaii and its people for the betterment of our environment, independence from volatile imported fossil fuels, and energy stability.

Energy demand on Oahu is the highest in the State, therefore the need for a renewable energy plant on Oahu will continue to rise. Sopogy supports SB3190 in that it would allow Sopogy to fund the planning and construction of a multi-megawatt power plant on Oahu utilizing our patent pending concentrated solar power technology. Such large scale projects are essential for the state to meet its aggressive goal of 70% renewables by 2030.

In general, Sopogy supports the adoption of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures that lessen the state's dependence on oil, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and provide energy price stability to Hawaii's consumers.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



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