

**TESTIMONY OF CARLITO P. CALIBOSO  
CHAIRMAN, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
STATE OF HAWAII  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE  
ON FINANCE  
MARCH 31, 2008**

**LATE**

**MEASURE: S.B. No. 988, S.D. 2, H.D. 2  
TITLE: Relating to Photovoltaic Energy.**

Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

**DESCRIPTION:**

This bill proposes to add a new section to Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS") Chapter 269 that would give the Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") the discretion to establish a ratepayer-funded photovoltaic rebate program.

**POSITION:**

The Commission supports renewable energy programs to reduce dependence on foreign oil and greenhouse gas emissions, while increasing energy security and reliability. For this reason, the Commission supports this bill to allow the Commission to establish a ratepayer-funded photovoltaic rebate program in Hawaii after the Commission completes an assessment of the costs and benefits of such a program and determines the program is in the public interest. The Commission respectfully submits the following comments.

**COMMENTS:**

- **The bill gives the Commission the discretion to decide whether to establish a ratepayer-funded photovoltaic rebate program rather than requiring it by law.**
  - The Commission appreciates the authority and discretion that the bill gives the Commission to establish a ratepayer-funded photovoltaic rebate program upon assessing the beneficial impacts of such a program on Hawaii's ratepayers.
  - This approach would allow for a more careful and deliberate analysis of the costs and benefits of establishing a ratepayer-funded photovoltaic rebate program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.