



888 Mililani Street, Suite 601
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-2991

Telephone: 808.543.0000
Facsimile: 808.528.4059

www.hgea.org

The Twenty-Fourth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Economic Development and Taxation

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
March 27, 2008

S.C.R. 217/S.R. 128 – RENAMING THE NATURAL
ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY
AS THE GEORGE R. ARIYOSHI NATURAL
ENERGY LAB.

The Hawaii Government Employees Association supports the purpose and intent of S.C.R. 217 and S.R. 128 that would rename the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority as the George R. Ariyoshi Natural Energy Lab. Governor Ariyoshi understood the importance of preserving the state's fragile environment by developing renewable sources of power. It was his vision that was instrumental in developing, along with the Legislature, the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii (NELH) in 1974 to research ocean thermal energy conversion.

Later in 1990, NELH and the Hawaii Ocean Science and Technology Park were merged into the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority (NELHA). Today, NELHA is attracting international interest in its technological advances, such as the use of cold, nutrient-rich seawater that is being used for a variety of purposes, including air conditioning and growing marine plants and animals. NELHA is using seawater, sunshine and ingenuity to bring sustainable economic development and diversity to the State of Hawaii.

NEHLA would not have been as successful without the visionary support of Governor Ariyoshi. Therefore, it is entirely appropriate that NELHA be renamed the George R. Ariyoshi Natural Energy Laboratory in recognition of his efforts to diversify the economy, protect the environment and provide advanced technology jobs for the local economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of S.C.R. 217 and S.R. 128.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora A. Nomura
Deputy Executive Director

Testimony in Support of SCR217/SR128

Submitted by: Maurice H. Kaya
for a hearing by the
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Taxation
Hawaii State Capitol
Thursday, March 27, 2008
1:15 p.m., Room 224

Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Espero, and members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Taxation, I am pleased to provide this testimony in strong support of SCR 217 that proposes to rename the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority as the George R. Ariyoshi Natural Energy Lab.

I am submitting this testimony as a private citizen, but you may remember me as the former Energy Administrator and Chief Technology Officer of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism. In the twenty years I spent with DBEDT, I was associated with NELHA, an agency attached to the department for administrative purposes. During that time I have seen that agency go through numerous challenges and emerge into what we now celebrate as the unique state asset that previous leaders of the state envisioned.

Clearly among those leaders, former Governor George R. Ariyoshi was the most instrumental in establishing the laboratory, and recognizing its potential for economic develop in energy and ocean sciences that are unique to Hawaii. His leadership was visionary, and represented among the earliest efforts to link strong planning and foresight, science and technology assets, and state infrastructure to attract hundreds of millions of investment in energy and ocean businesses at NELHA.

It was through Governor Ariyoshi's efforts that the acreage for commercial endeavors at what was originally known as the Hawaii Ocean and Science Technology (HOST) Park adjacent to the original

natural energy laboratory at Keahole Point was obtained. HOST Park was eventually merged with the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii to form what is now known as NELHA.

Under his leadership, the facility was master planned to take advantage of the unique access at that location to nutrient-rich, cold deep seawater and abundant sunshine. By obtaining master permits for research corridors in the adjacent near-shore waters, the facility developed into a world-renown location for experiments and new business development. As the resolution correctly notes, many of these innovations are the first of their kind in the world.

Today the state is reaping the benefits of former Governor Ariyoshi's visionary dream, to establish the unique asset that is today's NELHA. It is altogether fitting, proper, and deserved to name NELHA as the George R. Ariyoshi Natural Energy Lab.

I urge your support of this important resolution.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

The Twenty-Fourth Legislature
Regular Session of 2008

THE SENATE
Committee on Economic Development and Taxation
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 224
Thursday, March 27, 2008; 1:15 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON SCR 217
Renaming the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority
as the George R. Ariyoshi Natural Energy Laboratory**

The ILWU Local 142 is in strong support of SCR 217, renaming the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii as the George R. Ariyoshi Natural Energy Laboratory.

George R. Ariyoshi served as Governor of the State of Hawaii for 12 years, longer than anyone else since statehood. During this long tenure, Governor Ariyoshi led the State with dignity and grace. A true visionary, he was one of the first to promote sustainability and the need to plan for the future. "Controlled growth" was his mantra and he wanted to ensure that the environment and beauty of Hawaii would be there for generations to enjoy. His legacy was a State Plan that protected Hawaii's future while providing for the needs of Hawaii residents in the present.

Despite his exemplary leadership, we cannot think of a single building or program that is named for this great man. It is, therefore, fitting that the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority, an entity that was created in large measure due to Governor Ariyoshi's leadership, be named for him.

The ILWU urges adoption of SCR 217 and the renaming of the NELHA as the George R. Ariyoshi Natural Energy Laboratory. This is but a small expression of the gratitude that Hawaii owes to a man who served his state well and continues to serve as a role model for Hawaii leaders.

Thank you for considering our testimony on this resolution.