



COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

public policy center

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT MĀNOA

LATE

Testimony of
Sharon Y. Miyashiro
Social Sciences Public Policy Center, University of Hawai'i at Manoa
House Committee on Finance
Monday March 2, 2009, 10:30 a.m.
Conference Room 308

IN SUPPORT OF HB 1271, HD 2- Relating to Government

I am Sharon Miyashiro, Associate Director of the Social Sciences Public Policy Center ("Center") at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa and Co-chair of the Hawai'i Energy Policy Forum ("Forum"). I speak in support of the intent of HB 1271 HD2, which establishes the Hawai'i Energy and Food Security Task Force ("Task Force") to advise the Legislature on the development of a roadmap and action plan to achieve food and energy independence and sustainability for Hawai'i.

The Task Force will take an interdisciplinary approach to seeking the most efficient and effective pathways for interagency, inter-sector, and state-county collaboration on balancing water, land, regulatory, and natural resource issues related to food and fuel production. The goal of the Task Force in maximizing opportunities to ensure food and energy security and sustainability is to develop a roadmap and action plan based on a comprehensive review of state and county agency objectives, mandates, programs, and resources; federal and private funds to address energy and food issues; as well as investigate various mechanisms and measures to achieve the goal of fuel and energy independence and sustainability for Hawaii. The resources needed to address these complex issues and develop recommendations to the Legislature are to be provided via the revenues to be generated by a proposed "environmental response and energy and food security tax" provided in section 243-3.5, HRS.

The Center's mission to enhance the quality of community life through education, policy research, and civic engagement has involved our faculty in significant issues for the State. We know first-hand the importance of interdisciplinary and collaborative work to address significant public issues. Having worked on the Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan and the Hawai'i Energy Policy Forum, the Center strongly supports the interdisciplinary and collaborative approach recommended by HB 1271 HD2; and strongly believes that such an approach is critical to successfully address this most significant and complex challenge for Hawai'i.

Hawai'i is vulnerable, being the most distant island state in the world and heavily reliant on imported fuel and food, thus the work of the Task Force proposed would be a major step forward to ensuring Hawai'i's sustainable future.

For the foregoing reasons, the Center appreciates the opportunity to work with and provide support to the named Task Force members and the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, provided that funds are available to obtain the necessary staffing and other support required to achieve the purpose, goals and objectives of HB 1271 HD2. The Center, however, defers to the appropriate state agency(ies) regarding the funding sources cited in Section 3 of the bill.

Based on the foregoing, the UHM Social Sciences Public Policy Center **supports HB 1271 HD 2**. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 01, 2009 11:17 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: waioli2@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for HB1271 on 3/2/2009 10:30:00 AM

L A I E

Testimony for FIN 3/2/2009 10:30:00 AM HB1271

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: chris kobayashi
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: waioli2@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 3/1/2009

Comments:

hawaii is dependent on imported fuel and food.
food produced should feed our state and export excess.
energy alternatives besides growing biofuels, should be sustainable and not take away from
the production of food.
there is need for a task force to explore and weigh the options.



maui economic development board inc

March 2, 2009

House Committee on Finance
The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
The Honorable Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
Hawaii State Legislature
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: HB 1271 HD3A **Relating To Hawai'i Food & Energy Security**
Monday, March 2, 2009, 10:30 a.m., Conference Room 308

Honorable Committee Chair and Members of the Committee:

MEDB was formed in 1982 with a mission of strengthening and diversifying Maui County's economy. Renewable energy and sustainable agriculture are among the target industry initiative in our plan of work. For that end, we are working with a consortium of Government, Business, and Academia to ensure success in these strategies. As a County and a State, our ability to achieve energy and food security will require many tools in our collective toolbox. The creation of a \$1 per barrel oil tax and the Hawaii Economic Development Corporation will be provide essential implements for achieving these goals.

To bring energy and food security to reality will require the creation of this type of coordination and coordination among agencies that each can focus day to day on moving the many stakeholders' actions forward. While much has been done at the Federal, State, and County level to begin to create the multi-faceted infrastructure for energy and food security—already yielding promising results—this is a long term challenge and we as a state must be structured for building and implementing solutions over the long term. The concept proposed in this bill, with its many entities providing leadership in their areas of demonstrated expertise, provides that structure. As importantly, MEDB is already familiar with the other entities described in this concept and would be pleased to coordinate efforts with them and leverage our strengths.

Please give this concept your fullest consideration. We welcome your comments on how to shape this initiative for greatest effectiveness.