

HB 1271



LATE

Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

April 2, 2009
Room 211
9:30 A.M

Senate
Committee on Ways & Means
HB1271 HD3 SD1

Mark Duda
President

Testimony in Strong Support

Chair Kim, Vice-Chair Tsutsui and Members of the Committees:

Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) members manufacture and install the majority of solar water heating systems, and install the majority of solar PV systems in the State of Hawaii. HSEA is comprised of more than 30 installers, distributors, manufacturers and financers of solar energy systems, both hot water and PV, most of which are Hawaii based, owned and operated. The organization's primary goals are: (1) to further solar energy and related arts, sciences and technologies with concern for the ecologic, social and economic fabric of the area; (2) to encourage the widespread utilization of solar equipment as a means of lowering the cost of energy to the American public, to help stabilize our economy, to develop independence from fossil fuel and thereby reduce carbon emissions that contribute to climate change; (3) to establish, foster and advance the usefulness of the members, and their various products and services related to the economic applications of the conversion of solar energy for various useful purposes; and (4) to cooperate in, and contribute toward, the enhancement of widespread understanding of the various applications of solar energy conversion in order to increase their usefulness to society.

HSEA makes the following comments regarding this measure:

HSEA strongly supports levying an additional surcharge on each barrel of oil imported to Hawaii and applying those funds to energy efficiency and clean energy investments. HSEA believes that a \$5 surcharge should be levied on each barrel of oil imported into Hawaii to support these activities. As we dramatically expand our clean energy capacity in Hawaii, the real economic benefits of this carbon surcharge will far outweigh the additional burden it may present. Expanding the per-barrel surcharge, as HB 1271 HD1 does, is smart tax-shifting policy to foster greater energy independence by tapping into the source of our problem – dependence on imported oil - to fund the solution.

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Gina Williams

From: David Williams [davebigwave5@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 4:41 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 1271

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
April 2, 2009, 9:30 A.M.
Room 211

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1271

Chair Kim and members of the committee:

1. I support a \$5 surcharge on each barrel of oil entering Hawaii to be used to fund our clean energy future.
2. Funds should be directed to energy efficiency projects first (through the new energy efficiency fund administrator) with a particular focus on low-income energy efficiency upgrades and solar water heating.
3. Funds should then be used to incentivize clean energy investment, smart grid infrastructure improvements, and leveraging federal stimulus dollars for energy projects.
4. The relatively low oil price today presents a perfect opportunity to tap the source of our energy problem to fund our solutions.
5. The surcharge will be used to create green jobs locally and help foster local clean energy innovation.

REgards,

David Williams, Maui

LATE

Gina Williams

From: Jennifer Milholen [jenaries23@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 5:38 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 1271

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
April 2, 2009, 9:30 A.M.
Room 211

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1271

Chair Kim and members of the committee:

The low oil price today presents a perfect opportunity to tap the source of our energy problem to fund our solutions. We cannot afford to wait until the economy recovers and the price of oil returns to triple-digits as it did last summer. A \$5 surcharge on each barrel of oil would have a nominal effect on gasoline and electricity prices, yet would yield upwards of \$250 million for clean energy and energy efficiency statewide--driving down energy costs for everyone.

Salient points:

1. I support a \$5 surcharge on each barrel of oil entering Hawaii to be used to fund our clean energy future.
2. Funds should be directed to energy efficiency projects first (through the new energy efficiency fund administrator) with a particular focus on low-income energy efficiency upgrades and solar water heating.
3. Funds should then be used to incentivize clean energy investment, smart grid infrastructure improvements, and leveraging federal stimulus dollars for energy projects.
4. The relatively low oil price today presents a perfect opportunity to tap the source of our energy problem to fund our solutions.
5. The surcharge will be used to create green jobs locally and help foster local clean energy innovation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.