

TESTIMONY

HB 1676 HD 1

**Before the Senate Committee
on
Labor**

**Testimony in Support of HB 1676, HD1 –
Relating to Public Works**

**Thursday, March 19, 2009
2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 224**

**By
Steven J. Oppenheimer
Associate General Counsel
Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.**

Chair Takamine, Vice-Chair Taniguchi, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Steven Oppenheimer. I am an Associate General Counsel at Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc. I am testifying on behalf of Hawaiian Electric and its subsidiaries, Hawaii Electric Light Company and Maui Electric Company, collectively, the Hawaiian Electric Companies.

The Hawaiian Electric Companies support H.B. 1676, HD1, which clarifies the applicability of Chapter 104, Hawaii Revised Statutes, Hawaii's prevailing wage law, to companies financing construction projects with special purpose revenue bonds that use their own unionized employees on the projects.

H.B. 1676, HD1, is a technical amendment to Chapter 104 that clears up an ambiguity about how such a company certifies compliance with the requirements of Chapter 104.

HB 1676, HD1, clarifies that when a company submits its collective bargaining agreement to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations under HRS Section 104-34, the collective bargaining agreement serves as the basis for compliance with all the applicable requirements of Chapter 104.

The Hawaiian Electric Companies strongly support this clarification.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.