



HAWAII BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL, AFL-CIO

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(808) 524-2249 • FAX (808) 524-6893

Type 1 2 WI
Cat AF AS AX B
Time
Date
Support Y N
Bill No.

NOLAN MORIWAKI
President
Bricklayers & Ceramic Tile Setters
Local 1 & Plasterers/Cement
Masons Local 630

February 23, 2009

JOSEPH O'DONNELL
Vice President
Iron Workers Local 625

Honorable Representative Hermina M. Morita, Chair
Honorable Representative Denny Coffman, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee Energy & Environmental Protection
Honorable Representative Ken Ito, Chair
Honorable Representative Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Water, Land & Ocean Resources
Hawaii State Capital
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

DAMIEN T. K. KIM
Financial Secretary
International Brotherhood of
Electrical Workers Local 1186

ARTHUR TOLENTINO
Treasurer
Sheet Metal Workers I.A. Local 283

MALCOLM K. AHLG
Sergeant-At-Arms
Carpet, Linoleum, & Soft Tile
Local 1296

RE: IN SUPPORT OF HB 590
RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES
Hearing: Tuesday, February 24, 2009, 10:00 a.m.

Bill No. 590
Support Y N
Date 2/23/09
Time 1545

REGINALD CASTANARES
Trustee
Plumbers & Fitters Local 675

Dear Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman and the House Committee on
Energy & Environmental Protection & Chair Ito, Vice Chair Har and the
House Committee on Water, Land & Ocean Resources:

THADDEUS TOMEI
Elevator Constructors Local 126

For the Record my name is Buzz Hong the Executive Director for
the Hawaii Building & Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO. Our
Council is comprised of 16-construction unions and a membership
of 26,000 statewide.

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Type 1 2 WI

JOSEPH BAZEMORE
Drywall, Tapers, & Finishers
Local 1944

The Council SUPPORTS the passage of HB590 that shortens time
within which a state or county agency may process and approve or
deny any permit plan application for a renewable energy facility.

RICHARD TAGGERE
Glaziers, Architectural Metal &
Glassworkers Local Union 1889

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support
of HB 590.

LAUGHN CHONG
Roofers, Waterproofers & Allied
Workers United Union of Roofers
Local 221

Sincerely,

MARY AYCOCK
Cabinetmakers, Ironship Builders
Local 827

W. Hong dg

YNN KINNEY
District Council 50
Painters & Allied Trades
Local 1791

William "Buzz" Hong
Executive Director

ALANI MAHOE
Operating Engineers Local 3

WBH/dg

EDWARD SEBRESOS
International Assoc. of
Cable & Frost Insulators
Allied Workers Local 132

Skilled Craftsmanship Makes the Difference.

EEPttestimony

From: Bobby [mcbobby@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2009 3:16 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: HB590, February 24, 2009 10A, Conf Rm 325

Email Testimony to: EEPttestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Rep. Hermina M. Morita, Chair

Rep. Denny Coffman, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES

Rep. Ken Ito, Chair

Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

10:00 a.m.

Conference Room 325

HB 590 RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES.

Please hold HB 590

PROPER PERMITTING IS ESSENTIAL! Hawaii needs protection!

Thank you,
Bobby McClintock, Honolulu, HI

Bill No. 590

Support Y N

Date 2/23/09

Time 1517

Cat AF AS AX B C

Type 1 2 WI

EEPttestimony

From: Brad Parsons [mauibrad@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2009 3:18 PM
To: EEPttestimony
Subject: Regarding HB 590 RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES

Aloha Members of the Committees:

HB 590 would allow the Director of DBEDT to accept a proposed project as "complete" and then speed up the fast-tracking of the project through state and county agencies, before adequately evaluation may be completed.

Comments regarding HB 590:

Proper Permitting is essential.

Democracy requires thoughtful processes which involve community input and community interventions.

Complex proposals to use public trust resources need adequate review.

Hawai`i's environment, coastal resources, scenic vistas, native Hawaiian rights, health, welfare, and safety concerns, and compliance with existing rules and laws need to be protected.

In a state that values its communities, environment, and citizens rights, automatic approval is simply poor policy.

Permits should be granted on their merits, not by mistake.

No *community should suffer if government fails to perform.*

Automatic approvals are completely antithetical to smart, sustainable planning.

The mongoose is an example of rusing to a solution without thinking about the consequences.

Please hold (kill) HB 590.

Mahalo,

Brad Parsons
Hanalei, HI

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Bill No. 590
Support Y N
Date 2/23/09
Time 1518
Cat AF AS AX B C
Type 1 2 VI

EEPttestimony

From: Jeff Sacher [jsacher@kona.net]
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2009 3:28 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: HB 590

Aloha,

I'm writing to ask that you do not pass HB 590. Far too much is happening far too quickly in our state. We need to maintain the ability for community input, and not put "fast-tracking" ahead of public concern and interests.

Mahalo,
Jeff Sacher
Kawaihae, Big Island

Bill No. 590
Support Y
Date 2/23/09
Time 1528
Cat AF AS AX BC
Type 1 2 WI

- Mail
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- 090212 Testimony
- 090217 Testimony
- 090224 Testimony
- Manage Folders...

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 Forward
 Move
 Delete
 Junk
 Close

Say "no" to automatic approval
 Janice Palma-Glennie [palmtree7@earthlink.net]

Bill No. 590

This message was sent with High importance.

Support Y **(N)**

Sent: Monday, February 23, 2009 9:50 PM

Date 2/23

To: EEPtestimony

Time 2153

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION:
 Rep. Hermina M. Morita, Chair
 Rep. Denny Coffman, Vice Chair

Cat AF AS AX **(B)**

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES:
 Rep. Ken Ito, Chair
 Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

Type 1 **(2)** WI

Hearing date and place: Tuesday, February 24, 2009; 10:00 a.m.; Conference Room 325

HB 590 RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES <<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2009/Bills/HB590..HTM>>

Aloha Chairpersons of Committees:

Please kill HB 590.

Automatic approval makes a mockery of the democratic process and pokes a finger in the eye of good land use planning. HB 590 would allow the Director of DBEDT to accept a proposed project as "complete" -- fast-tracking the project through state and county agencies before it is adequately and completely evaluated.

The democratic process deserves protection and elevation and requires thoughtful community input and community and intervention. Especially, complex proposals that would usurp public trust resources should have adequate review that errs on the side of "too much" public participation rather than the opposite.

Hawai'i's natural, cultural and social environment need the highest level of protection. And the health, welfare, and safety concerns of the public must be protected by insuring compliance with existing rules and laws.

Mahalo for stopping this "non-planning" bill from becoming law.

Best regards,
 Janice Palma-Glennie
 PO Box 4849
 Kailua-Kona, HI 96745



SIERRA CLUB HAWAI'I CHAPTER

P.O. Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803
808.538.6616 / hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org

Bill No. 590

Support Y N

Date 2/24/09

Time 712

Cat AF AS AX BC

Type 1 2 WI

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES

February 24, 2009, 10:00 A.M.
(Testimony is 2 pages long)

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 590 AS WRITTEN

Aloha Chair Morita, Chair Ito, and Members of the Committees:

The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, with over 5500 dues paying members statewide, is opposed to the current version of HB 590, shortening the permitting process for renewable energy projects. While we greatly appreciate the intent behind the measure – ostensibly to expedite the development of renewable energy sources in Hawai'i – we fear that the solution offered in this measure may be misguided.

First, it should be observed that it has been our experience in tracking clean energy developments in Hawai'i that the environmental disclosure and permitting hurdles are lower on the list than obstacles such as financing, land acquisition, and interconnection agreements with the electric utility. In fact, interconnection agreements seem to be the biggest roadblock. For example, consider the Maui windfarm at Kaheawa Pastures. At the public hearing on the conservation district use permit – the main environmental approval that was needed – 33 individuals and organizations testified and all were in support. The interconnection agreement with Maui Electric, however, took years to negotiate, with much frustration on the part of the wind developer.

Second, our existing permitting process protects the environment and the public's right to provide input in the decision making. This usually makes for better siting and development decisions. Given that many of our indigenous energy resources will be harnessed in remote or ecologically sensitive areas, proper permitting and analysis are crucial. Again in the Kaheawa Pastures case, through the existing permitting process an agreement was reached to protect the Nene and other species. But expediting permitting of new renewable energy facilities – particularly those that are located in wild areas – may cause important resource protection measures to be overlooked.

In addition, the recent controversy over the Land Board's actions to lease land in Hamakua for biofuel crops shows the importance of getting public input before rushing to act. Sometimes quick decisions lead to big mistakes.

Third, some of the "renewable energy facilities" as defined in HB 640 may be truly fossil fuel facilities in disguise. A recent proposal to produce biofuel by Kauai Ethanol LLC sought a covered source air permit to burn coal at the facility to convert molasses to ethanol. Are coal facilities the types of projects that we want to give streamlined processing and automatic site approvals to, as allowed in HB 640?

Again, we appreciate the intent behind HB 640, but the measure may create unintended consequences while not addressing the financing, land acquisition and utility interconnection agreements. Nor does this address the lack of staffing, resources, or coordination that may prevent proper analysis of all permits by the underlying agency.

There may be other alternatives that can accomplish the goals of this measure without the concurrent harm to the community. For example:

- The establishment of a clean energy siting council to examine the pros and cons of various locations for renewable energy generation statewide.
- Priority handling for true renewable energy permits and allow such permits to go to the "front of the line" for decision making.
- The creation of ombudsman for renewable energy projects.
- If the primary concern is having a "buzzer" set to go off in order to expedite agency inaction, how about considering an automatic denial? Such a proposal would prevent any harm to the community, while creating a deadline to force agency efficiency. Further, it would have the additional benefit of preventing gamesmanship where a developer tries to rig the system to prevent a thorough review of the proposed project in the hopes it will fall through the cracks and be automatically approved.

We would be happy to work with the Committee and appropriate stakeholders to draft such legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.