

TESTIMONY
HB591 HD1



Hawaii Agriculture Research Center

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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON

**WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE,
AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

AND

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

HOUSE BILL 591, HD1

Relating to Public Utilities

March 18, 2009

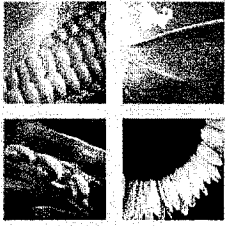
Chairmen Hee and Gabbard and Members of the Committees:

My name is Stephanie Whalen. I am Executive Director of the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center (HARC). I am testifying today on behalf of the center and our research and support staff.

HARC strongly supports House Bill 591, HD1 relating to public utilities.

HARC concurs with the Hawaii Farm Bureau's position authorizing preferential rates to those who produce renewable energy for their own operations and sell the excess to the public utility.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Hawaii's agricultural needs.



Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii

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Testimony By: Alicia Maluafiti
HB 591hd1, Relating to Public Utilities
Senate WTL/ENE Committees
Wednesday, March 18, 2009
Room 229, 2:45 pm

Position: Strong Support

Chairs Hee and Gabbard, and Members of the Senate WTL/ENE Committees:

My name is Alicia Maluafiti, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association. The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA) is a nonprofit trade association representing the agricultural seed industry in Hawaii. Now the state's largest agricultural commodity, the seed industry contributes to the economic health and diversity of the islands by providing high quality jobs in rural communities, keeping important agricultural lands in agricultural use, and serving as responsible stewards of Hawaii's natural resources.

This bill provides support to those agricultural-related businesses that are innovative in its approach to link agriculture production and renewable energy production. It is one of the many policy and incentive support needed to wean Hawaii away from fossil fuel consumption, and it adds to the stability of agriculture in Hawaii.

We urge your support of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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(END)