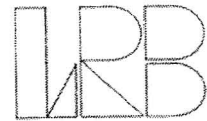


Ken H. Takayama
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LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU
State of Hawaii
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 446
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

TESTIMONY

Bill No. 287

HCR287 / HR 259

Support 1

**REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO STUDY
THE EFFECTS OF ADOPTING OBSERVANCE OF DAYLIGHT
SAVINGS TIME IN HAWAII**

3/30/09

Testimony by the Legislative Reference Bureau
Ken H. Takayama, Director

To: 1513

Com: AS AX BC

Presented to the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Type: 1 2 WI

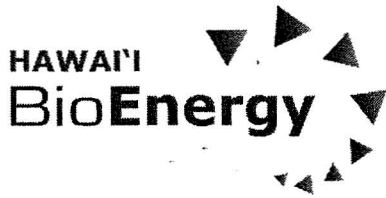
Tuesday, March 31, 2009, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 325

Chair Morita and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ken H. Takayama, Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. The Bureau takes **no position** either for or against this measure, but submits the following **comments**.

1. House Concurrent Resolution No. 287 / House Resolution No. 259 requests the Bureau to study the effects of observing daylight savings time in Hawaii.
2. The study requested appears to be reasonably straightforward and manageable in scope.
3. If the Legislature really wants us to do this study, we will.
4. We would question, however, whether this study is really needed.
5. We believe that most legislators probably have had first-hand experience with daylight savings time, and have a pretty good "feel" for what the impact of adopting it would have on their own lives and those of their constituents.
6. We believe that this issue is more in need of a decision than a study.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify.



HCR 287

**REQUESTING THAT THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU
CONDUCT A STUDY TO DETERMINE THE MERITS OF
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME FOR HAWAII**

**JOEL K. MATSUNAGA
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER & EXECUTIVE VP
HAWAII BIOENERGY**

MARCH 31, 2009

Chair Morita and members of the House Energy and Environmental Protection
Committee:

I am Joel Matsunaga, testifying on behalf of Hawaii BioEnergy ("HBE") on HCR
287, "Requesting that the Legislative Reference Bureau conduct a study to determine
the merits of daylight savings time for Hawaii".

SUMMARY

Currently, Arizona and Hawaii are the only states not observing Daylight Saving
Time ("DST") and as a result could be missing out on benefits that other states may be
experiencing. While past evaluations of DST did not result in its acceptance for Hawaii,
the current energy and economic conditions warrant an updated analysis.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF DST FOR HAWAII

Each year all states but Arizona and Hawaii and much of the world undergo
daylight savings time to adjust for the seasonal change in the earth's rotation and
maximize the daylight hours. Its origins in the United States stem from World War I and
the potential energy savings it could result in.

287

Support Y N

Date 3/30/09

Time 1435

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While there have been a number of studies on Daylight Savings Time (DST), these have primarily focused on the net energy change. HCR 287 itself mentions a number of the energy benefits typically recognized and/or experienced by states adopting DST. Just as recently as a few months ago, Hawaii was feeling the effects of extremely high energy costs (e.g., electricity, transportation fuels) and will likely have to address them again in the near future. The State has moved forward with a number of initiatives to help address Hawaii's higher energy costs and the adoption of DST could potentially be an additional initiative.

In addition to the State trying to address higher energy costs, Hawaii and the rest of the nation are facing one of the most severe economic downturns ever experienced. In addition to energy impacts, many past studies of DST have indicated that state that adopt DST experience economic benefits. For example, if DST were adopted in Hawaii, while tourism has declined and there is only so much the State could do to increase visitor numbers, the State, through DST could increase the number of daylight hours existing visitors have to spend on outdoor activities which would help its economy.

Given the significant challenges facing Hawaii today particularly as a result of energy and economic conditions, a study is warranted at this time to determine if Hawaii would benefit from adopting DST so that the Legislature will have that information available to it during the next session.

CONCLUSION

Hawaii is faced with energy and economic conditions not previously experienced and certainly not at the levels in combination as they are today. The State is looking at a number of initiatives to help address its energy and economic issues. Given that

Hawaii is one of only two states not observing DST and could be forgoing potential energy and economic benefits, Hawaii should conduct an analysis of whether current conditions warrant Hawaii to adopt DST.

Based on the aforementioned, Hawai'i BioEnergy respectfully requests your support of HCR 287.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.