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Statement of
THEODORE E. LIU
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Monday, April 6, 2009

3:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of
SB 868 SD2 HD1
RELATING TO ENERGY RESOURCES.

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, Members of the Committee on Finance.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) strongly supports SB 868 SD2 HD1, an Administration bill which provides amendments to Chapter 196, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to allow the Energy Resources Coordinator (DBEDT Director) the statutory authority to better carry out its legislatively-mandated role in governing energy resource planning, as well as in preserving and ensuring Hawaii's energy security.

SB 868 SD2 HD1's proposed amendments provide clarity on the fundamental need to maintain the technical capability and adequate capacity to quantitatively and qualitatively analyze, develop, and coordinate energy planning and policy efforts

essential to support the Energy Resources Coordinator's role in planning for Hawaii's energy future and energy independence. This is a clear implicit expectation which the Legislature, Administration, and people of Hawaii have for the Energy Resource Coordinator. This bill makes this expectation explicit.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

April 6, 2009, 3:00 P.M.

Room 308

(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 868 SD2 HD1

Chair Oshiro and members of the committee:

The Blue Planet Foundation supports SB 868 SD2 HD1, clarifying and further defining duties and responsibilities of the state energy office. We view this bill as a relatively straightforward housekeeping measure that provides more depth in defining the duties of the increasingly important energy office. Further, it also provides them with greater direction in examining the systemic changes necessary to transform Hawai'i to a clean energy future.

Blue Planet believes, however, that it may be time to consider elevating the level of energy planning and implementation in Hawai'i. If we are serious about ending our addiction to fossil fuel and seek to be powered by 100% clean, renewable, and indigenous sources, the government office charged with guiding the transition deserves greater standing and funding within state government. We would support the creation of a state Hawai'i Energy Security Authority (HESA), something akin to the existing Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA). HESA would be a stand-alone entity, tasked with all aspects of planning, permitting, and implementation of Hawaii's clean energy future. The Authority would be funded solely from a fee on each barrel of oil imported into the state; as dependency on oil decreases, so does the work of the Authority, and the budget decreases accordingly. Given Hawaii's energy independence the status, funding, and prioritization it deserves would help ensure that we achieve our clean energy goals.

Nonetheless, the simple changes in SB 868 SD2 HD1 are supported as an interim step.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Jeff Mikulina, executive director • jeff@blueplanetfoundation.org

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To:

The **Committee on Finance** & Other Legislators reviewing SB 868
Hearing : Mon., 4/6/09 @ 3pm

Fr:

Bridget Rapoza

RE: SB 868; Relating to ENERGY RESOURCES:

Aloha Legislators and Staff, and thank you for your time and efforts in Hawaii's efforts to become more self sustaining. We consider this to be a good thing.

The legislature and committee would enact inaccurate information to define biomass as a "non-polluting" renewable energy. Many sources of scientific information attest to the known fact that biomass burning in fact does create not only pollution, but very dangerous chemical pollutants that may threaten the long term health of Hawaii residents.

The bill should clarify the difference between those renewable energies that are in fact "non-polluting", and those that emit dangerous chemicals into the air.

This does not necessitate taking biomass out of the bill, as it will still be desirable as a renewable energy source. Yet, if the senate and the committee are to put the state's public health as a priority in the midst of such known chemical pollutants, then biomass must be treated in an honest manner, and the appropriate precaution to mitigate the known danger noted in the legislation.

Note basic pollutant info. clearly resulting from biomass burning.

Biomass burning emits many products of incomplete combustion:

Small particles, CO, NO2
Formaldehyde, Acrolein, Benzene, Toluene,
Styrene, 1,3-Butadiene, etc.
Polyaromatic hydrocarbons

....

One of the Major Sources of Particulate Matter (PM) in Humans is Fuel Combustion (including biomass burning).

...

How Does PM Effect the Respiratory System?

- (1) inhibiting and inactivating mucociliary streaming
- (2) killing or neutralizing alveolar macrophages

- (3) constricting airways
- (4) causing vasodilation and excess mucous secretion
- (5) causing changes in alveolar cell wall structure through abscesses and thickening which causes scar formation
- (6) traveling to other parts of the body, e.g., blood and heart

.....

The second major biomass combustion pollutant: Carbon Monoxide (CO)

The Carbon Monoxide Story:

Colorless, odorless, tasteless

Acute effects - poisoning:

– in USA, 600 unintentional deaths per year and 20,000 emergency room visits (home heating appliance failures)

Chronic effects – cardiovascular system

CO Emissions

Direct emissions from fossil fuel and **biomass burning**

(www.who.int/indoorair/interventions/kampala21.pdf)

Our community urges the Committee on Finance to specify biomass as a polluting renewable energy, but one that may well benefit the state so long as the resulting pollution is mitigated in order to adequately safeguard the public health.

Amending language proposed at SB 868 Page 4; Line 17:

As there are few places in the world so generously endowed with natural energy: geothermal, solar radiation, ocean temperature differential, wind, ~~biomass~~, waves, and currents[--] which are all potential non-polluting power sources; and biomass which although a polluting energy source, may still benefit the state as long as the resulting pollution is properly mitigated in order to safeguard the public health;

(2) There is a real need for comprehensive strategic planning in the effort towards achieving ...

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 868, and much success and integrity in all your work this session.

Most sincerely,

Bridget Rapoza, Individually and o/b/o Preserve Pepe`ekeo Health & Environment

p.s. As a side comment on SB 1173, please notice that the enactment date reads 2090.
Thank you.

To: Committee on Finance
SB 868 Amending language proposed:

Fr: Bridget Rapoza

As stated in the accompanying testimony, below please find recommended language to correct the inaccuracy of including biomass as a non-polluting energy. Recommendation is to move the word "biomass" from existing place to next phrase acknowledging pollutant, benefit and public health safeguard

Page 4; Line 17:

As there are few places in the world so generously endowed with natural energy: geothermal, solar radiation, ocean temperature differential, wind, ~~biomass~~, waves, and currents[--] which are all potential non-polluting power sources; and biomass which although a polluting energy source, may still benefit the state as long as the resulting pollution is properly mitigated in order to safeguard the public health;

(2) There is a real need for comprehensive strategic planning in the effort towards achieving ...

Again, thank you.

Submitted by :
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