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TESTIMONY OF WARREN BOLLMEIER ON BEHALF OF THE HAWAII  
RENEWABLE ENERGY ALLIANCE BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

HB 1843 HD1, RELATING TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY

February 18, 2009

Chair Herkes, Vice-Chair Wakai and members of the Committee I am Warren Bollmeier, testifying on behalf of the Hawaii Renewable Energy Alliance (HREA). HREA is a nonprofit corporation in Hawaii, established in 1995 by a group of individuals and organizations concerned about the energy future of Hawaii. HREA's mission is to support, through education and advocacy, the use of renewables for a sustainable, energy-efficient, environmentally-friendly, economically-sound future for Hawaii. One of HREA's goals is to support appropriate policy changes in state and local government, the Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") and the electric utilities to encourage increased use of renewables in Hawaii.

The purpose of HB 1843 HD1 is to establish comprehensive measures for increasing the production and use of renewable energy in the State. HREA supports the intent of this bill, and offer the following comments on Part 1, Section 3, of the bill as written:

1. Changes to RPS. In general, HREA supports the proposed increases in the RPS mandates and the amendments that basically revise RPS to be a mandate on the amount of wholesale power that is generated from renewables. However:
  - a. retail-side renewables (off-set technologies and customer-sited, grid-connected renewable energy systems) are to be removed from RPS, and while these technologies may become part of an EEPS, there is uncertainty as to if and when and how that might happen; and
  - b. as noted in our testimony on HB 429 HD1, there are different opinions as to what should be included in the RPS vs. an EEPS.

Similar to our recommendations on HB 429 HD1, we recommend that the Committee amend the bill to direct the Commission to consider the following as it investigates implementation of changes to RPS:

1. What are the appropriate technologies and measures for the RPS, e.g., should it be strictly a mandate on the wholesale electricity market; and
2. What are the connections and interplays between the RPS and an EEPS, including the phasing of any changes to RPS that would impact the EEPS and its implementation, e.g., should the EEPS include all demand-reduction technologies and be the sole responsibility of the Public Benefits Fund Administrator.

That said, we recommend that the Commission provide recommendations for amendments to the RPS law in prior to the 2010 session, in consideration of their investigation of the design and implementation of an EEPS.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



# Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

PO Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803  
808.537.9019 hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org

## LATE TESTIMONY

### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

February 18, 2009, 2:00 P.M.

*(Testimony is 1 page long)*

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1843, HD1

Aloha Chair Herkes and Members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawaii Chapter, with 5500 dues paying members statewide, supports HB 1843, HD1, establishing comprehensive measures for increasing the production and use of renewable energy in the State. Hawaii's state policy should reflect our preferred choice of clean, indigenous, renewable sources of electricity. Moreover, energy efficiency -- a wonderful concept -- should be encouraged independently of our efforts to develop renewable energy.

Hawaii is the most dependent state in the nation on imported oil. Some 50 million barrels are imported annually, nearly 80% of which originate from foreign sources. In addition, over 805,000 tons of coal are imported into our state. These sources provide power for over 92% of Hawaii's electricity generation. The combustion of these resources also contributes over 23 million tons of climate changing greenhouse gas into our atmosphere annually.

Hawaii's economic, environmental, and energy security demand that we reduce the amount of fossil fuel imported and consumed in Hawaii. This bill is a solid step in that direction.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

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