



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

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Statement of
THEODORE E. LIU
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
**HOUSE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION,
AGRICULTURE, and WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES**
Thursday, February 4, 2010
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of
HB 2618
RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.

Bill No. 2618
Support Y N
Date, 2/3
Time 12:40
Cat AF AS AX BC
Type 1 2 WI

Chairs Morita, Tsuji, and Ito, Vice Chairs Coffman, Wooley, and Har, and Members of the respective Committees.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) supports HB 2618, which would require an exemption from subdivision requirements for a renewable energy facility to be deemed approved if not disapproved within the ninety-day time period.

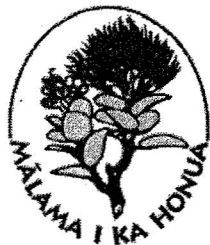
DBEDT defers to the testimony provided by DLNR and the county agencies involved in renewable energy facility permitting.

HB 2618 would facilitate the subdivision exemption approval process for lands to be used for renewable energy projects. The State Energy Office within DBEDT has seen numerous examples of renewable energy projects that require site acreage or configurations that do not coincide with existing, already subdivided lot boundaries. As the subdivision and easement map approval process is time-consuming, renewable energy project developers rely on the subdivision

approval exemption provided under Section 201N-14, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to secure the financing of leases and easements for their projects. This automatic approval will give financiers better peace of mind that a project can move forward without undue delay if no action is taken by the approving agency within the designated ninety day period.

HB 2618 echoes the spirit of HRS 201N-4, which deems a permit approved if the permitting agency has not approved or denied the permit within eighteen months following the approval of a completed permit plan application. In addition, HB 2618 follows many administrative rules providing for automatic approval of permit applications where the permitting authority has not approved or denied a permit within a specified time period.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.



Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

PO Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803
808.538.6616 hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org

Bill No. 2618

Support Y N

Date 2/3

Time 1526

Cat AF AS AX BC

Type 1 2 WI

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

February 4, 2010, 10:00 A.M.

(Testimony is 2 page long)

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 2618

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

The Hawai'i Chapter of the Sierra Club oppose HB 2618, which automatically approves subdivision requests for renewable energy facilities. 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.

It has been our experience in tracking clean energy developments in Hawai'i that the 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 wind farm 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.

Further, 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 the renewable energy projects will be relatively new or unique, we can understand why counties may wrestle with subdivision questions. Will new roads need to be built? Will they be adequate to meet the requirements of this facility? Will dedications be necessary to address the particularized impacts of the proposal? These questions are not always simple, ordinary, run-of-the-mill issues that can be decided quickly. Sometimes the counties will need additional information from the developer and the resulting back and forth will benefit everyone.

Rather than penalizing the counties (and the public) and forcing rushed decisions, wouldn't it be better to simply have the renewable energy coordinator work with each County and resolve any problems? If he cannot resolve the issues, then he easily could come back to the Legislature and identify with specificity the problems that need to be addressed, rather than enacting a one-size-fits-all solution.

Again, we understand and appreciate the intent of HB 2421. However, we need to prevent environmentally undesirable projects from wrongly proceeding because of an automatic approval provision. In our rush to "be green," we also have to remember to consider the environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SENT VIA EMAIL
February 4, 2010

Hawaii State legislature
State Capital
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
ISLAND OF OAHU

2618

Support Y N

Date 2/3

Time 1607

Cat AF AS AX B C

Type 1 2 WI

Support Testimony on
H.B. NO. 2618

Relating To Renewable Energy

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Rep. Hermina M. Morita, Chair
Rep. Denny Coffman, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, AND

Rep. Clift Tsuji, Chair
Rep. Jessica Wooley, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WATER LAND AND OCEAN RESOURCES

Rep. Ken Ito, Chair
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

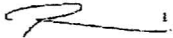
Thursday, February 4, 2010, 10:00 a.m., Conference Room 325

Aloha Chairs Morita, Tsuji and Ito and All Committee Members!

Enterprise Honolulu, the Oahu Economic Development Board, strongly supports H.B. 2618, – This bill is important for best policy practices in Hawaii's development towards energy security.

Enterprise Honolulu, the Oahu Economic Development Board, supports HB 2618. We are committed to work with you to help make this legislation a reality.

Sincerely,



Pono Shim
President and CEO



ENTERPRISE
HONOLULU

THE BUSINESS CLIMATE OF PARADISE

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Written Statement of
YUKA NAGASHIMA
Executive Director & CEO
High Technology Development Corporation
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AND

WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES

Thursday, February 4, 2010

10:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of
HB 2618 RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.

Chairs Morita and Ito, Vice Chairs Coffman and Har, Members of the House Committees on Energy & Environmental Protection and Water, Land & Ocean Resources.

The High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) supports HB2618 because it encourages activities that contribute to the goals of the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support.



Bill No. 2618
Support Y N
Date 2/3
Time 1400
Cat AF AS AX BC
Type 1 2 WI

Bill: HB2618
Date: February 4, 2010
Time: 10:00am
Place: Conference Room 325
Committee: EEP/WLO
Chair: EEP: The honorable Representative Hermina Morita;
WLO: The honorable Representative Ken Ito
Vice Chair: EEP: The honorable Representative Denny Coffeman;
WLO: The honorable Representative Sharon Har

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

Hawaii Science and Technology Council (HSTC) supports HB2618.

On behalf of HSTC, we strongly support HB2618. The implementation of this bill will help to accelerate the permitting process of renewable energy projects throughout our state. Currently, if no decision is made within ninety-days the permit is automatically disapproved, which can cause uncertainty to investors. The passage of this bill will be a positive signal to the investment community that the permitting process is streamlined to accelerate project timelines. Ultimately, it will provide more confidence to the investors and financial backers of renewable energy projects.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully yours,

✓ Jamie Ayaka Moody
Government Relations
Hawaii Science & Technology Council
733 Bishop Street. #1800
Honolulu, HI 96813



Bill No. 2618
Support Y N
Date 2/3
Time 1407
Cat AF AS AX B C
Type 1 2 WI

Bill HB2618
Date February 4, 2010
Time 10:00am
Place Conference Room 325
Committee EEP/WLO
Chair EEP: The Honorable Representative Hermina Morita;
WLO: The Honorable Representative Ken Ito
Vice Chair EEP: The Honorable Representative Denny Coffman;
WLO: The Honorable Representative Sharon Har

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

Hawaii Science & Technology Council (HSTC) supports HB2618.

This bill is a modification from an act in the 2009 legislative session. Act 173 allows renewable energy projects to be exempted from subdivision requirements. The law declares an application to be disapproved if no action is taken by the applicable agency within the proscribed 90 days.

HB2618 reverses the language so that an application is approved if no action is taken by the applicable agency within the 90 days.

The State has recognized the importance of reducing our dependence on imported petroleum for its energy needs. We need to capitalize on our renewable resources in a responsible manner. Therefore, HSTC strongly supports the renewable energy sector and believes it will be a leader in our economy. We need to advocate for policies such as HB2618.

Approval after 90 days of submission will accelerate the lengthy process and ultimately allowing new projects to be started. The ripple effect of a new renewable energy project is far reaching. For example, investors (local and non-local) will infuse cash into the economy, new jobs (including construction) will be available, and we will continue to move to a more secure and independent energy source.

We appreciate your time for allowing us to testify on the support of HB2618.

Mahalo,

✓ Keiki-Pua S. Dancil, Ph.D.
President and CEO
Hawaii Science & Technology Council
733 Bishop St. #1800
Honolulu, HI 96813