

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY GEORGINA K. KAWAMURA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE
AND JUDICIARY
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2631

February 9, 2010

RELATING TO ENERGY INDUSTRY REPORTING

House Bill No. 2631 establishes the Energy Industry Monitoring and Analysis Program within the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism to collect relevant energy data and information to achieve the State's energy policies, programs, and plans.

In addition, House Bill No. 2631 also establishes the Energy Industry Monitoring and Analysis special fund to receive funds from the general revenues of the State to be used for administering the Energy Industry Monitoring and Analysis Program and to fund a full-time staff position to implement the energy program.

As a matter of general policy, this department does not support the creation of any special fund that does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, Hawaii Revised Statutes. Special funds should: 1) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries of the program; 2) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 3) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. It is difficult to determine whether the sources of funding for the Energy Industry Monitoring and Analysis special fund reflect a clear nexus and whether the special fund will be self-sustaining.



Western States Petroleum Association

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
And
House Committee on Judiciary

DATE: Tuesday, February 9, 2010
TIME: 2:00 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 325
RE: HB 2631 Relating to Energy Industry Reporting

Re: HB 2631 Relating to Energy Industry Reporting

I am testifying on behalf of the Western States Petroleum Association (known as WSPA) with comments on HB 2631 relating to energy industry reporting. WSPA is a non-profit trade association representing a broad spectrum of petroleum industry companies in Hawaii and five other western states.

HB 2631 would shift certain of the Public Utilities Commission's responsibilities for energy industry data collection to the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism ("DBEDT"). While we remain neutral as to the collection of such data, we have objected in past legislative sessions to DBEDT's desire for broad and vague authority to collect frequent undefined additional reports and information. We respectfully request that no such amendments be approved for this measure.

Thank you for giving WSPA the opportunity to testify today.