

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HR 153 AND HCR 224

To House of Representatives Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business and Military Affairs

and

House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Aloha, Chair McKelvey, Vice-Chair Choy, Chair Morita and Vice-Chair Coffman and members of both committees:

I am asking your support of the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawai'i Authority (NELHA) as an incubator for research and commercialization of energy, high technology, and economic development in the state of Hawaii and on Hawaii Island. These Resolutions will affirm the commitment of the State of Hawai'i to this important mission.

The Kona Community Development Plan, passed by Ordinance 08 131 with an effective date of September 25, 2008, contains a very strongly worded Policy Statement and Action items that the Kona community hopes to implement in order to advance the community energy needs and job creation.

The Plan states:

Policy ECON – 1.3: NELHA as a Stimulus for Energy and Research Industry. The KONA CDP encourages the State and NELHA's board of directors to balance NELHA's complex mission in order to make it a world-class renewable energy research center with close ties to the proposed West Hawai'i University. To offset research subsidies, the plan supports commercial development of the mauka NELHA area by businesses incubated at the NELHA's research area. The proposed frontage road would provide convenient access by residents and visitors to this proposed commercial area.

Action ECON – 1.3a: Encourages the NELHA Board of Directors to reevaluate and publicly articulate NELHA's short- and long-term business plan.

Action ECON – 1.3b: Develop a master plan for the commercial development of the mauka area of NELHA and obtain entitlements.

Action ECON – 1.3c: Design and construct the frontage road to complement and implement the commercial master plan.

Thank you for your favorable consideration.

From: Marni Herkes (contact 808 987 2171 or marnih@hawaiiantel.net)