

SB 287

**TESTIMONY OF CARLITO P. CALIBOSO
CHAIRMAN, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

MARCH 2, 2009

MEASURE: S.B. No. 287 S.D.1
TITLE: Relating to Energy

Chair Kim and Members of the Committee:

DESCRIPTION:

This bill proposes to amend chapter 201N, Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS"), establish a geothermal energy pilot program on Hawaii Island, to maximize and expand the use of geothermal energy sources. This bill also amends chapter 235, HRS, to create a geothermal energy pilot program tax credit. In addition, this bill amends chapter 269, HRS, to give authority to the Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") to direct the public utilities supplying electricity on Hawaii Island to acquire electricity generated from geothermal sources at the maximum capacity available, and also requires the Commission to assist energy resources coordinator in developing reasonable guidelines and timetables for the creation and implementation of power purchase agreements.

POSITION:

The Commission appreciates the intent of this bill; however, the Commission would recommend that the proposed amendment to the existing HRS section 269-27.2(b) (Page 7, lines 2 – 4) be deleted, as it narrows the Commission's authority to direct the use of renewable energy generations to situations where the county does not require maximum geothermal energy production.

COMMENTS:

- The proposed amendment to the existing HRS Section 269-27.2(b) is not necessary if the new HRS Section 269-27.2(b) is inserted. More importantly, the proposed amendment to the existing HRS Section 269-27.2(b) actually narrows the Commission's authority to direct the use of renewable energy generation to situations where the county does not require maximum geothermal energy production. The Commission believes that this is

S.B. 287 S.D.1
Page 2

counterproductive and Section 269-27.2(b) **should not** be amended as proposed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

kim4 - Elizabeth

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2009 9:42 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: rjlives@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB287 on 3/2/2009 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 3/2/2009 9:30:00 AM SB287

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: comments only
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rodolfo J Mendoza
Organization: Individual
Address: Hilo, HI
Phone:
E-mail: rjlives@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/26/2009

Comments:

Aloha Esteemed Members of the Legislature,

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer comments to SB287. I believe that it is a good step forward towards self-sustainability and will help the economy of Hawaii Island. However, I understand that there is a company called Puna Geothermal Venture that has been in operations for some time now, so I wouldn't think that a pilot program would be necessary.

Mahalo for your time.

Best,
Rodolfo J Mendoza
Hilo, HI