

**Testimony before the  
Committee on Water, Land & Ocean Resources  
House of Representatives, Regular Session of 2011**

**by Philip Hauret  
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Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.**

**February 14, 2011**

**House Bill 270, Relating to the Counties**

Chair Chang and Members of the Committee:

My name is Phil Hauret and I am testifying on behalf of the Hawaiian Electric Company and its subsidiaries, Hawaii Electric Light Company and Maui Electric Company.

We support House Bill 270. This bill streamlines the process whereby the counties, upon approval of the respective county council, can grant easements over county land for various purposes, including public utility purposes. In particular, the bill clarifies that these easements can be granted in perpetuity by direct negotiation and eliminates the need to conduct public auctions. Since the granting of such easements is almost always to parties who are proposing very specific uses of county property, the conducting of a public auction becomes an unnecessary step for the simple reason that no other member of the public would be interested in obtaining the easement. Therefore, a public auction does nothing to enhance value to the county.

For these reasons, we believe that the proposed language of HB 270 will streamline the process by which these easements are granted while ensuring that the county receives fair value. We urge the committees to pass HB 270 in its current form.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.