

gabbard1 - Carlton

From: David Barter [hoalike5@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 12:22 PM
To: gabbard1 - Carlton
Subject: SB 722 food and energy security tax in support

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From Mary Barter and David Barter

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Testimony in Strong Support of SB722

Relating to the Energy and Food security Tax.

I am writing in support of this bill, which would fund the most necessary long term goals of our security for food and energy on these islands.

This is a tax, we should gladly pay for our children and grandchildren.

Who can deny the insecurity of our present times? We face threats to the security of an island state 2000 miles from anywhere, with not nearly enough resources to support our population. We do have good land, and there are many ways to promote food security from farming to backyard gardens, to government initiatives which would promote community ways to access the necessary education, land, communal use of tools, and a modern, island wide composting operation, gray water technologies, and water development, storage facilities and more.

We are faced with the opportunity to begin these plans in earnest now, or stick our heads in the sand and pretend that gas will stay cheap, that there are no global threats to our climate, and the disruptions that will cause in world supplies of every commodity, the disruptions in travel to and from airports and seaports which we depend on all over the world. And there is obviously great geopolitical unrest and uncertainty.

We can do this! We can be appropriately forward thinking and create sustainable models here, but we must not begin with rhetoric only. It takes a lot of will, cooperation, and money.

Thank you for making this start, and, in advance, thank you for your continued commitment to a sustainable Hawaii.

TESTIMONY OF DAVID ATKIN ON SENATE BILL SB 722

My name is David Atkin. My occupation is environmental planner, but I have been following Hawaii energy issues since 1994 when I was a consultant to the Energy Office on a study regarding energy use in the State's transportation sector. Before coming to Hawaii in the early 90's, I worked for the New Jersey Department of Energy, and a company that designed coal transportation infrastructure. The point is that I've been involved in energy issues for quite some time.

Today the price of a barrel of Brent crude oil closed at 101.74, a 28 month high. This pricing level will seem cheap if the Suez Canal closes because of instability in Egypt.

Also today, HECO's Robbie Alm and the Hawaii Energy Office's Josh Strickler received national coverage, when National Public Radio aired a story about Hawaii's moves towards energy independence.

We are, again, starting to witness what we've already been through before. Our continuing addiction to oil means that our economy, our planning, our goals and dreams, are completely subject to unpredictable events halfway around the world. In recognition of this, we have already established a goal of 70% clean energy by 2030, so that we achieve energy independence.

How do we achieve this goal? The private sector is doing a lot, but the private sector doesn't look out for the greater good of the public. We need a strong energy office, with sufficient, stable funding, to maintain a programmatic view as our state undergoes the energy transformation that has already begun. Without a statewide, public interest perspective, our energy transformation will be slower, less coordinated, less efficient, and more expensive, than it need be. We need intelligent, passionate, motivated individuals on the government payroll, in the State Energy Office, to continue to look 2, 3 and 10 steps ahead, to smooth the way for private sector partners to actually accomplish the energy transformation.

Let's take, for example, work I am currently doing for the State Energy Office. We are putting together a manual, and a web site, the subject of which is environmental permits for renewable energy projects. This will provide developers, contractors, agencies, and other stakeholders with one stop for the basic information needed on the permitting process for residential, commercial and industrial renewable energy projects. How does this investment, now in progress, translate into future efficiency?

1. Agency staff can refer applicants to a manual and web site, saving staff time
2. When the web tool is finished, applicants will be able to receive a customized list of the environmental permits they will likely need, and how those permits should be scheduled in relation to each other.
3. Applicants can review environmental requirements in detail from one web site, allowing them to be more prepared when they start the environmental review process and more educated about what to expect.
4. The fact that Hawaii has invested in these educational tools for renewable energy developers sends a strong message that Hawaii is business-friendly for renewable energy projects.
5. Knowledge remains on the web, even as regulatory agency staff come and go. We don't lose the information when key people retire or leave.

This project has also identified programmatic environmental permitting obstacles that could be resolved through inter-governmental coordination.

The private sector is simply not able to gain a statewide perspective on how Hawaii's overall energy transformation is proceeding, and is also not able to advance some of the permitting efficiencies that can be achieved.

Our goal of 70% clean energy by 2030 needs an orchestra conductor. It needs an accountant to keep track. It needs a cheerleader. It needs technology transfer. It needs networking opportunities. It needs seed money for strategic investments, such as investments in permitting efficiencies. These are all functions being provided by the State energy office, but they need more help to meet the goal. Our goal is ambitious. It doesn't just happen. We need strong, stable, consistent funding for the Energy Office if Hawaii's worthy energy transformation goal is to be achieved.

Testimony for ENE/AGL 2/1/2011 2:55:00 PM SB722

Conference room: 225

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: amy K. Brinker

Organization: Individual

Submitted on: 2/1/2011