

# HAWAII RENEWABLE ENERGY ALLIANCE

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## TESTIMONY OF WARREN BOLLMEIER ON BEHALF OF THE HAWAII RENEWABLE ENERGY ALLIANCE BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

### HB 1389 RELATING TO ENERGY

February 1, 2011

Chair Morita, Vice-Chair Coffman and members of the Committee I am Warren Bollmeier, testifying on behalf of the Hawaii Renewable Energy Alliance (HREA). HREA is an industry-based, nonprofit corporation in Hawaii established in 1995. Our mission is to support, through education and advocacy, the use of renewables for a sustainable, energy-efficient, environmentally-friendly, economically-sound future for Hawaii. One of our goals is to support appropriate policy changes in state and local government, the Public Utilities Commission and the electric utilities to encourage increased use of renewables in Hawaii.

The purpose of HB 1389 is to establish the office of energy to be administratively attached to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism. (\$)

HREA **takes no position** no position on this measure at this time, and offer the following comments:

Reference (from the DBEDT web-site): "The Director of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism serves as Hawaii's statewide Energy Resources Coordinator. The Strategic Industries Division supports the Energy Resources Coordinator and serves as the Hawaii State Energy Office."

- (1) The stated purpose of the "Office of Energy" is to "assist in the development of a long range, comprehensive, and strategic energy plan for Hawaii." HREA understood that has been a goal for the existing "State Energy Office". So, is the intent of the Office of Energy to simply be a planning entity? If so, why not make it part of the Governor's Office?
- (2) However, is the real intent of "Office of Energy" to develop and implement the strategic plan? If so, why not separate the existing "Energy Office" from DBEDT, and take the Energy Resource Coordinator position with the Office?
- (3) We look forward to seeing what others have to say about this bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.