



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
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February 23, 2011
2:05PM

HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION &
COMMERCE
HB 1517

Mark Duda
President

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Herkes, Vice Chair Yamane, and Members of the Committee:

Hawaii is the most oil dependent state in the nation, relying on fossil fuels for the majority of its electricity generation. In order for Hawaii to continue to move towards a clean energy future, it is imperative that the Public Utilities Commission be given the authority to consider the true costs of fossil fuels, and the true benefits of renewable energy, when make decisions regarding the reasonableness of costs of utility system capital improvements and operations.

HSEA supports HB 1517.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Mark Duda
President, Hawaii Solar Energy Association

About Hawaii Solar Energy Association

Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) is comprised of installers, distributors, manufacturers and financiers of solar energy systems, both hot water and PV, most of which are Hawaii based, owned and operated. Our primary goals are: (1) to further solar energy and related arts, sciences and technologies with concern for the ecologic, social and economic fabric of the area; (2) to encourage the widespread utilization of solar equipment as a means of lowering the cost of energy to the American public, to help stabilize our economy, to develop independence from fossil fuel and thereby reduce carbon emissions that contribute to climate change; (3) to establish, foster and advance the usefulness of the members, and their various products and services related to the economic applications of the conversion of solar energy for various useful purposes; and (4) to cooperate in, and contribute toward, the enhancement of widespread understanding of the various applications of solar energy conversion in order to increase their usefulness to society.

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 CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

HB 1517, RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

February 23, 2011

Chair Herkes Vice-Chair Yamane 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 purposes of HB 1517 are to: (i) require the PUC to consider the need to reduce the State's reliance on fossil fuels through energy efficiency, and (ii) allow the PUC to take the consequences of importing fuel into consideration when making determinations about costs of capital improvements and operations.

HREA **supports** this measure as it supports the state's overall clean energy objectives. We have two recommendations for **strengthening this measure**.

First, we recommend adding the phrase "fuel contracts and" after "costs of" in line 8 of the draft measure, and in the fourth line of description of the measure. This will ensure that all methods for obtaining imported fuels are examined critically on a level playing field.

Second, we recommend in providing specific direction to the Commission regarding the implementation of renewable energy, that the Committee consider the following amendments to HRS §269.27.2 (b):

b) The public utilities commission [~~may~~] **shall** direct public utilities that supply electricity to the public to arrange for the acquisition of and to acquire electricity generated from nonfossil fuel sources as is available from and the producers are willing and able to make available to the public utilities, and to employ and dispatch the nonfossil fuel generated electricity in a manner consistent with the availability thereof to maximize the reduction in consumption of fossil fuels in the generation of electricity to be provided to the public. To assist the energy resources coordinator in effectuating the purposes of chapter 201N, the public utilities commission [~~may~~] **shall** develop reasonable guidelines and timetables for the creation and implementation of power purchase agreements.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

LATE TESTIMONY