



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committees on Energy and Environmental Protection and
Agriculture

February 8, 2012 at 8:15am

by

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and

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HB 2834 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

Chairs Coffman and Tsuji, and members of the Committees on Energy and Environmental Protection and Agriculture: Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2834, which extends the sunset date for the Hawai'i Economic Development Task Force to June 30, 2014. I am Sylvia Yuen, Interim Dean and Director of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR).

The 2010 Hawai'i State Legislature adopted Act 73, which established the Hawai'i Economic Development Task Force to assist our state in becoming food and energy self-sufficient by facilitating and accelerating the adoption and completion of renewable energy projects, energy efficiency programs, and local agricultural infrastructure and development projects, as well as other needed measures.

As is mandated in Act 73, as Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources I serve on the Task Force, along with the directors of the Departments of Agriculture, Business Economic Development & Tourism, and Land and Natural Resources; directors of the economic development boards from each county; and representatives from various sectors of the community—business, union, and foundations. Although the Task Force has performed admirable work over the past two years, as demonstrated by its reports to the Legislature, it requires more time to fully address its important charge. The diverse perspectives of current members enrich the work of the Task Force, and they have now acquired both breadth and depth of knowledge relating to food and energy that is difficult to replicate.

The Legislature indicated earlier that it was in the best interests of the state to build its capacity for energy and food self-sufficiency to protect the health and vitality of Hawai'i's people and environment. This is a worthy goal, and the extension of the sunset date for the Hawai'i Economic Development Task Force will ensure that a dedicated and knowledgeable group of people will be available to assist in this important task.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2834.



**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

February 8, 2012, 8:15 A.M.

Room 312

(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2834

Chairs Coffman and Tsuji and members of the Committees:

The Blue Planet Foundation supports HB 2834, a measure extending the sunset date for the Hawaii Economic Development Task Force to June 30, 2014. We support this amendment, as the Task Force was an effective organization of individuals who worked very constructively together to help analyze and shape plans to promote Hawaii's food and energy security. Blue Planet respectfully ask that these committees also consider further amendments (in another measure) to the existing barrel tax legislation to accomplish the original intent behind Act 73, 2010, and to accelerate Hawaii's transition to energy independence:

- Remove the sunset date of the environmental response, energy, and food security tax;
- Increase the environmental response, energy, and food security tax from \$1.05 per barrel to \$2.00 per barrel;
- Establish a tax on each ton of coal imported into Hawaii that is approximately equivalent to the barrel tax in terms of carbon emissions;
- Increase the allocations of the environmental response, energy, and food security tax to the energy security special fund, the environmental response revolving fund, the energy systems development special fund, and the agricultural development and food security special fund;
- Transition the Hawaii Economic Development Task Force to the Hawaii Food and Energy Security Council, which will remain in existence through June 30, 2014; and
- Increase the spending caps for the State Energy Office and the Department of Agriculture to make use of the barrel tax funds.

We are happy to share proposed amendments to accomplish the foregoing.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Jeff Mikulina, executive director • Jeff@blueplanetfoundation.org

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February 7, 2012

Representative Denny Coffman
Chair - Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Representative Clift Tsuji
Chair - Committee on Agriculture
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 312
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chairs Coffman, Tsuji, and Committee Members!

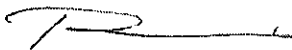
It was more than a gratifying experience to serve on the Hawai'i Economic Development Task Force as a result of Act 73.

This has been one of the most inspiring groups of individuals that I have been given the opportunity to work with on a continuous basis. As we went through the process of producing the Legislative Report for Energy and Food Security, it was clear to each of us, that we have more work to do for the future of Hawai'i.

We, as a group agreed that the work was and is worth our time, effort, and commitment.

I strongly support HB2834.

Mahalo,



Pono Shim
President and CEO, Enterprise Honolulu



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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2012 7:33 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: crystalkpaul@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2834 on 2/8/2012 8:15:00 AM

Testimony for EEP/AGR 2/8/2012 8:15:00 AM HB2834

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Crystal Kia Paul
Organization: Individual
E-mail: crystalkpaul@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/7/2012

Comments:

Yes, Hawai'i needs to be in the forefront of green renewable energy, better resource management and leaders to do this.

I am in support of Economic Development. However, I do have some concerns that I would like you to take into consideration. On the website of this task force there are no minutes for 2011's meetings. I would like to know how extending until 2014 will help Hawai'i achieve the goals of Hawai'i 2050. How close are we to completing goals initially set by the task force? What are there accomplishments and what can we do to help them get there goals met?