

HAWAII RENEWABLE ENERGY ALLIANCE

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Kahua Ranch Ltd.TESTIMONY OF WARREN BOLLMEIER ON BEHALF OF THE HAWAII
RENEWABLE ENERGY ALLIANCE BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES
ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT, AND PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT
OPERATIONS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

SB 1372, RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

February 10, 2011

Chairs Gabbard and Espero, and Vice-Chairs English and Kidani and members of the Committees, 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 SB 1372 are to: (i) transfer the power to grant variances on the solar water heater requirement for new construction from the department of business, economic development, and tourism to the county planning department; and (ii) eliminate the provision requiring that fees to administer the variances go to the energy security special fund.

HREA **opposes this measure as written**, and offer the following comments in concert with the Hawaii Solar Energy Association, the Sierra Club and the Blue Planet Foundation:

1. we support the measure to the extent its intent is to provide greater oversight in the granting of variances,
2. to provide greater oversight, amendments are needed to improve the guidelines in statute regarding grant variances. We support the amendments as proposed by HSEA, the Sierra Club and the Blue Planet Foundation.
3. We can support transfer of the responsibility for granting variances to the counties should the legislature determine that the transfer is the best course of action.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.