

LATE



February 2, 2012

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Energy and the Environment
Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs

**Support of SB 2281 Environmental Impact Statements (EIS)
(Allow certain projects to proceed directly with an EIS, instead of first preparing
an environmental assessment.)**

Thursday, February 2, 2012, 3:30 a.m., in CR 224

My name is Dave Arakawa, and I am the Executive Director of the Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF), a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and a utility company. One of LURF's missions is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to provide its position **in support of SB 2281.**

SB 2281. This bill would authorize an agency or an applicant to bypass the preparation of an environmental assessment (EA) and proceed directly to an EIS for proposed actions that are determined to require an EIS.

LURF's Position. We support SB 2281 and its purpose, which is to allow agencies to determine, based on their judgment and experience, that an EIS is likely to be required for a proposed action, and therefore, choose not to prepare an EA, or to allow an applicant not to prepare an EA, and instead proceed directly to the preparation of an EIS. We also have a minor comment – that the term “adequate notice” be deleted, and replaced by the specific notice required – the EIS publications notice (see pages 5, 8 and 9).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding this measure.