

clee1 - Lina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 4:51 PM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: bjltodd@co.hawaii.hi.us
Subject: Testimony for SB2792 on 3/14/2012 8:45:00 AM
Attachments: Testimony SB 2792, SD3, Relating to Renewable Energy Revenue w_ Proposed Amendments.pdf

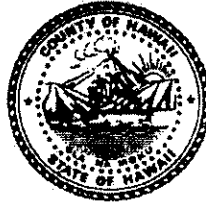
LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for HAW 3/14/2012 8:45:00 AM SB2792

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Comments Only
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: BJ Leithead Todd
Organization: County of Hawaii
E-mail: bjltodd@co.hawaii.hi.us
Submitted on: 3/13/2012

Comments:

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



BJ Leithead Todd
Director

Margaret K. Masunaga
Deputy

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County of Hawai'i
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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LATE TESTIMONY

March 14, 2012

Honorable Faye Hanohano, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
The House
Hawai'i State Capital
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Hanohano and Committee Members:

**SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of Intent of Senate Bill 2792, SD3, Relating to Renewable Energy Revenue with Proposed Amendments
B.J. Leithead Todd, Planning Director, County of Hawai'i
Hearing scheduled for March 14, 2012; 8:45 a.m.; Conference Room 329**

The legislature finds that an additional revenue stream for the native Hawaiian rehabilitation fund must be identified to continue existing programs for native Hawaiians, native Hawaiian families, and Hawaiian homestead communities. Senate Bill (SB) No. 2792, SD3 identifies geothermal royalties and revenue from the public land dispositions to renewable energy producers as supplemental sources of revenue for the Native Hawaiian Rehabilitation Fund.

I support the intent of SB No. 2792 SD3 to find additional funding sources for the Native Hawaiian Rehabilitation Fund but ask that you consider the following amendment.

SB No. 2792 SD3 currently amends Section 182-7, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) by deleting the thirty percent of all royalties received by the State from geothermal resources to be paid to the county in which the mining operations covered under a state geothermal resource mining lease are situated and leaving a blank amount to be paid to the county. The current 30% of the current 10% royalty amount is placed in a special fund, the County's Geothermal Relocation and Community Benefits Fund. This fund has been used for road improvements, water infrastructure, land acquisition, parks and recreational facility needs, civil defense, and mass transit improvements in the Lower Puna District and to pay for the relocation of property owners situated close to the geothermal plant that have been impacted by its operation. The Geothermal Relocation and Community Benefits Fund benefits the Puna area surrounding the current geothermal plant.

Chair Hanohano,
Representatives, and Committee Members
March 14, 2012
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During the current administration, the fund has been a funding source for the purchase of buses to service the Lower Puna district, park equipment renovations, Pāhoā swimming pool equipment, installation of smart signs and streetlights, improvements to the Pāhoā Transfer Station, and various road repaving and drainage improvements. Additionally, there is one property currently in the process of being purchased for relocation. Therefore, in order for these important projects to continue to be funded, I humbly ask for the County's percentage to be amended to twenty-five percent and the royalty amount to be increased to 12%.

With the increase from 10% to 12% through an additional amendment to Section 182-18, HRS, the payment of royalties to the State would be increased from ten per cent to a fixed at a rate of not less than twelve per cent of the gross amount or value of the geothermal resources produced under the lease. This rate increase along with the requested amendment to twenty-five percent royalties received by the State from geothermal resources to be paid to the county would allow our revenue stream to be maintained. With those amendments, the County's Geothermal Relocation and Community Benefits Fund could continue to be utilized as a valuable funding source for public projects in the Lower Puna District.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this measure and to offer a further amendment. I ask that the Committees consider the amendment to SB No. 2792 as proposed above.

Sincerely,



BJ LEITHEAD TODD
Planning Director

BJM:cs:rl

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cc: Mayor William P. Kenoi
County of Hawai'i

Mr. Fred Blas, Councilmember
Hawai'i County Council

Mr. Albert "Alapaki" Nahale-a, Chairman
Hawaiian Home Lands Trust
P.O. Box 1879
Honolulu, Hawaii 96805

clee1 - Lina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 7:32 AM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: info@schha.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2792 on 3/14/2012 8:45:00 AM

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for HAW 3/14/2012 8:45:00 AM SB2792

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Annie Au Hoon, President
Organization: SCHHA
E-mail: info@schha.com
Submitted on: 3/14/2012

Comments: