

# HAWAII RENEWABLE ENERGY ALLIANCE

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## TESTIMONY OF WARREN BOLLMEIER ON BEHALF OF THE HAWAII RENEWABLE ENERGY ALLIANCE BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

### SB 2966, RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

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January 31, 2012

Chair Gabbard and Vice-Chair English 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 SB 2966 are to: (i) increase allowable maximum customer-generator capacity for net metered systems to two megawatts if the generating facility is sited on property owned or controlled by the State of Hawaii, and (ii) increase allowable maximum customer-generator capacity for net metered systems to one megawatt for all other systems.

HREA supports this measure as it supports our clean energy objectives and we offer the following comments in support:

1. Role of the State. This measure clearly encourages the state to “lead by example” in promoting the use of net metered systems up to 2 MW. Furthermore, by saving on their electricity bills, the state will be saving taxpayers money as well. Clearly, this is a win-win
2. Role of Residential, Commercial and Other Customers. This measure also encourages a greater pace in private investment in our clean energy objectives. As with the state, other customers will save on their electricity bills, and these savings will translate to other expenditures by residents and businesses, which will help improve our economy. Clearly, this is a win-win.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.