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TESTIMONY OF WARREN BOLLMEIER ON BEHALF OF THE
HAWAII RENEWABLE ENERGY ALLIANCE BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

SB 2981 SD2 HD2, RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

April 3, 2012

Chair Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee 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 HB 2981 SD2 HD2 is to: (i) allow the public utilities commission to direct electric utilities to include specific scenarios and resource options as part of their integrated resource plans, (ii) develop a framework to replace oil-based power generation facilities, and (iii) examine certain policies related to the distribution of renewable energy.

HREA **strongly supports** this measure as it supports the state's overall clean energy objectives, and we offer the following comments in support:

- 1) IRP: What a Concept. HREA and its members have worked with the utility on their IRPs since the early 90s to increase the utility's use of renewable energy. However, in the initial IRPs there wasn't really any planning for new renewable, but there as recognition of existing projects on the sugar plantations and PGV geothermal, Wailuku River Hydro, Lalamilo Wells, Kahua Ranch and the Kamo'a windfarms on the Big Island and the original Kahuku windfarm on Oahu which preceded IRP.
- 2) A Revised IRP Framework. Prior to the Energy Agreement (2008), additional renewable projects came on line as developers were able to negotiate Power Purchase Agreements, and IRPs began to include them. However, per the Energy Agreement, a new type of planning process (Clean Energy Scenario Planning) was proposed, the existing IRP process was suspended, and a docket (No. 2009-0108) was opened. Subsequently, a new IRP Framework has been adopted and the revised planning process is about to start anew.
- 3) What Now. The measure proposes emphasis on planning for more renewables, especially firm renewables, and especially geothermal, waste-to-energy and an interisland cable system. We support consideration of each of these in the revised IRP Framework. We also would like to see emphasis placed on planning for increased on-island transmission level projects including renewables and storage, and customer-sited solutions, such as distributed generation, solar water heating and energy efficiency.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.