

HAWAII RENEWABLE ENERGY ALLIANCE

46-040 Konane Place #3816, Kaneohe, HI 96744 – Telephone/FAX: 247-7753 – Email: wsb@lava.net

Directors

Jody Allione
AES-Solar

Kelly King
Pacific Biodiesel

Matt Stone
Sopogy

Warren S. Bollmeier II
WSB-Hawaii

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

SB 2981 RELATING TO RENEWABLES

LATE

January 31, 2012

Chair Gabbard, 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 purpose of SB 2981 is to require the PUC to direct electric utilities to place special emphasis on utilizing renewable energy sources when crafting integrated resource plans.

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, as an objective of 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.