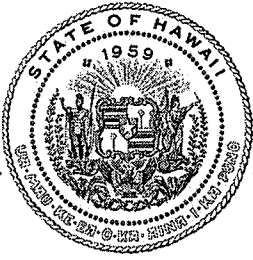


SB 722



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

RICHARD C. LIM
INTERIM DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: www.hawaii.gov/dbedt

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Written Statement of
RICHARD C. LIM
Interim Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Friday, February 25, 2011

9:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of

SB 722 SD 1

**RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE, ENERGY, AND FOOD
SECURITY TAX.**

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

SB722 SD1 amends the Environmental Response, Energy, and Food Security Tax to require that 44 cents of the tax be deposited into the Energy Security Special Fund, 44 cents be deposited into the Agricultural Development and Food Security Special Fund, and 2 cents be deposited into a special account for the Climate Change Task Force.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism strongly supports this bill. This bill will provide a sustainable source of funding for Hawaii's energy office programs and personnel, which are critical to achieving Hawaii's energy security and reducing the State's dependence on imported fossil fuels by at least 70% by 2030.

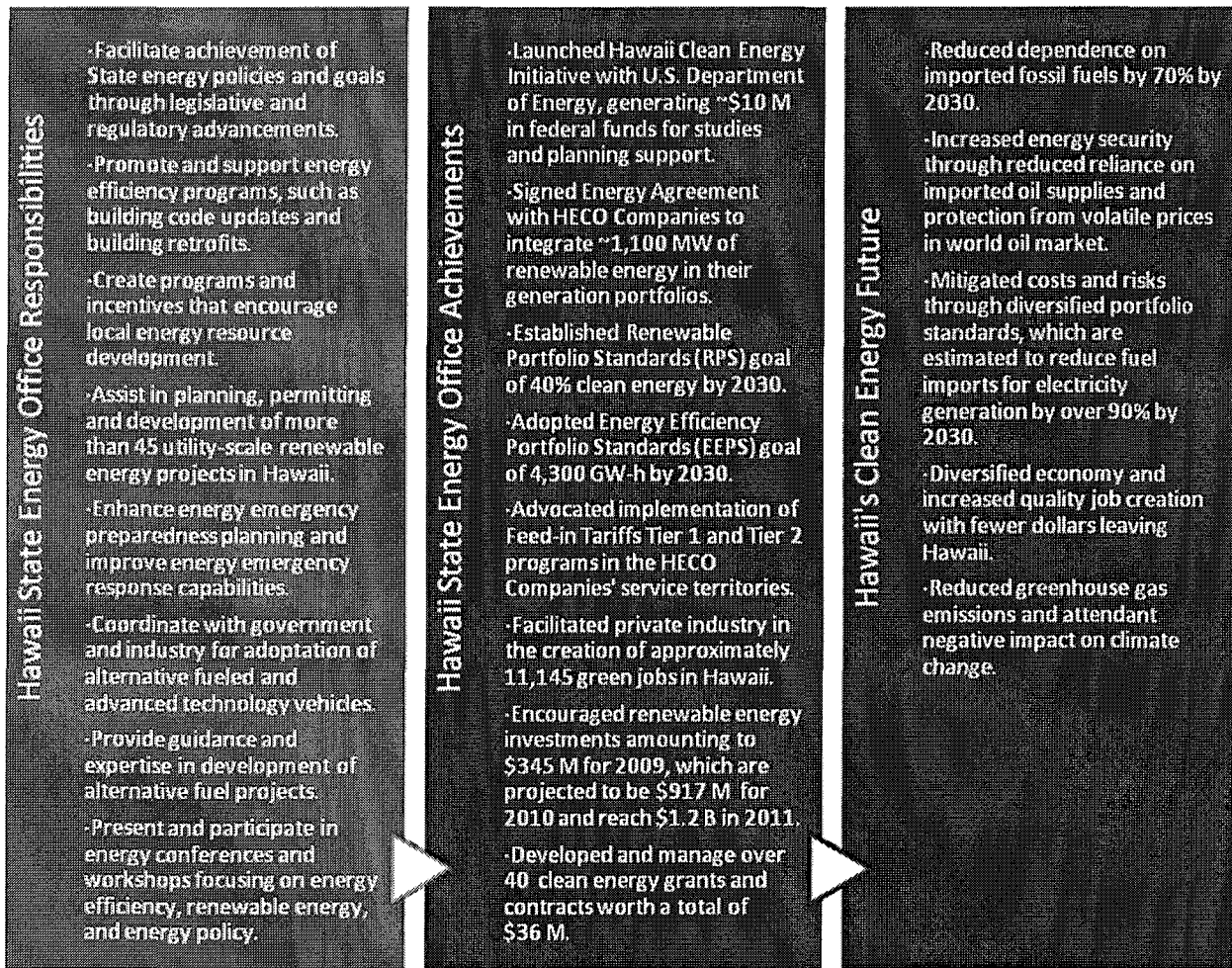
Hawaii State Energy Office Federal Funding to End

Hawaii State Energy Office programs and personnel are currently funded under the Federal State Energy Program Petroleum Violation Escrow Fund (PVE) and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The PVE and ARRA funds will run out by the end of June 2011 and April 2012, respectively. It is critical and imperative that we establish

a sustainable source of funding for the State Energy Office if we are to continue on our journey towards a clean and sustainable energy future.

Energy Office Essential to Achieving Hawaii’s Clean Energy Future

In the last three short years, the State Energy Office has achieved so much and has made a difference in effecting Hawaii's energy transformation. From launching the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative to reaching statewide renewable portfolio standard levels of 18.8% in 2009, the State Energy Office is essential to driving Hawaii toward its clean energy goals.



These responsibilities and achievements demonstrate the breadth and depth of the Hawaii State Energy Office’s capability in effecting the transformation of Hawaii’s energy landscape. Although our team has done so much in such a short period, there is still much to be done. A sustainable and predictable source of funding for energy programs and personnel, such as proposed in this bill, is critical if we are to move forward in this great journey.

Addressing General Fund Concerns

In previous hearings, concerns were raised regarding the impact of this bill on the general fund and the Renewable Energy Tax Credit, which is also funded by the general fund. While DBEDT understands these concerns, we must also emphasize the positive impact renewable energy investment has on the State.

Renewable energy investments in Hawaii are growing as a result of State and private efforts, with estimated green jobs for 2010 at 11,145 positions and projected investments for 2011 at approximately \$1.2 billion. These new renewable energy investments and green jobs not only bring about energy security, they also boost the economy and produce tax revenues that would otherwise not exist.

Additionally, figures from a reputable private renewable energy capital investment firm indicates that for every \$1 the State issues in Renewable Energy Tax Credits for power purchase agreement projects, the return to the State in the form of additional tax revenues is approximately \$2. These figures are based on their standard project costing model.

As can be seen, providing funding to promote and incentivize renewable energy investments bring about additional benefits and tax revenues that would otherwise not exist.

Positive Impact of this Measure

The passage of this measure will allow the Hawaii State Energy Office to fully commit to and execute its responsibilities as outlined above. The funding commitment provided by this measure is necessary and essential to achieving Hawaii's clean energy policies and goals.

Moreover, given the State's current economic condition, putting Hawaii's residents back to work is the State's top priority, and we believe the clean energy sector is a vital contributor. From planners, architects and attorneys developing projects, to carpenters and electricians building them, to energy consumers enjoying more stable energy prices, many sectors of the economy benefit from clean energy.

DBEDT strongly supports this bill as critical to continuing our long-term commitment to reducing Hawaii's dependence on imported fossil fuels. We respectfully request your committees to support the passage of SB 722 SD 1. Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments in support of SB 722 SD 1.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
February 25, 2011 at 9:00am

By

Virginia Hinshaw, Chancellor

and

Sylvia Yuen

Interim Dean and Director of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 722 SD1 – RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE, ENERGY, AND FOOD SECURITY TAX

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of SB 722 SD1, Relating to the Environmental Response, Energy, and Food Security Tax. I am Sylvia Yuen, Interim Dean and Director of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR).

Agriculture is an important contributor to Hawai'i's economy, but it also preserves green spaces and offers a connection to the culture, history, and lifestyle of our Island communities. There is a symbiotic relationship between agriculture and energy—agricultural products can be a source of energy, as in biofuels, and energy efficiencies in growing and processing food can enable agriculturists to reduce costs and become or remain economically viable. As the Food and Energy Security Act 73 (10) recognized, it is in the best interests of Hawai'i's people to build the state's capacity for self-sufficiency in its energy and food needs, as stated in the *Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan* and the *Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative*. There are, however, several longstanding issues that impede progress toward self-sufficiency in agriculture, including land, water, workforce development, public awareness and support, marketing and competitiveness, research and development, transportation and energy, food safety, bio-security, environmental concerns, and financing. All of the aforementioned require a long-term strategy, focused attention and action, consistent resources, and coordination among stakeholders. Unfortunately, progress in many of these areas has been slow or erratic because consistent and sufficient resources have not been available.

SB 722 SD1 proposes to increase the allocated amount from \$0.15 to \$0.44 to both the energy security special fund and the agricultural development and food security special fund, and to allocate \$0.02 to fund the climate change task force. This will address the problem of inconsistent and/or lacking resources which has stunted the growth of agriculture in the state and slowed the adoption of alternative energy technologies which can reduce our dependence on imported oil. For example, adoption of SB722 SD1 will make it possible to provide sustained investments and support for retaining and

maintaining agriculture infrastructures, such as water storage capacity, conservation, and irrigation systems, as well as for capital improvement of dams and reservoirs. Although the proposed agricultural development and food security special fund will not be sufficient to build and maintain all of the state's water resources and infrastructure, the consistency and increased level of funding will enable considerable advancements to be made.

SB722 SD1 is critically important to the success of agriculture and moving Hawai'i toward greater food and energy self-sufficiency, and we support its adoption.

TAXBILLSERVICE

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: FUEL, Environmental response, energy and food security tax

BILL NUMBER: SB 722, SD-1

INTRODUCED BY: Senate Committees on Energy and Environment and Agriculture

BRIEF SUMMARY: Amends HRS section 243-3.5 to increase the amount deposited into the energy security special fund from 15 cents to 44 cents. Also increases the amount deposited into the agricultural development and food security special fund from 15 cents to 44 cents and 10 cents shall be deposited into the energy systems development special fund. Two cents shall be deposited into a special account of the general fund to be expended by the Office of Planning for the operations of the Climate Change Task Force.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval

STAFF COMMENTS: The legislature by Act 300, SLH 1993, enacted an environmental response tax of 5 cents per barrel on petroleum products sold by a distributor to any retail dealer or end user. Last year the legislature, by Act 73, SLH 2010, increased the amount of the tax to \$1.05 per barrel and provided that 5 cents of the tax shall be deposited into the environmental response revolving fund; 15 cents shall be deposited into the energy security special fund, 10 cents shall be deposited into the energy systems development special fund; 15 cents shall be deposited into the agricultural development and food security special fund; and the residual of 60 cents shall be deposited into the general fund between 7/1/10 and 6/30/15.

This measure proposes to increase the amount deposited into the energy security special fund from 15 cents to 44 cents into the agricultural development and food security special fund; from 15 to 44 cents into the energy security special fund and deposits 2 cents into a special account of the general fund to be expended by the Office of Planning for the operations of the Climate Change Task Force while retaining the amount that goes into the energy systems development special fund at 10 cents and the 5 cents that is deposited into the environmental response revolving fund. This will result in no residual funds deposited into the general fund.

It should be remembered that the environmental response tax was initially adopted for the purpose of setting up a reserve should an oil spill occur on the ocean waters that would affect Hawaii's shoreline. The nexus was between the oil importers and the possibility that a spill might occur as the oil product was being imported into the state. Now that the fund has become a cash cow, lawmakers have placed other responsibilities on the fund, including environmental protection and natural resource protection programs, such as energy conservation and alternative energy development, to address concerns related to air quality, global warming, clean water, polluted runoff, solid and hazardous waste, drinking water, and underground storage tanks, including support for the underground storage tank program of the department of health. This measure perpetuates this expansion by proposing to provide funding for the Climate Change Task Force. If this expansion continues each year, there is no doubt that the \$1.05 will

be increased to cover the additional requirements of the special fund.

It should be noted that the enactment of the barrel tax for the environmental response revolving fund is the classic effort of getting one's foot in the door as it was initially enacted with a palatable and acceptable tax rate of 5 cents and subsequently increasing the tax rate once it was enacted which is what it has morphed into as evidenced by the \$1.05 tax rate. Because the tax is imposed at the front end of the product chain, the final consumer does not know that the higher cost of the product is due to the tax. Thus, there is little, if any, accountability between the lawmakers who enacted the tax and the vast majority of the public that ends up paying the tax albeit indirectly. Proponents ought to be ashamed that they are promoting a less than transparent tax increase in the burden on families all in the name of environmental protection and food security.

It should be remembered that the State Auditor has singled out the environmental response revolving fund as not meeting the criteria established and recommended that it be repealed. The Auditor criticized the use of such funds as they hide various sums of money from policymakers as they are not available for any other use and tend to be tacitly acknowledged in the budget process. More importantly, it should be recognized that it is not only the users of petroleum products who benefit from a cleaner environment, but it is the public who benefits. If this point can be accepted, then the public, as a whole, should be asked to pay for the clean up and preservation of the environment.

Funds deposited into a revolving fund are not subject to close scrutiny as an assumption is made that such funds are self-sustaining. It should be remembered that earmarking of funds for a specific program represents poor public finance policy as it is difficult to determine the adequacy of the revenue source for the purposes of the program. To the extent that earmarking carves out revenues before policymakers can evaluate the appropriateness of the amount earmarked and spent, it removes the accountability for those funds. There is no reason why such programs should not compete for general funds like all other programs which benefit the community as a whole.

This measure was approved last year on the basis that it would insure energy self-sufficiency and food security, but instead of devoting the proceeds from the entire dollar increase to these purposes the legislature instead used 60 cents of every dollar to shore up the state general fund. This measure now proposes to restore that amount to the various programs it was supposed to have funded. If nothing else, this is a demonstration of expediency, if not a disingenuous act on the part of lawmakers. Taxpayers should demand on-going accountability of how this money will be used and whether or not the expenditure of these funds undergoes the same close scrutiny of other taxpayer dollars.

It should be noted that the measure to increase the environmental response, energy, and food security tax was vetoed by the governor and subsequently overridden by the legislature. The governor's message stated that the measure was vetoed "because it raises taxes on Hawaii residents and businesses by an estimated \$22 million per year at a time when the community cannot afford these taxes, and deceptively implies these funds will be used to address the state's dependence on imported fuel and food. This tax will impact virtually everything we do or use in Hawaii including electricity, gasoline, trucking, shipping, retail goods, food, and even the propane for our backyard barbeques. The impacts will ripple through our entire economic system. I am particularly concerned that the tax increase occurs at a precarious moment when the State economy is beginning to stabilize and progress out of the slump created by the global recession."

Rather than perpetuating the problems of the barrel tax, it should be repealed and all programs that are funded out of the environmental response fund should be funded through the general fund. At least program managers would then have to justify their need for these funds. By continuing to special fund these programs, it makes a statement that such programs are not a high priority for state government. This sort of proliferation of public programs needs to be checked as it appears to be growing out of hand and at the expense of the taxpayer. It should be recalled that when the nickel per barrel tax was established to create a reserve fund of \$7 million to stand by in case there was a spill on the Island's shoreline, it was learned that those who over saw the fund had used it for a variety of purposes like the purchase of high-end filing cabinets and trips to the mainland where personnel could "learn" about how to deal with such spills. Though that was not the intent of the initial fee, officials learned how to "justify" the use of the proceeds for such expenditures. If nothing else, lawmakers should demand an annual accounting of the revenues generated and for what the proceeds of this fee are spent.

Digested 2/23/11

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting with Amendments S.B. 722 SD 1 Relating to the Environmental
Response, Energy, and Food Security Tax
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Friday, February 25, 2011, 9:00AM, Rm. 211

The Nature Conservancy **supports with the attached amendments** S.B. 722 SD1. In addition to addressing Hawaii's energy and food security goals, we think the barrel tax revenue should help address the direct affects of climate change caused by burning fossil fuels.

Act 73 (2010) establishing the barrel tax and the subsequent report of the Economic Development Task Force both acknowledge that consumption of fossil fuels contributes to climate change and the deterioration of Hawaii's environment. Both state their purpose to "[h]elp Hawaii's natural resources and population adapt and be resilient to the inevitable challenges brought on by climate change caused by...burning fossil fuels." Act 73 further acknowledges that our lives and the economy are intertwined with the health and function of the natural world around us. Yet, surprisingly, neither Act 73 nor the Task Force report take any specific action or make any recommendation to address the direct effects of climate change.

We recommend this bill be amended (see attached) to require a small portion of the barrel fee be used to actually help communities and our natural resources cope with the inevitable challenges of climate change caused by emissions from burning fossil fuels. A good start would be to fund and implement the Climate Change Task Force (Act 20; 2009) created by the Legislature.

Climate change is an imminent and unprecedented threat to both natural systems (e.g., forests, coastlines, coral reefs, wetlands) and to every person in Hawai'i that—whether they know it or not—depends on services from the natural environment for their livelihoods, health and welfare. Scientists have examined the evidence and rapid climate change is real; it is clearly caused by human activity; it is already a problem for habitat for plants and animals; and, if sources of CO2 are not dramatically reduced, climate change could well have catastrophic results for people and their relationship with the natural environment.

Even if we drastically reduce CO2 emissions now, we will still feel the effects of climate change. In Hawai'i, science indicates that this may include:

- More frequent and more severe storms;
- Overall, less rainfall and therefore less fresh water;
- Higher temperatures that may affect the health of forested watersheds;
- Climatic conditions even more conducive to invasive plants, insects and diseases;
- Sea level rise and high wave events that will harm coastal areas and cause seawater infiltration into groundwater systems; and
- Ocean acidification that will inhibit the growth of coral reefs.

In addition, to achieving energy security through vastly greater energy efficiency, technology and renewable energy development, we must plan and implement mitigative and adaptive measures to ensure the resilience of our natural and human systems.

Proposed amendments attached.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

S. Haunani Apoliona Christopher J. Benjamin Anne S. Carter Richard A. Cooke III Peter H. Ehrman Kenton T. Eldridge
Thomas M. Gottlieb Donald G. Horner J. Douglas Ing Mark L. Johnson Dr. Kenneth Y. Kaneshiro Bert A. Kobayashi, Jr.
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James C. Polk H. Monty Richards Jean E. Rolles Scott C. Rolles Crystal K. Rose Nathan E. Smith Eric K. Yeaman

THE SENATE
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE, 2011
STATE OF HAWAII

S.B. NO. 722
S.D. 2

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE, ENERGY, AND FOOD
SECURITY TAX.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 1. Section 243-3.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

"(a) In addition to any other taxes provided by law, subject to the exemptions set forth in section 243-7, there is hereby imposed a state environmental response, energy, and food security tax on each barrel or fractional part of a barrel of petroleum product sold by a distributor to any retail dealer or end user of petroleum product, other than a refiner. The tax shall be \$1.05 on each barrel or fractional part of a barrel of petroleum product that is not aviation fuel; provided that of the tax collected pursuant to this subsection:

- (1) 5 cents of the tax on each barrel shall be deposited into the environmental response revolving fund established under section 128D-2;
- (2) [~~15~~] 40 cents of the tax on each barrel shall be deposited into the energy security special fund established under section 201-12.8;
- (3) 10 cents of the tax on each barrel shall be deposited into the energy systems development special fund established under section 304A-2169; and
- (4) [~~15~~] 40 cents of the tax on each barrel shall be deposited into the agricultural development and food security special fund established under section 141-10.
- (5) 2 cents of the tax on each barrel shall be deposited into a special account of the general fund to be expended by the office of planning for the operations of the climate change task force established by Act 20, Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2009.

(6) 8 cents of the tax on each barrel shall be deposited into the climate change resilience and adaptation special fund established under section 195D-

The tax imposed by this subsection shall be paid by the distributor of the petroleum product."

SECTION 2. Section 128D-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

"(b) Moneys from the fund shall be expended by the department for response actions and preparedness, including removal and remedial actions, consistent with this chapter; provided that the revenues generated by the environmental response, energy, and food security tax deposited into the environmental response revolving fund:

- (1) Shall be used:
 - (A) For oil spill planning, prevention, preparedness, education, research, training, removal, and remediation; and
 - (B) For direct support for county used oil recycling programs; and
- (2) May also be used to support environmental protection and natural resource protection programs, including energy conservation and alternative energy development, and to address concerns related to air quality, global warming climate change, clean water, polluted runoff, solid and hazardous waste, drinking water, and underground storage tanks, including support for the underground storage tank program of the department and funding for the acquisition by the State of a soil remediation site and facility.

SECTION 3. Chapter 195D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§195D- Climate change resilience and adaptation special fund; establishment. (a) There is established within the state treasury the climate change resilience and adaptation special fund.

(b) The following shall be deposited into the special fund:

- (1) The portion of the environmental response, energy and food security tax specified under section 243-3.5;
- (2) Any appropriation by the legislature into the special fund;
- (3) Any grant or donation made to the special fund; and

(4) Any interest earned on the balance of the special fund.

(c) Subject to legislative appropriation, moneys in the special fund may be expended to promote the resilience and adaptation of indigenous plants, animals, aquatic life, and their associated ecosystems to ensure their ongoing health, function and ability to deliver public services such as fresh water, sediment control, shoreline protection, and food in the face of the effects of global climate change, including but not limited to the following:

- (1) The awarding of grants to governmental and non-governmental entities and individuals;
- (2) The acquisition of real property;
- (3) The protection, management and restoration of forests, watersheds, coastal resources, and fresh water and marine ecosystems;
- (4) Addressing threats posed by invasive species;
- (5) The restoration of forests for the purposes of carbon sequestration and other ecosystem services;
- (6) The purchase of necessary equipment;
- (7) The conduct of necessary research and planning;
- (8) To fund, to the extent possible, the climate change task force; and

Any other activity intended to preserve the function and health of natural systems to adapt and be resilient to the effects of climate change.

(d) The department shall manage the special fund, including any expenditures from the fund, in consultation with the division of forestry and wildlife, the division of aquatic resources, the natural area reserve system commission, the forest stewardship commission, and the University of Hawaii Center for Island Climate Adaptation and Policy."

(e) The department shall submit a report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session on the status and progress of existing programs and activities, and the status of new programs and activities funded under the climate change resilience and adaptation special fund. The report shall also include the spending plan of the climate change resilience and adaptation special fund, all expenditures of climate change resilience and adaptation special fund moneys, the specific objectives of the expenditures, and measurable outcomes."

SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

February 24, 2011

Senator David Y. Ige
Chair, WAM
Senator Michele Kidani
Vice Chair, WAM
Decision Making on Senate Bill 722 SD1
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Aloha Chair Ige and Vice Chair Kidani!

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 722 SD1. As a lead economic development organization in the State of Hawaii, Enterprise Honolulu is actively engaged in activities to revitalize our Agriculture industry (towards food security) and continue to move our state towards the objectives of Energy Self reliance and the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative.

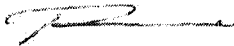
Enterprise Honolulu assisted in drafting Act 73, the voice of the community which was polled was overwhelmingly weighted towards the request to use the monies being taken for the intent so that Hawaii will realize a shift from our current dependency of imported food and fuel.

The task is large and requires a consistent and endured commitment of financial resources.

I ask for your consideration to support SB722 SD1 as we do our part to work with all parties for a better future for our keiki.

Please feel free to contact me directly should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Pono Shim
President & CEO
Enterprise Honolulu, Oahu Economic Development Board



ENTERPRISE
HONOLULU

THE BUSINESS CLIMATE OF PARADISE

735 Bishop Street, Suite 412, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 • 808-521-3611
Fax: 808-536-2281 • www.enterprisehonolulu.com



HAWAII COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT CORPORATION

Statement of

Gwen Yamamoto Lau

HAWAII COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT CORPORATION

before the
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Friday, February 25, 2011

9 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of

SB722 SD1

**RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE, ENERGY AND FOOD SECURITY
TAX**

Good morning Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee. My name is Gwen Yamamoto Lau and I am the President of the Hawaii Community Reinvestment Corporation.

I **strongly support** SB 722 SD1, to further move Hawaii towards food and energy security through the intended purpose of Act 73 (2010), which states these goals as a clear public benefit.

The ability of the State to acquire consistent, sustained funding enables building the capacity to meet the State's goals in the "Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan" and the "Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative." This in turn will allow Hawaii to measurably achieve food sustainability and to reduce the State's heavy dependence on imported fossil fuels.

We need to ensure adequate resources to continue on innovative programs such as the State Energy Office's Loan Loss Reserve program, which leverages federal grant funds with private local capital to finance energy efficiency systems throughout the state of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

February 24, 2011

Senator David Y. Ige
Chair, WAM
Senator Michele Kidani
Vice Chair, WAM
Decision Making on Senate Bill 722 SD1
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Aloha Chair Ige and Vice Chair Kidani!

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 722 SD1. As a lead economic development organization in the State of Hawaii, Enterprise Honolulu is actively engaged in activities to revitalize our Agriculture industry (towards food security) and continue to move our state towards the objectives of Energy Self reliance and the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative.

Enterprise Honolulu assisted in drafting Act 73, the voice of the community which was polled was overwhelmingly weighted towards the request to use the monies being taken for the intent so that Hawaii will realize a shift from our current dependency of imported food and fuel.

The task is large and requires a consistent and endured commitment of financial resources.

I ask for your consideration to support SB722 SD1 as we do our part to work with all parties for a better future for our keiki.

Please feel free to contact me directly should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Pono Shim
President & CEO
Enterprise Honolulu, Oahu Economic Development Board



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735 Bishop Street, Suite 412, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 • 808-521-3611
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Statement of
Valerie C Kubota
A Little Bit of Everything
before the
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Friday, February 25, 2011
9 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of
SB722 SD1
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE, ENERGY AND FOOD SECURITY
TAX

Good morning Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee. My name is **Valerie Kubota** and I'm the Owner of A Little Bit of Everything gift shop in Honolulu..

I, strongly support SB 722 SD1, to further move Hawaii towards food and energy security through the intended purpose of Act 73 (2010), which states these goals as a clear public benefit.

The ability of the State to acquire consistent, sustained funding enables building the capacity to meet the State's goals in the "Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan" and the "Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative." This in turn will allow Hawaii to measurably achieve food sustainability and to reduce the State's heavy dependence on imported fossil fuels.

The ability of the State to acquire consistent, sustained funding enables building the capacity to meet the State's goals in the "Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan" and the "Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative." This in turn will allow Hawaii to measurably achieve food sustainability and to reduce the State's heavy dependence on imported fossil fuels.

We need to ensure adequate resources to continue on innovative programs such as the State Energy Office's Loan Loss Reserve program, which leverages federal grant funds with private local capital to finance energy efficiency systems throughout the state of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2011 10:48 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: palmtree7@earthlink.net
Subject: Testimony for SB722 on 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM SB722

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: janice palma-glennie
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: palmtree7@earthlink.net
Submitted on: 2/23/2011

Comments:

As a farmer and horticulturalist, I ask that you support this bill as it would increase the amount of money that would go to food and energy security programs. mahalo.