

LATE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
February 22, 2013, 1:30 P.M.
Room 308
(Testimony is 2 pages long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 338 HD1

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson, and members of the Finance Committee:

The Blue Planet Foundation supports HB 338 HD1, authorizing the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to Kaiuli Energy, LLC, to assist with planning, design, and construction of a seawater air conditioning district cooling facility and chilled water distribution system.

As we consider strategies for kicking Hawai'i's 5-million-gallon-per-day oil habit, our tendency is to focus on alternative sources of fuel and electricity. We look to clean, renewable energy sources to replace dirty fossil fuel power. We also look for ways to reduce the amount we use—and waste—through efficiency and conservation. What we often overlook is the reality that fuel and electricity are means to an end. Electricity is not what we really want. What we really want is light when it's dark, hot water for a shower, and a comfortable temperature indoors. What if we could cut out the middleman and put an abundant natural resource to work in place of electricity? Seawater air conditioning is a clean energy solution that does just that.

Air conditioning is a voracious consumer of electricity. On O'ahu, the cooling of commercial buildings year-round is responsible for a whopping 20 percent of the island's electricity demand. Kaiuli Energy has proposed a solution that precludes the need to cool water with electricity, one that stands to save substantial amounts of electricity—displacing fossil fuel imports—annually.

Applying the same technology that has been cooling buildings in Toronto, Stockholm, Amsterdam, and elsewhere, Kaiuli is proposing district cooling system that will serve the Waikiki, Ala Moana, and University of Hawaii area. The plan will pump seawater from over 1,000 feet deep to an onshore cooling station. There, the 40-some degree water will pass through a heat exchanger that transfers the seawater's coldness to a pipeline of freshwater that circulates in a closed loop. The chilled freshwater connects to buildings' existing air conditioning infrastructure, providing natural AC that doesn't require large, electricity-hungry chillers in each building. The seawater, slightly warmer than when it left the ocean, is returned to the ocean.

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Electricity is versatile, but it is difficult and costly to make and store. The genius behind seawater air conditioning technology is that the cold seawater can chill buildings 24/7, much like solar water heaters provide hot showers even after the sun has set. Our ocean directly improves our lives in so many ways: food, therapy, recreation, scenery. Let's also recognize its enormous potential in helping to meet our energy needs. While researchers continue to work on ways to harness wave power and ocean thermal power, buildings in dense areas should readily convert to seawater air conditioning, a renewable energy solution that is practical and proven.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

FINTestimony

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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HB338
Submitted on: 2/21/2013
Testimony for FIN on Feb 22, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
janice palma-glenie	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: this seems like a waste of taxpayer money. if the initiative is financially viable and/or worth subsidy, this business sounds like something the federal government should give financial support to than state. please oppose this legislation. mahalo.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing , improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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