



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

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Statement of
RICHARD C. LIM
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Tuesday, February 26, 2013
10:05 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of
SB 0016, SD1
RELATING TO ENERGY RESOURCES.

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

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) supports this bill. The proposed measure requires county councils to establish procedures and standards by which their respective county permitting agencies approve, disapprove, or approve with conditions, waivers for the solar water heating mandate. The measure also clarifies existing application procedures. DBEDT supports this measure because by allowing counties to grant the waivers, both the waiver and building permit will be administered by the appropriate county to expedite the process for review and approval. Therefore, this measure will expedite the process for building permit approval by requiring that only one entity, the building departments of each county, approve the waiver and the building permit. The proposed measure also allows the county to collect fees to cover the costs of processing applications for variances.

DBEDT also supports the amendment to delete reference to the Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., and insert references to a North American certification organization, such as the Canadian Standards Association International; the Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute; or the Gas Appliance Manufacturers Association Certification Program. This amendment more accurately assures that gas-tankless water heaters still meet performance requirements recognized by a third party, certification organization. Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., lists manufacturers but not the specific product or model numbers of the gas-tankless water heaters. The organizations above test and evaluate gas-tankless water heaters and list which products and models are certified.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Jay Furfaro, Chair
Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair
Tim Bynum
Gary L. Hooser
Ross Kagawa
Mel Rapozo
JoAnn A. Yukimura



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February 25, 2013

TESTIMONY OF JOANN A. YUKIMURA
MEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON
SB 16, SD 1, RELATING TO ENERGY RESOURCES
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
February 26, 2013
10:05 a.m.
Conference Room 211

Dear Chair Ige and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

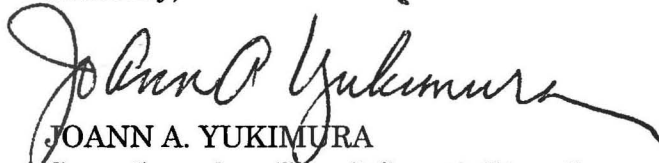
Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB 16, SD 1, Relating to Energy Resources. My testimony is submitted in my capacity as a member of the Kaua'i County Council, as vice chair of the Council's Economic Development (Sustainability / Agriculture / Food / Energy) & Intergovernmental Relations Committee and as a member of the County's Energy Plan Advisory Committee (EPAC) which is overseeing the implementation of Kaua'i's Energy Sustainability Plan. (KESP)

I am in full support of SB 16, SD 1, which provides for County permitting agencies, rather than the State Energy Resources Coordinator, to do the processing of solar water heating variance/waiver applications as a part of the building permit process. Since the Counties already issue building permits, it makes sense to have the solar water heating variance/waiver applications processed by the Counties as well.

I am also in support of SB 16, SD 1 because it allows the Counties, through their respective County Council, to set standards for the variances/waivers. On Kaua'i, variances have been granted inappropriately and in conflict with the original intent and purpose of the State's solar water heating initiative ("Solar Roofs Act") as articulated in the Hawaii Clean Energy Act 155 (2009). SB 16, SD 1 would allow the Counties to clear up the misalignment and ensure that the purpose of the original bill is fulfilled.

For the reasons stated above, I am in strong support of SB 16, SD 1 and ask for your favorable support. Mahalo nui loa.

Sincerely,


JOANN A. YUKIMURA
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council