



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

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**AMENDED 4-8-13**

Statement of  
**RICHARD C. LIM**  
**Director**

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

Wednesday, April 10, 2013  
9:51 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of  
**SR 136, SD1**

**REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE TO ESTABLISH A WORKING  
GROUP TO DISCUSS STRATEGIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION  
OF GEOTHERMAL ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY**

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

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) respectfully offers these comments on SR 136, SD1.

This resolution would establish a Geothermal Energy and Technology Working Group to discuss strategies for the development and expansion of geothermal energy and technology in Hawaii. We suggest that the working group may be redundant and would lead to unnecessary State expenditures given that there are several recently-concluded and on-going efforts which substantially address the reasons for the establishment of this proposed working group.

The following pertinent reports have been recently concluded:

- The Pacific International Center for High Technology Research (PICHTR) produced a January 2013 report, "Hawaii Geothermal Assessment and Roadmap<sup>1</sup>," containing recommendations for action and a geothermal development roadmap. A total of 65 individuals from 27 organizations were consulted, including representatives of various entities that would be included in this resolutions' working group.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.hnei.hawaii.edu/publications/geothermal-energy>

- In response to HCR 99, 2010, a Hawaii County Geothermal Working Group was convened which included broad representation from environmental groups, Hawaiian cultural groups, government agencies, and business and community organizations. The report<sup>2</sup> from this working group was submitted to the State Legislature in 2012.
- DBEDT contracted with the County of Hawaii to produce a feasibility study<sup>3</sup> of an enterprise park which would use geothermal heat for a number of primarily agricultural-based activities. The technical and engineering conclusions of this 2007 study are still valid.

In terms of efforts that are currently underway, DBEDT is already working with the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), the Department of Health (DOH), the University of Hawaii (UH), the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), Hawaii County, Maui County and others to address many of the issues surrounding geothermal development, including:

- Permitting: DBEDT, DLNR, DOH and others have worked with NREL's geothermal roadmapping project which will clarify permitting processes. Also, DBEDT is in communication with both Maui and Hawaii Counties regarding county-level permits.
- Public health questions: Hawaii County has convened a science-focused study group to deliberate questions relating to public health and geothermal energy in the Puna region. This study group is expected to submit recommendations to the Mayor about the priorities and preferred methodologies for future scientific and monitoring studies. DBEDT is monitoring Hawaii County's geothermal health study group and providing assistance as appropriate.
- Portfolio solution: geothermal is included in the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement being developed by the U.S. Department of Energy, with input from DBEDT.

Lastly, not only are we concerned that the Working Group's efforts under this resolution may be redundant, but we are also concerned that DBEDT's current budget does not include the resources necessary to implement this resolution.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments regarding SR 136, SD1.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://records.co.hawaii.hi.us/Weblink8/Browse.aspx?startid=18389&dbid=1>

<sup>3</sup> <http://energy.hawaii.gov/resources/hawaii-state-energy-office-publications>

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [wade.aaron@gmail.com](mailto:wade.aaron@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SR136 on Apr 10, 2013 09:51AM\*  
**Date:** Monday, April 08, 2013 2:41:28 PM

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**SR136**

Submitted on: 4/8/2013

Testimony for WAM on Apr 10, 2013 09:51AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aaron Bowen	Individual	Oppose	No

**Comments:**

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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**From:** [Tamara Cervantes Dorman](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SR136  
**Date:** Monday, April 08, 2013 1:16:20 PM

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Hello,

I'm submitting testimony, opposing SR 136. This resolution encourages untruthful information about Geothermal energy and promotes a pro-industry bias in the Geothermal Energy Technology Working Group without balanced representation of public health and environmental protection.

Geothermal has NOT been "proven to be a reliable or inexhaustible nor emission-free source of energy." Instead, repeated releases of H<sub>2</sub>S from only one plant in service, PGV, has shown reckless endangerment to residents living in close proximity to the plant. This plant is poorly regulated with little or no oversight. And this is only one plant, imagine what would happen if 20 more or so plants would be constructed as a result of the findings of this potential working group? Or if a Geothermal energy and technology park would be based in or near the current PGV plant? If you allow this to continue you are expressing contempt for the environment and the many human beings living in potential geothermal production areas.

Even more discouraging is the fact that every Geothermal meeting that I have attended in Hawaii in the last 6 months, be it pro or against Geothermal, has never been attended by any rep from the Department of Health. How can The Director of Health be a part of this working group if they are blatantly ignoring the cries for help from the community that is affected by Geothermal emissions? It seems unjust.

I'm not against Geothermal development in the state of Hawaii, I'm against this type of development being pushed forward without any regard for the health of the citizens. As soon as legislation begins to emerge that shows an initiative to study the health effects of Geothermal upon residential communities living in close proximity to these plants, I will not support development or expansion of Geothermal technology.

To be credible, The Geothermal Energy Technology Working Group must have balanced representation from independent environment and public health interests.

Thanks for your time,  
Tamara C. Dorman



# Indigenous Consultants, LLC

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**LATE**



April 9, 2013

SCR 136 SD1

Hearing Date: Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Time: 9:51 am

Room: CR 211

Committee: WAM



**IDG**

**INNOVATIONS  
DEVELOPMENT  
GROUP**

## **Testimony in Support with Amendments**

Aloha Legislators,

The Indigenous Consultants (IC) is a Hawaii based, indigenous LLC owned and operated by Native Hawaiians. It was created to assist indigenous peoples in developing their renewable energy resources in ways that are: Culturally appropriate, environmentally green and sustainable, socially responsible and economically equitable and affordable. For several years the IC has worked with Innovations Development Group in New Zealand and indigenous Maori developing geothermal resources, which are trust assets of Maori Land Trusts. In addition, the IC has acted as a consultant to other indigenous people in Hawaii and Asia who are addressing development of their trust renewable energy resources in ways that; directly benefit their people, bring in revenues, create small business opportunities and ensure fair & affordable rates to consumers, including themselves and their communities.

The Innovations Development Group (IDG) is a Hawaii based renewable energy Development Corporation owned by Native Hawaiians. It was created to facilitate the development of renewable energy resources of native people, and in summer 2011 presented its development model to legislators of the Energy & Land Committees.

Innovations Development Group & Indigenous Consultants strongly support this measure, but recommend changes to strengthen and clarify the bill and to avoid duplication.

### **RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS:**

1. AMENDMENTS TO THE PREAMBULAR SECTIONS (Whereas Clauses).
  - A. IDG/IC recommend that a new preamble section be added to the Bill that acknowledges that Geothermal Resources are minerals under Hawaii law and assets of the Public Trust, and that the State has a Trust obligation to ensure

that these resources are developed in a manner that brings a primary benefit, to the State & its beneficiaries (the Public & Native Hawaiians).

2. AMENDMENTS TO THE COMPOSITION OF THE & MEMBER WORKING GROUP

Problem: The Bill currently gives the County Mayor the power to appoint 4 out of 7 members to the Working Group. They are 1) a representative of the Mayors office, 2) a native Hawaiian cultural expert, 3) a “private sector business member” and 4) a “Community member of the County”. This politicizes the membership of the Working Group & favors the office of the Mayor rather than providing a balance & badly needed expertise to the Working Group.

RECOMMENDED CHANGES:

1. Section (5) should be deleted and instead the Bill should provide for inclusion of the Hawaii Island representative to the Aha Moku Council. The Aha Moku, under law, already is advising the DLNR. In addition, the Aha Moku members are cultural experts WITH KNOWLEDGE RELATING TO THE LAND & MARINE AREAS OF OUR STATE. These are the expertise we need on this Working Group. We should utilize the mechanisms & processes we have rather than duplicating cultural review with new people & processes.
2. Section (6) should be deleted and instead the Bill should provide for a representative of the Hawaii Island Labor Alliance, appointed by the Alliance. This is needed to ensure that there is some continuity between the first & second Working Groups. Labor was on the first Working Group & labor’s input is needed to ensure that the development problems that occurred in the past are not repeated. 25 Years ago, promises were made by “Business” to provide jobs to the community, the promises were not fulfilled. If safe jobs for our islands laborers are going to be considered & addresses, Hawaii Island Labor groups need to be participating to ensure this priority is considered & addressed.
3. Section (7) should be deleted and instead the Bill should provide for a representative & scientist from the he UH Center for the Study of Active Volcanoes. Everyone on the Working Group comes from some segment of the Hawaii Island "Community". What is missing is the science component & representative. GEOTHERMAL DEVELOPMENT MUST BE SCIENCE BASED. We are very fortunate to have in Hawaii The Center for Active Volcanoes. For several years, the scientists with the Center have been testing the geo resources on Hawaii Island, they are independent of business & they have significant data that should be available to this Working Group. They have the expertise to advise the Working Group on SAFE & APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY and PROCEDURES for geothermal development on Hawaii Island. We need science on this Working Group.

PLEASE MAKE THESE CRITICAL CHANGES IN THE MEASURE. THE INNOVATIONS DEVELOPMENT GROUP AND INDIGENOUS CONSULTANTS SUPPORT THIS MEASURE & LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THEM TO MOVE HAWAII ISLAND FORWARD ON ENERGY SELF-SUFFICIENCY.

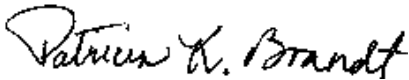
Please pass this badly needed measure with amendments.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Mililani B. Trask in black ink.

Mililani B. Trask – Indigenous Consultants LLC

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Patricia K. Brandt in black ink.

Patricia K. Brandt  
CEO IDG Hawaii