



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

SB 2279, SD 1, RELATING TO ENERGY

**Testimony of Gary Gill
Deputy Director, Environmental Health Administration**

**February 19, 2014
9:15am**

1 **Department's Position:** Comments

2 **Fiscal Implications:** Undetermined.

3 **Purpose and Justification:** The Department of Health concurs with the establishment of a task force to
4 study the feasibility of implementing a photovoltaic waste recycling program and to make
5 recommendations on how to deal with the wastes in the coming years. As photovoltaic panels begin to
6 reach their life expectancy, the State should be prepared to deal with environmental, financial and social
7 impacts for companies and consumers.

8 Since there is no funding attached to this bill, the Department respectfully requests that language
9 on reimbursement for expenses, including travel expenses be deleted.

10 Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

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TESTIMONY OF HERMINA MORITA
CHAIR, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

FEBRUARY 19, 2014
9:15 a.m.

MEASURE: S.B. No. 2279, S.D. 1
TITLE: Relating to Energy

Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

DESCRIPTION:

This measure proposes to create a photovoltaic (“PV”) waste recycling task force (“PV Recycling Task Force”) within the Department of Health to study the feasibility of a Hawaii PV waste recycling program and to consider issues related to an expected increase in PV waste in the State. The PV Recycling Task Force is required to submit a report to the 2016 Legislature on its findings and recommendations.

POSITION:

The Commission supports the intent of this measure and would like to offer the following comments for the Committee’s consideration.

COMMENTS:

Given the continued increase in the amount of PV system installations throughout the State at both the smaller residential and large-scale commercial levels, the establishment of a PV Recycling Task Force to study the feasibility of a PV waste recycling program for Hawaii is a forward-looking action that addresses a potentially significant disposal issue. The Commission has observed exponential growth in the installation of local distributed generation systems over the last few years, of which the vast majority are PV systems having useful lives of between 20 and 30 years. This measure provides for the necessary planning today in order to address a very real issue that may add additional strain on the waste disposal resources (e.g., use of landfill space, etc.) of the State in the coming decades.

In considering the full lifecycle of PV technologies and associated waste, the Commission would offer that the list of PV Recycling Task Force considerations in this measure [Section 2(b), page 2] include the review of opportunities that can include taking advantage of underutilized shipping space on outbound freight carriers to remove PV waste materials to out-of-state recycling facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, February 19, 2014, 9:15 a.m., room 211
SB 2279 SB 1: Relating to Energy

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice-Chair Kidani, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

On behalf of the Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA), I would like to testify in support for SB 2279 SD 1, which establishes a task force to study the feasibility of a photovoltaic waste recycling program. HSEA is a non-profit trade organization that has been advocating for solar energy since 1977, with an emphasis on residential distributed generation and commercial for both solar hot water (SHW) and photovoltaics (PV). We currently represent 81 companies, which employ thousands in the local solar industry. With 37 years of advocacy behind us, HSEA's goal is to work for a sustainable energy future for all of Hawaii.

Hawaii does not currently have a policy on the disposal of photovoltaic panels. As of December 31, 2013, approximately 40,000 PV systems have been installed in Hawaii, the majority of which are residential systems. According to the utility's Net Energy Metering (NEM) Status Report, the bulk of these systems have been installed in the last five years, such that as of 2008, only 471 NEM systems have been installed in the utility's territories. In addition, given that the average life expectancy of PV panels is 25 to 30 years, the majority of the panels currently installed in Hawaii won't be due for disposal until 2038.

In addition, due to the relatively small waste stream of exhausted PV panels, no state has yet determined how to recycle PV panels, and the EPA has not yet specifically ruled on how PV panels should be disposed of. Also, California is currently in the process of examining the question, and has just begun considering public comment on the question. Some of the issues currently being addressed include whether PV panels should be declared universal waste rather than hazardous waste under the Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA—federal statute which oversees hazardous materials), how panels deemed waste should be stored and shipped, whether individual disposers would be exempt from rules as they currently are under the federal statute, and who would have liability to pay for recycling.

HSEA therefore supports the goal of forming a task force to consider the many issues around PV recycling, and HSEA supports the changes made in SD1 which extends the task force's deadline to report on its findings to twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2016.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Leslie Cole-Brooks
Executive Director
Hawaii Solar Energy Association

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2279 on Feb 19, 2014 09:15AM*
Date: Sunday, February 16, 2014 9:44:02 AM

SB2279

Submitted on: 2/16/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 19, 2014 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	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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