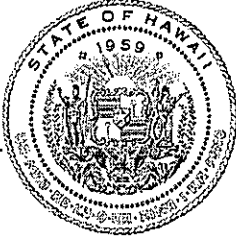


SB 2279

Measure
Title: RELATING TO ENERGY.

Report Title: Photovoltaic Waste; Recycling Program; Task Force

Description: Establishes a task force to study the feasibility of a photovoltaic waste recycling program.



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

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

RICHARD C. LIM
DIRECTOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
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Statement of
Richard C. Lim
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Tuesday, January 28, 2014
2:45 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 225
in consideration of
SB 2279, RELATING TO ENERGY.

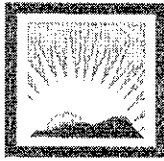
Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports the intent of SB 2279, which would establish a task force within DBEDT to study the feasibility of implementing a photovoltaic waste recycling program in Hawaii.

DBEDT supports the intent of this bill as the proper disposal of PV waste has important potential environmental, financial, and social impacts for companies and consumers, as discussed in the bill. However, DBEDT has the following concerns with this bill:

- DBEDT is not the appropriate agency in which to constitute a task force charged with evaluating and recommending policies that primarily deal with recycling, waste disposal, environmental quality and health. We respectfully defer to the appropriate state and county agencies on such matters.
- DBEDT notes that the financial and human resources to fulfill the requirements of this bill are not covered under its current budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.



Hawaii Solar Energy Association

Serving Hawaii Since 1977

Before the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Tuesday, January 28, 2014, 2:45 p.m., Room 225
SB 2279: Relating to Energy

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Ruderman, and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment,

On behalf of the Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA), I would like to testify in support for SB 2279, 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 79 companies, and our members include installers, contractors, manufacturers, distributors, the utility, and others. 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. However, we respectfully request that the task force's deadline to report on its findings be extended to no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2016, to allow for the task force to provide a more complete analysis.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Leslie Cole-Brooks
Executive Director
Hawaii Solar Energy Association

SB2279

Submitted on: 1/24/2014

Testimony for ENE on Jan 28, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rene Umberger	Individual	Support	No

Comments: