

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

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

LATE

JANUARY 28, 2014

MEASURE: S.B. No. 2279

TITLE: Relating to Energy

Chair Gabbard 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 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism 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 2015 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.