LATE

SB 2656

To whom it may concern -

As a resident of Hawaii, I believe that everyone in Hawaii should be able to take advantage of the state's abundant natural resources - especially solar. Solar is an unusual natural resource in that our use of it does not affect future generations' ability to use it. In fact, it's a use it or lose it resource. More over, with electricity rates only going up in Hawaii, people will increasingly need to rely on alternative sources of energy to fulfill their electricity needs. Solar is clearly the way to do this.

I totally understand that if too many people rush to use solar, this can create problems for the utility as they lose rate paying customers. However, HECO needs to be more innovative and find other sources of revenue to support the grid rather than denying people the right to use solar. I would encourage the state to consider finding revenue to potentially support HECO's bottom line by raising taxes on activities which have a negative impact on the environment, rather than trying to limit people's installation of solar. With planning and foresight, Hawaii can continue to lead the way in leveraging our natural resources in a sustainable way toward the goal of 0 energy imports and clean energy for everyone.

Mahalo for your time.

- Diego Rail
Waialua, HI

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No trees were killed in the sending of this message.
However, a large number of electrons were terribly inconvenienced.

Aloha

My name is Kawika and I'm asking that you guys would seriously consider stepping up the infrastructure for solar here in Hawaii. Solar has helped boost the economy in Hawaii drastically over the last years and is a much better long-term solution for us then the current status quo of energy. We have been given so much sun here in Hawaii and we need to tap into it. It should be a basic right of homeowners to install solar on their houses. Prices for electricity have been going up and up and up and it's getting too costly. It makes no sense for us to be importing oil instead of using free clean solar energy. Let's work together for a more sustainable future for the people of Hawaii.

Mahalos
Kawika Drummond

KEIKI O KA AINA

SB2656
Submitted on: 2/5/2014
Testimony for ENE/CPN on Feb 11, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Doug McLeod	Mayor's Office County of Maui	Support	No

Comments: We support the intent of this Bill. To keep the cost impacts manageable for ratepayers we think it is important to indicate that not all customers will be able to locate their generation on their own property. Community solar systems with panels owned by different individuals should be considered by the commission.

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SB2656
Submitted on: 2/6/2014
Testimony for ENE/CPN on Feb 11, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Douglas	Individual	Support	No

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Worldwide Public Utility Commissions (PUCs), or proxies thereof, in tandem with legislative bodies that work hand-in-hand with PUCs to "level the playing field", are taking the driver seats in leveling playing fields that for too long were structured by the needs of utilities relying primarily on dirty, non-renewable energy supplies. These structures and these supplies of yesteryear are increasingly crippling Hawaii's efforts to meet its modern energy needs in an affordable manner for its citizens.

These non-renewable supplies, especially fossil and nuclear fuels, typically lie underground for hundreds of millions of years, and globally are very unevenly distributed. No location on the planet is more remote from these non-renewable supplies than Hawaii, with scarcity and distance worsening the situation over time for Hawaii. The result today is a dominant, vertically-integrated monopoly utility (i.e. owning generation, transmission and distribution assets) that provides power to more than 90% of the population of Hawaii, yet still clings on to fossil resources and an un-level playing field, currently disrupting the rapidly escalating growth curve for local solar energy-powered system deployment in many locations throughout the state over the past several years. Increased deployment of other renewable energy systems also may be similarly impacted by the current go-slow attitudes of the dominant utility. Rapid growth of the solar system deployment curve has meant thousands of good jobs for local people, fewer billions of dollars going overseas to pay for oil imports and not coming back, health and environmental benefits for people and ecosystems, and financial relief to many households and communities that benefit from the ever-shortening payback periods associated with solar system investments.

No one should expect a long-entrenched and un-level playing field that a vertically-integrated monopoly utility has enjoyed for a much longer period than anyone now living in Hawaii has been alive to be leveled overnight. Separating the generation function in a monopoly utility from the transmission and the distribution functions, and injecting competition and efficiency into each segment whenever possible, takes time, and requires new laws and regulations to guide and accelerate the process. The good news is that in a growing list of cities and states and countries globally, the deep restructuring of monopoly utilities began up to 20 years ago, and now there are many lessons learned that can help accelerate the process elsewhere. One such city to learn from is Sacramento CA, and one such country is the Philippines, where these restructuring efforts were already underway by 1995. The escalating inequity of the vertically-integrated monopoly model carries over into simple terms: why is it fair for the top end employees of the corporate model to earn multi-billion dollar pay packets annually on the backs of their ratepayers, who may be working hard every day at wages that stagnate, and still often struggle paying for ever-higher monthly electricity bills that more modern utility structures typically mitigate?

Given Hawaii's remote location and volcanic origins, it would be hard to find another example on the planet of a location with a bigger mismatch between the yesteryear electricity sector structure fueled primarily by non-renewable energy imports; vs. a more decentralized utility model that maximizes the reality of 100% of Hawaii's domestic resources being renewable. Every day and everywhere on the planet the sun comes up, but rarely in such abundance, in the midst of so many other local and complementary renewable energy resources, e.g. wind, geothermal, biomass, hydro etc.. Worldwide there are many exciting advancements in clean energy technologies and systems, combined with efforts to restructure utilities to maximize the use of local renewable energy resources closer to where they occur, with greater input from the communities that the resources are to serve.

Working in tandem, the state legislature and PUC are at a critical juncture in the need to catalyze a major restructuring of Hawaii's electric power utility model that meets today's energy needs and maximizes the use of local energy and human resources. The old model is increasingly dysfunctional. Newer models abound globally, some deployed in similar climates and using similar renewable resources to Hawaii's. With a desired match of local and renewable energy resources being deployed in communities in far closer proximity to where the energy resources originated, getting the fit right between the sector restructuring model applied to Hawaii's context; an efficient and affordable match between local energy supplies available and local demand contexts, and greater involvement of community input in this process to maximize the match between supply and demand in geographical, human, technological, economic, financial and ecological terms. It is a journey that is long overdue in Hawaii, but urgent by now and well worth pursuing.

Cynthia Lowry PhD