

# SB 3088

Measure Title: RELATING TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION.

Report Title: Public Utilities Commission; Interisland Transmission System

Description: Amends definition of "high-voltage electric transmission cable system" to allow alternative configurations of the interisland transmission system.

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

FEBRUARY 4, 2014

3:15 p.m.

**MEASURE:** S.B. No. 3088

**TITLE:** Relating to Public Utilities Commission

Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

**DESCRIPTION:**

This measure would amend the definition of "high-voltage electric transmission cable system" contained within Section 269-131, Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS"), to include within that definition "...connected transmission cables or lines installed on land that connect the electric utility system on one island with an electricity generation facility, substation, transmission line, or transmission grid located offshore or on another island..." (emphasis added).

**POSITION:**

The Commission would like to offer the following comments for the Committee's consideration.

**COMMENTS:**

The existing statutory definition of "high-voltage electric transmission cable system" appears to be sufficiently broad to encompass the types of technology identified as a priority in this measure. The Commission does not feel that the proposed amendment to the definition of "high-voltage electric transmission cable system" in HRS § 269-131 is necessary.

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



NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
LT. GOVERNOR

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TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT  
THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2014

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2014  
3:15 P.M.

TESTIMONY OF JEFFREY T. ONO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF  
CONSUMER ADVOCACY, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER  
AFFAIRS, TO THE HONORABLE MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL NO. 3088 - RELATING TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DESCRIPTION:

This measure proposes to amend the definition of "high-voltage electric transmission cable system" to allow alternative configurations of the interisland transmission system.

POSITION:

The Division of Consumer Advocacy supports this measure.

COMMENTS:

The Consumer Advocate supports this measure as it clarifies the definition of "High-voltage electric transmission cable system" to include the configuration of offshore facility interconnections to island utility systems.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**SB3088**

Submitted on: 1/29/2014

Testimony for ENE on Feb 4, 2014 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Louis Dilberto	Individual	Oppose	No

**SB3088**

Submitted on: 1/31/2014

Testimony for ENE on Feb 4, 2014 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brad Parsons	Individual	Oppose	No

**SB3088**

Submitted on: 2/2/2014

Testimony for ENE on Feb 4, 2014 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: We need to expand renewable energy options, not keep on supporting this one track circus. Everyone knows the harm of connecting the islands but refuses to acknowledge them. We need legislators who can think beyond this technology and support development of our other abundant resources. In the end this will save everyone money!

**SB3088**

Submitted on: 2/3/2014

Testimony for ENE on Feb 4, 2014 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Robin Kaye	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: The undersea cable bill was a disaster from its inception. Written by DBEDT and HECO, it once again, sets up an energy policy dictated by developers and the electric utility. The impacts upon communities was -- and continues to be -- completely ignored by both the earlier version and this revision. Hawaii needs to take a bottom-up approach to energy policy. Every island should have the ability and authority to make its own energy policies. We should not be laying high-voltage transmission lines (or extension cords in the case of Big Wind on Lāna'i) through our reefs or in our Humpback Whale Sanctuary. Do NOT support this bill.