

HB2231, HD1

TESTIMONY



HAWAII ISLAND ENERGY COOPERATIVE

March 15, 2016

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2231

Dear members of the Senate Transportation and Energy committee and Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health Committee:

I am a director and spokesperson for the Hawaii Island Energy Cooperative, a registered Hawaii 421C cooperative.

I am writing in support of this bill and urge the committees to approve it.

HIEC is a grassroots organization that has made substantial progress to-date as an active intervenor on the HEI-NEE docket before the PUC. We, along with our friends at KIUC, have elevated the dialogue on the benefits and advantages of the coop ownership model here in Hawaii.

In the event that we were to have a willing seller of Hawaii Electric Light Company, being able to borrow money backed by the support of the state would be a very important boost to making a deal that would be beneficial to all electric ratepayers here on the Big Island.

Thank you for your consideration.

Marco Mangelsdorf



Testimony Before the Senate Committee on
Transportation and Energy
and
Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

By Jim Kelly
Member Services & Communications Manager
Kauai Island Utility Cooperative
4463 Pahee Street, Suite 1, Lihue, Hawaii, 96766-2000

Friday, March 18, 2016, 9:45 a.m.
Conference Room # 229

House Bill No. 2231, HD1 – Relating to Energy Cooperatives

To the Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye and Rosalyn H Baker, Chairs; Mike Gabbard and Michelle N. Kidani, Vice-Chairs, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure. I am Jim Kelly, Member Service and Communications Manager at Kauai Island Utility Cooperative ("KIUC"). KIUC stands in support of House Bill No. 2231, HD1.

As the state's only member-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperative, KIUC supports measures that may broaden the variety of funding sources available to finance energy projects.

While KIUC has access to low-interest financing through a number of sources, including the federal government, the cooperative believes that more options provide more opportunities for savings for our members. Special purpose revenue bonds are a potentially attractive option for financing.

Thank you for considering our position.



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

**TESTIMONY OF THE HAWAII SOLAR ENERGY ASSOCIATION
IN REGARD TO HB 2231 HD 1, RELATING TO ENERGY COOPERATIVES
BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY
AND THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND
HEALTH
ON
FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2016**

Chair Inouye, Chair Baker, Vice-Chair Gabbard, and Vice-Chair Kidani and members of the joint committees, my name is William Giese, and I represent the Hawaii Solar Energy Association, Inc. (HSEA)

HSEA supports HB 2231 HD 1. This measure includes language that clarifies part VI of chapter 39A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to include publicly owned energy cooperatives when issuing special purpose revenue bonds.

HSEA is in support of exploring several different utility models, including energy cooperatives, as part of the energy economy in Hawaii. In the same fashion, HSEA supports equal competitive market standing for all types of energy generating entities. HB 2231 HD 1 allows this equal standing to be applied to energy cooperatives wishing to participate as a public utility.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.