



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

February 3, 2015, 8:30 A.M., Room 325

(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 887

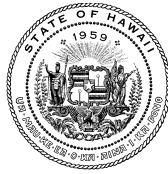
Aloha Chair Lee, Vice-Chair Lowen, and members of the Committee:

The Blue Planet Foundation supports HB 887, empowering the state to become an innovative leader in the use of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. Along with battery electric vehicles, hydrogen fuel cell vehicles can use fuel generated from local clean energy. Unlike fossil fuel vehicles, they create no dangerous emissions.

Hydrogen fuel cell vehicles currently face a chicken/egg problem. Without local infrastructure to generate the hydrogen and fuel vehicles, many residents and businesses are unlikely to adopt these vehicles; but without a demand from vehicles, it is difficult to justify the infrastructure. HB 887 proposes a way to solve this problem by making the state a leader in the hydrogen movement.

Although we do not propose amendments at this time, we caution that state hydrogen vehicle policy should ensure that the hydrogen is obtained from clean energy resources (such as local curtailed power) and not from fossil fuels.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING
AND GENERAL SERVICES
P.O. BOX 119
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
DOUGLAS MURDOCK, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Late

ON
February 3, 2015

H.B. 887

RELATING TO ENERGY

Chair Lee and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on H.B. 887.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) supports the intent of H.B. 887, provided the measure does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget. Because H.B. 887 proposes that DAGS procure new hydrogen fuel cell vehicles to upgrade state fleet vehicles, DAGS will need to collaborate with the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism as they have the lead on state energy initiatives.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on this matter.



Hawaii Automobile Dealers' Association

Bill von den Hurk, President
Dave Rolf, Executive Director

Late

HADA testimony in SUPPORT of HB 887 RELATING TO ENERGY

Presented to the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
at the public hearing to be held
8:30 a.m. Tuesday, February 3, 2015
in Conference Room 325, Hawaii State Capitol

by the Members of the Hawaii Automobile Dealers Association
Hawaii's franchised new car dealers

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Lowen, and Members of the Committee:

I am David Rolf, representing the members of the Hawaii Automobile Dealers Association, Hawaii's franchised new car dealers, who have remained strong in their support of the transition to renewable energy for use in vehicles in Hawaii. The association supports the measured and considered transition to renewable fuels proposed in House Bill 887.

There's a biblical verse that says "to whom much is given, much is required."

Certainly, Hawaii has been given much in the form of clean energy resources for the production of renewable fuels.

Hawaii, in fact, has been chosen by the U.S. Department of Energy for a focus on the development of hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles. The State of California and an East Coast corridor around Boston are the two others areas in the country which have been chosen.

America understands two things for sure: 1) cars and 2) pizzas. In order to make a change in the form of energy used in America, you are advised to explain the change in terms of one or both.

There were nine different car commercials in the Super Bowl broadcast watched by 114 million Americans this past Sunday. It was the most-watched tv event in American history. One of those cars in the Super Bowl commercials was an electric car, by the way. Now, within the foreseeable future, we will likely see a commercial for a hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicle.

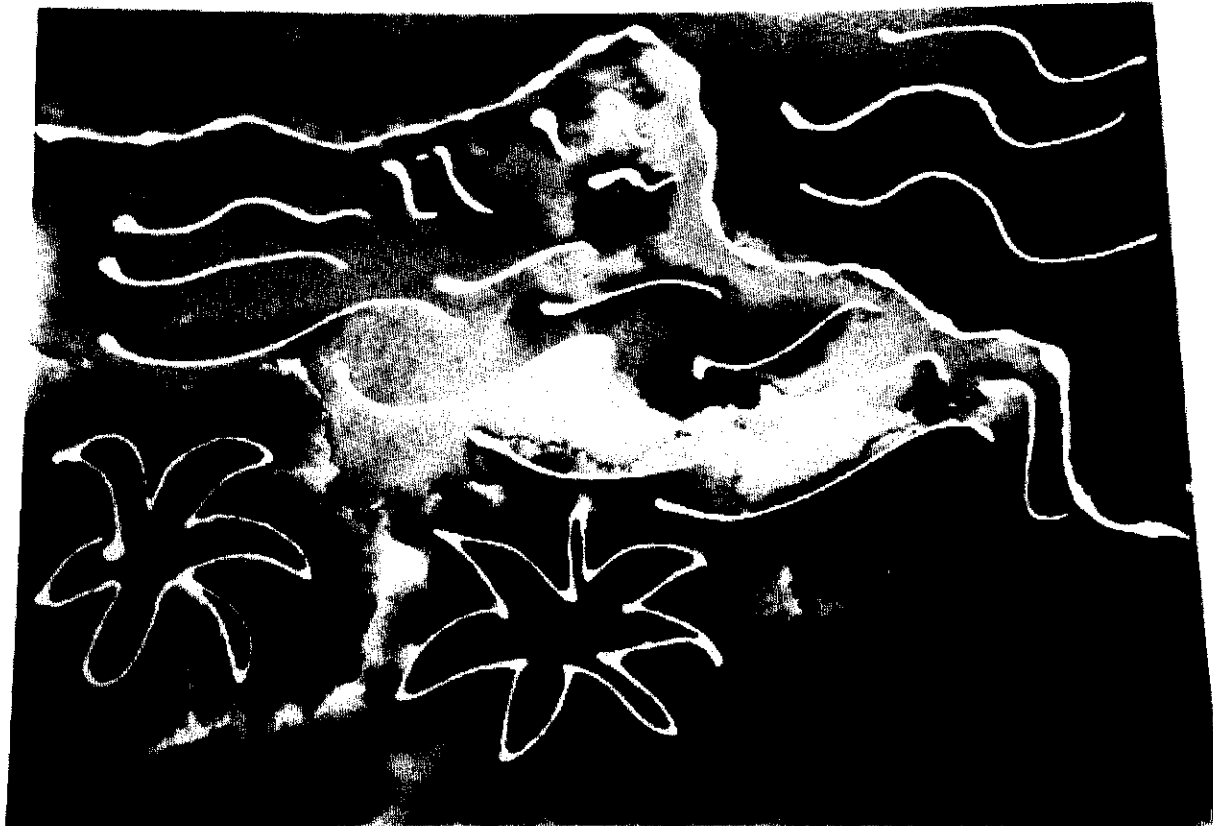
But it will be up to state, and local governments, auto dealers, private investors and the auto driving public in Hawaii to send a signal to the world's automobile manufacturers that Hawaii has prepared well for the transition to hydrogen.

Our renewable energy resources are there for all to see. Here's the chart from the auto show:

Hawaii has abundant, some would even say, a “first in the world” level of resources for energy production from renewable sources-- wind, wave, sun, geothermal, ocean thermal, and even has significant capabilities for waste-to-energy production.

Once these resources are harnessed and used for productive purposes like propelling public and private transportation, then Hawaii's 500-million-gallon annual consumption of gasoline—illustrated in the upper right hand corner of the graph—will, along with the reduction in consumption from efficiencies being produced for gasoline engines--reduce our Hawaii gasoline consumption by 70%, to 150 million gallons, the goal of the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative.

Hawaii is iconic for its pristine environment. Beautiful Diamond Head is one of the most recognizable landmarks in the world. Just ask those in China or any place in the world.



Hark! a famous landmark!

We thus have a unique opportunity to show the world what has been produced by the people in Hawaii working together.

It is well known that president Obama has helped secure the World Conservation Congress event for Hawaii—be held here, the first such event in America by the way, in the islands September 1-10, 2016.

NEWS STORY: The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Council has selected Hawaii, United States of America, as the host of the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress – the world's largest conservation event.

We are working on the message Hawaii will have to tell these 2,000-plus world leaders in conservations.

Three bills being heard today in the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection will help form that message.

--HB 887 asks the state Department of General Services to inventory the vehicles purchased by the State of Hawaii and upgrade some of the vehicles, if appropriate, to hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles.

--HB392 includes hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles in the category of electric vehicles—which are exempted from paying certain parking fees at State or municipal parking facilities for a specified period of time.

--HB479 appropriates funds necessary for purity testing to verify hydrogen purity meets standards for use in vehicles.

It is important to send a signal.



"Diamond Head Charlie" as John Charles "Charlie" Peterson was known, signaled approaching steam ships from his watch for arriving ships from Diamond Head from 1885 to 1907. The area he sent the message from was known as Telegraph Hill.

U.S. Department of Energy officials, who are considering encouraging a similar focus on hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles for their GSA fleet in Hawaii say they have been looking “for a signal” from Hawaii officials that the State of Hawaii is making similar plans.

HADA will soon meet with City and County officials around the state to inquire about their plans for adopting use of some hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles—in busses, shuttle busses, and even rubbish trucks.

For the hydrogen fueling stations which are needed, to be financially self-supporting, there must be a base of hydrogen users—initially from federal, state and local government fleets, as the private vehicle adoption rate gets underway.

We think these bills will send a signal.

We hope that you will pass all for further consideration and input from stakeholders.

Respectfully submitted,
David Rolf
For the Hawaii Automobile Dealers Association
1100 Alakea St. Suite 2601
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: 808 593-0031