

TESTIMONY OF RANDY IWASE
CHAIR, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

March 17, 2016
8:30 a.m.

MEASURE: H.C.R. 87

TITLE: REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO ASSESS THE FEASIBILITY AND THE POTENTIAL MERITS AND BENEFITS OF THE ENERGY COOPERATIVE MODEL FOR THE ISLAND OF HAWAII.

Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

DESCRIPTION:

This measure requests the Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) to assess the feasibility and potential merits and benefits of the energy cooperative model for the island of Hawaii and report its findings to the Legislature prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2017.

POSITION:

The Commission opposes this measure and offers the following comments for the Committee’s consideration.

COMMENTS:

The Commission notes that it would be inappropriate for the Commission to assess the feasibility and potential merits and benefits of the energy cooperative model for the island of Hawaii until an applicant provides the Commission with a proposal along with supporting details and analysis. As an adjudicatory agency, the Commission would be responsible for ruling on any potential proposal that the Hawaii Island Energy Cooperative (“HIEC”), or any another entity, files with the Commission. Publishing a report on the feasibility and potential merits and benefits of the energy cooperative model for the island of Hawaii could inadvertently limit the Commission’s review of such a potential application

and may hinder existing regulatory processes and other adjudicatory functions of the Commission.

Additionally, the Commission finds it inappropriate to conduct this study because HIEC is currently an intervenor in the Commission's still pending docket regarding the transfer of control of the Hawaiian Electric Companies to NextEra Energy.

For these reasons, the Commission suggests that the Legislative Reference Bureau may be a more appropriate agency to study the feasibility and potential merits and benefits of the energy cooperative model for the island of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 7:02 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: Kauai.Trainer@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR87 on Mar 17, 2016 08:30AM

HCR87

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

Testimony for EEP on Mar 17, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kauai Trainer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in support of a feasibility study by the Public Utilities Commission. I strongly urge that members of the team that investigate the feasibility of an energy cooperative for the Big Island include people who live on the Big Island and that community meetings be held within each of the districts of the Big Island so that the community has input. Mahalo!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 11:23 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: Merway@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR87 on Mar 17, 2016 08:30AM*

HCR87

Submitted on: 3/15/2016

Testimony for EEP on Mar 17, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
marjorie erway	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 8:59 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: keauea@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR87 on Mar 17, 2016 08:30AM*

HCR87

Submitted on: 3/15/2016

Testimony for EEP on Mar 17, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ana Kahoopii	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 8:24 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: slwsurfing@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR87 on Mar 17, 2016 08:30AM

HCR87

Submitted on: 3/15/2016

Testimony for EEP on Mar 17, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sharon Willeford	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We must find a better way! Mahalo 🌸

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Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 7:43 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: OccupyHiloMedia@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR87 on Mar 17, 2016 08:30AM*

HCR87

Submitted on: 3/15/2016

Testimony for EEP on Mar 17, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kerri Marks	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 10:29 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: katc31999@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR87 on Mar 17, 2016 08:30AM*

HCR87

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

Testimony for EEP on Mar 17, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katarina Culina	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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