



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: www.hawaii.gov/dbedt

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
LUIS P. SALAVERIA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Tuesday, March 1, 2016
1:40 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211
in consideration of
SB 2652, SD1
RELATING TO TAXATION

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT) offers comments on SB 2652, SD1, which establishes a renewable fuels production tax credit (TC) and repeals the ethanol facility tax credit.

DBEDT is concerned that the financial and human resources (approximately \$100,000 and 0.5 full-time equivalent) required to administer the duties of this bill are not included in its current budget and should not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget.

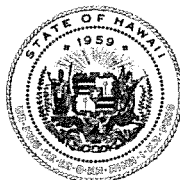
Regarding DBEDT's role in verifying and certifying the tax credits, DBEDT suggests that the Legislature consider an alternate approach whereby the renewable fuel producer(s) would self-certify by providing required confirmation via an independent third party and impose upon participating renewable producers a performance penalty that is material enough to hold them accountable for meeting their stated self-certified renewable fuels production (i.e., a 200% recapture of all tax credit allocated and lifetime band of any future tax credit participation in the State).

DBEDT would require further clarity on the prioritization of the aggregate tax credit should, for example, all renewable fuel producers turn in the tax credit applications at once.

DBEDT defers to the Department of Taxation on the administration of the renewable fuels production tax credit and the Department of Budget and Finance on the fiscal impacts of the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments regarding SB 2652, SD1.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 1, 2016
1:40 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 211

**S.B. 2652, S.D.1
RELATING TO TAXATION**

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports the intent** of this bill which establishes a five-year renewable fuels production tax credit and repeals the ethanol facility tax credit.

The DOT recognizes the value of sustainable transportation in meeting Hawaii energy goals but defers to the Attorney General on this matter.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Testimony by:

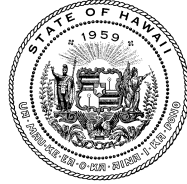
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
JADE T. BUTAY
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DARRELL T. YOUNG

IN REPLY REFER TO:

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SHAN TSUTSUI
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION
P.O. BOX 259
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

MARIA E. ZIELINSKI
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

JOSEPH K. KIM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

To: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Date: March 1, 2016

Time: 1:40 P.M.

Place: Conference Room 211, State Capitol

From: Maria E. Zielinski, Director
Department of Taxation

Re: S.B. 2652, S.D. 1, Relating to Taxation.

The Department of Taxation (Department) appreciates the intent of S.B. 2652, S.D. 1, and offers the following comments for your consideration.

S.B. 2652, S.D. 1, repeals the ethanol facility tax credit and establishes a refundable renewable fuels production tax credit. The new tax credit is available at the rate of 20 cents per 76,000 British thermal units of fuel produced and has a per-taxpayer and aggregate cap of \$3,000,000 per taxable year. The credit is certified by the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism. The measure is effective on July 1, 2016 and applies to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2016. Section 2 is repealed on December 31, 2021.

The Department notes that the provision requiring that the renewable fuels be sold for distribution in Hawaii may be impermissible under the Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution. The Department defers to the Department of the Attorney General regarding the constitutionality of this provision.

Also, as a general matter, the Department recommends non-refundable credits over refundable credits, because refundable credits are more prone to wrongful claims and abuse.

The annual revenue loss to the general fund is \$3 million per year from FY 2018 through FY 2022.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: INCOME, Renewable fuels production tax credit

BILL NUMBER: SB 2652, SD-1

INTRODUCED BY: Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Replaces the ethanol fuels income tax credit with a renewable fuels production income tax credit to encourage the sale within the State of such fuels (note that neither production within the state nor the use of feedstocks from the State is required). A direct appropriation would be preferable as it would provide some accountability for the taxpayer funds being utilized to support this effort.

BRIEF SUMMARY: Adds a new section to HRS chapter 235 to establish a renewable fuels production tax credit. The credit shall be allowed to taxpayers producing qualifying renewable fuels provided the credit shall not be claimed for more than five years.

The annual dollar amount of the credit shall be 20 cents per 76,000 British thermal units (BTU) of renewable fuels using the lower heating value sold for distribution in Hawaii; provided that the taxpayer's production of renewable fuels is not less than 15 billion BTUs of renewable fuels per year. Limits the amount of tax credit that may be claimed by a taxpayer to \$3 million per taxable year.

Defines "credit period" and "net income tax liability." Defines "renewable fuels" as fuels produced from renewable feedstocks provided that the fuels shall be sold as a fuel, and meet the relevant ASTM International specifications for the particular fuel or other industry specifications for liquid or gaseous fuels, including but not limited to: (1) methanol, ethanol, or other alcohols; (2) hydrogen; (3) biodiesel or renewable diesel; (4) biogas; (5) other biofuels; or (6) renewable jet fuel or renewable gasoline. Defines "renewable feedstocks" as biomass crops; agricultural residues; oil crops, including but not limited to algae, canola, jatropha, palm, soybean and sunflower; sugar and starch crops, including but not limited to sugar cane and cassava, other agricultural crops; grease and waste cooking oil; food wastes; municipal solid wastes and industrial wastes; water and animal residues and wastes, that can be used to generate energy.

Requires the department of business, economic development and tourism (DBEDT) to verify and certify each claim for the credit including the total amount of credit for each taxable year and the cumulative amount of tax credit during the credit period. The department shall issue a certificate to qualifying taxpayers who shall file the certificate with the department of taxation (DOTAX).

If in any year the annual amount of certified credits reaches \$3 million in the aggregate, DBEDT shall discontinue certifying credits and notify the department of taxation.

If the amount of credits exceeds the taxpayer's income tax liability, the excess of credit over liability shall be refunded to the taxpayer.

Prior to production of any qualifying renewable fuels for the year, the taxpayer is to provide written notice of the taxpayer's intention to begin production of qualifying renewable fuels to DOTAX and DBEDT with information on the taxpayer, facility location, facility production capacity, anticipated production start date, and the taxpayer's contact information. The taxpayer shall also provide written notice to the director of taxation and the director of DBEDT within 30 days following the start of production and include the production start date and expected renewable fuel production for the next year.

In each calendar year during the credit period, the taxpayer shall provide information to the director of DBEDT on the number of BTUs of renewable fuels produced and sold during the previous calendar year, the type of fuels, feedstocks used for renewable fuels production, the number of employees of the facility and each employee's state of residency, and the projected number of BTUs of renewable fuels production for the succeeding year.

Directs the director of DBEDT, following each year in which a credit under this section has been claimed, to submit a written report to the governor and legislature regarding the production and sale of renewable fuels.

Requires DOTAX to prepare the necessary forms to claim the credit, and DOTAX may require the taxpayer to furnish information to validate a claim for the credit, and may adopt rules necessary to effectuate the purpose of the law pursuant to chapter 91.

Repeals the ethanol facility tax credit under HRS section 235-110.3.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2016, and applies to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2016. The credit is to sunset on December 31, 2021.

STAFF COMMENTS: Act 289, SLH 2000, established an investment tax credit to encourage the construction of an ethanol production facility in the state. Act 140, SLH 2004, changed the credit from an investment tax credit to a facility tax credit. This measure proposes to replace the ethanol facility tax credit with a renewable fuels production tax credit.

While the idea of providing a tax credit to encourage such activities may have been acceptable a few years ago when the economy was on a roll and advocates could point to credits like those to encourage construction and renovation activities, what lawmakers and administrators have learned in these past few years is that unbridled tax incentives, where there is no accountability or limits on how much in credits can be claimed, are irresponsible as the cost of these credits goes far beyond what was ever intended. Instead, lawmakers should consider repealing the ethanol facility credit and look for other types of alternate energy to encourage through the appropriation of a specific number of taxpayer dollars. At least lawmakers would have a better idea of what is being funded and hold the developers of these alternate forms of energy to a deliberate timetable or else lose the funds altogether. A direct appropriation would be preferable to the tax credit as it would: (1) provide some accountability for the taxpayers' funds being utilized to support this effort; and (2) not be a blank check.

The amendments to this bill by the subject matter committee underscore this need. The bill was amended to delete any requirement that the renewable fuel be produced in Hawaii or be

produced from renewable feedstocks from Hawaii, in order to satisfy concerns that the credit would violate the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution. All that is needed is that the fuel be renewable and sold in Hawaii. If that is the case, it would be preferable to disburse the \$3 million through market subsidies or rebates rather than mucking up the tax system with a refundable credit having an aggregate cap.

Ethanol was the panacea of yesterday; lawmakers have since learned that there are more minuses to the use of ethanol than there are pluses. Ethanol production demands more energy to produce than using a traditional petroleum product to produce the same amount of energy, and the demand for feedstock that is used to produce ethanol basically redirects that feedstock away from traditional uses, causing products derived from the feedstock to substantially increase in price. It may make sense to encourage development of other alternative fuels that will not have these issues, but doing it in open-ended fashion by way of a tax credit is an invitation to abuse.

An appropriation of taxpayer dollars for such untried and unproven technologies would be far more accountable than the tax credit as such technologies would have undergone the scrutiny of lawmakers. Providing a tax incentive is an indicator that lawmakers are unwilling to do the hard research and unwilling to impose strict discipline in the expenditure of hard-earned tax dollars. The tax incentive approach represents nothing more than a hope and a wish that some breakthrough will be made, no matter how inefficient it may be, that some alternative to fossil fuel will be found. In the meantime, those tax dollars will be wasted on some unproven folly. If this were an appropriation, taxpayers would then know who to hold accountable for the waste of those tax dollars.

This, along with numerous other proposals targeted at certain types of business activity, is truly an indictment of what everyone has known and acknowledged since before Hawaii became a state, that is, the climate imposed by government regulations and taxation makes it difficult to survive without some kind of subsidy such as tax credits from government. Once those subsidies disappear, so will the businesses. Instead of throwing out such breaks for special interests, lawmakers must endeavor to make Hawaii's business climate more welcoming and conducive to nurturing entrepreneurs.

Digested 2/26/2016



COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
HAWAII ENERGY POLICY FORUM
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT MĀNOA

Hawaii Energy Policy Forum

Jeanne Schultz Afuvai, Hawaii Inst. for Public Affairs
Karlie Asato, Hawaii Government Employees Assn
Joseph Boivin, Hawaii Gas
Warren Bollmeier, Hawaii Renewable Energy Alliance
Michael Brittain, IBEW, Local Union 1260
Albert Chee, Chevron
Elizabeth Cole, The Kohala Center
Kyle Datta, Ulupono Initiative
Mitch Ewan, UH Hawaii Natural Energy Institute
Jay Fidell, ThinkTech Hawaii
Carl Freedman, Haiku Design & Analysis
Matthias Fripp, REIS at University of Hawaii
Ford Fuchigami, Hawaii Dept of Transportation
Mark Glick, Hawaii State Energy Office, DBEDT
Justin Gruenstein, City & County of Honolulu
Dale Hahn, Ofc of US Senator Brian Schatz
Michael Hamnett, SSRI at University of Hawaii
Senator Lorraine Inouye, Hawaii State Legislature
Randy Iwase, Public Utilities Commission
Ashley Kaono, Ofc of US Representative Tulsi Gabbard
Jim Kelly, Kauai Island Utility Cooperative
Darren Kimura, Energy Industries
Kelly King, Sustainable Biodiesel Alliance
Kal Kobayashi, Maui County Energy Office
Representative Chris Lee, Hawaii State Legislature
Gladys Marrone, Building Industry Assn of Hawaii
Stephen Meder, UH Facilities and Planning
Hermima Morita, Energy Dynamics
Sharon Moriwaki, UH Public Policy Center
Tim O'Connell, US Dept of Agriculture
Jeffrey Ono, Division of Consumer Advocacy, DCCA
Stan Osserman, HCATT
Darren Pai, Hawaiian Electric Companies
Melissa Pavlicek, Hawaii Public Policy Advocates
Randy Perreira, Hawaii Government Employees Assn
Rick Reed, Hawaii Solar Energy Assn
Cynthia Rezentes, Ofc of US Representative Mark Takai
Rick Rocheleau, UH Hawaii Natural Energy Institute
Will Rolston, Hawaii County, Research & Development
Riley Saito, SunPower Systems
Scott Seu, Hawaiian Electric Companies
Joelle Simonpietri, US Pacific Command Energy Ofc
H. Ray Starling, Hawaii Energy
Ben Sullivan, Kauai County
Lance Tanaka, Par Hawaii, Inc.
Maria Tome, Public Utilities Commission
Alan Yamamoto, Ofc of US Senator Mazie Hirono

Testimony of the
Hawaii Energy Policy Forum
Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
March 1, 2016 at 1:40 pm in Conference Room 211

In **SUPPORT OF SB 2652 SD1** Relating to Taxation

Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Energy Policy Forum (“HEPF”), created in 2002, is comprised of over 40 representatives from Hawaii’s electric utilities, oil and natural gas suppliers, environmental and community groups, renewable energy industry, and federal, state and local government, including representatives from the neighbor islands. Our vision, mission, and comprehensive “10 Point Action Plan” serve as a guide to move Hawaii toward its preferred energy goals. It is for that reason that we support SB 2652 SD1.

SB 2652 SD1 repeals the current ethanol facility tax credit, which would have allowed up to \$12 million per year for up to eight years for local ethanol production facilities, and replaces it with a renewable fuel production tax credit with a maximum cap of \$3 million per year for five years.

Renewable fuels can be used in vehicles as well as in power generation equipment and therefore will play an important role in Hawaii’s ability to reach its 100% renewable energy future.

Therefore, the Forum supports SB 2652 SD1, and respectfully urges passage of the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

This testimony reflects the position of the Forum as a whole and not necessarily of the individual Forum members or their companies.



Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce

117 Keawe Street, Suite 205
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-2851
Phone: (808) 935-7178
Fax: (808) 961-4435
E-mail: admin@hicc.biz
www.hicc.biz

February 29, 2016

Executive Officer
Miles Yoshioka

2015-2016 Board

President
Leslie Ka'iu Kimura

President-Elect
Michael Kaleikini

Vice President
William Walter

Treasurer
Nathan Colgrove

Immediate Past President
Chuck Erskine

Directors

Lincoln Ashida
David Bock
Russell Chin
Newton Chu
John Cross
Jackie De Luz Watanabe
Jason Fujimoto
Amy Honda
Jay Ignacio
Randy Kurohara
Keith Marrack
Joseph Marsh
Stephanie Nagata
Kimberly Pua
Margaret Stanley
Donald Straney
Gordon Takaki
Craig Takamine
Toby Taniguchi
Misti Tyrin
Carol VanCamp

Testimony on Senate Bill 2652, SD1 Relating to Taxation

Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Hearing March 1, 2016 at 1:40 p.m., Conference Room 211

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members,

The Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce (HICC) appreciates this opportunity to provide testimony regarding Senate Bill 2652, SD1. HICC, which comprises of nearly 300 member businesses, organizations and professionals represents the voice of business on Hawai'i Island.

The State of Hawai'i is far behind in increasing our use of biofuels for transportation purposes. Bill SB 2652 (SD1) is crucial to the expansion of the biofuels industry in Hawaii. Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce testifies in strong support of this measure.

This bill supports the State of Hawaii's goals in becoming more energy self-sufficient, and will incentivize more local renewable fuel production. SB 2652 will provide future energy security for our State and provide support for current and future jobs locally.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Support testimony. Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce humbly asks you to please pass SB2652 (SD1).

Mahalo,

Miles Yoshioka
Executive Officer
Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce



Directors

Jody Allione
Project Development
Consultant

Joe Boivin
Hawaii Gas

Kelly King
Pacific Biodiesel

Warren S. Bollmeier II
WSB-Hawaii

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

**WARREN BOLLMEIER ON BEHALF OF THE
HAWAII RENEWABLE ENERGY ALLIANCE BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

SENATE BILL 2652 SD1

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2016 1:40 PM

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

I am Warren Bollmeier, testifying on behalf of the Hawaii Renewable Energy Alliance (HREA). HREA is an industry-based, nonprofit corporation in Hawaii established in 1995. Our mission is to support, through education and advocacy, the use of renewables for a sustainable, energy-efficient, environmentally-friendly, economically-sound future for Hawaii. One of our goals is to support appropriate policy changes in state and local government, the Public Utilities Commission and the electric utilities to encourage increased use of renewables in Hawaii.

The purposes of this Act are to establish a five-year renewable fuels production tax credit and repeal the ethanol facility tax credit.

HREA **strongly supports** this measure with the following comments:

- 1) Biofuels can diversify Hawaii's fuel mix, which can increase system reliability and reduce risk.
- 2) Intermittent Wind and Solar can be better managed with complementary firm power from Biofuels.
- 3) Biofuels can displace oil and be utilized in the transportation sector.
- 4) Biogas production is limited in Hawaii and is there are no incentives to produce biogas, which is a proven technology in other parts of the world.
- 5) SB2652 SD1 is a version that corrects the AG issues from a previously passed but Governor vetoed bill in the 2015 Legislative Session (SB349 SD2 HD2 CD1) (BM1332)

Recommendation: We recommend passing the measure out "as is."

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.



1110 University Avenue, Suite 402

Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

Tel: (808) 371-1475

www.REACHhawaii.org

Testimony of ERIK KVAM

Director of Renewable Energy Action Coalition of Hawaii

e-mail: Erik.Kvam@REACHhawaii.org

In SUPPORT of SB 2652 SD 1 RELATING TO TAXATION

**Before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

Tuesday, March 1, 2016 1:40 p.m.

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz and members of the Committee.

My name is Erik Kvam. I am a Director of Renewable Energy Action Coalition of Hawaii (REACH). REACH is a trade association whose vision is a Hawaiian energy economy based 100% on renewable sources indigenous to Hawaii.

REACH is in **SUPPORT** of **SB 2652 SD 1**.

Hawaii is far behind in achieving its renewable goals for transportation. Transportation fuels account for about two-thirds of all the energy consumed in Hawaii. Virtually all of Hawaii's energy for transportation comes from imported fuels.

Without renewable fuel production from sources indigenous to Hawaii, Hawaii will have virtually no fuel available for critical transportation needs when imported fuels stop flowing to Hawaii.

REACH SUPPORTS SB 2652 SD 1— creating a production tax credit of so-many cents per 76,000 BTUs of renewable fuels produced from sources indigenous to Hawaii -- to encourage the development of renewable fuel production from sources indigenous to

Hawaii. REACH **SUPPORTS SB2652 SD1**, so that Hawaii has the transportation fuels it needs when imported fuels stop flowing to Hawaii.

Thank you for providing this opportunity to testify.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
Tuesday, March 1, 2016 — 1:40 p.m. — Room 211

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports SB 2652 SD 1 with Amendments, Relating to Taxation

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Murray Clay and I am Managing Partner of the Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally produced food; increase affordable, clean, renewable energy; and reduce waste. We believe that self-sufficiency is essential to our future prosperity and will help shape a future where economic progress and mission-focused impact can work hand in hand.

Ulupono strongly supports SB 2652 SD 1, which establishes a renewable fuels production tax credit, because it aligns with our goal of increasing the production of clean, renewable energy in Hawai'i.

In recent years Hawai'i has seen significant growth in renewable energy adoption moving the State towards its renewable energy goals. However, while the state locally produces about 14% renewable electricity, renewable fuels are far less than 1% of fuel use. Electricity represents approximately 40% of energy use in the state while transportation fuels account for a larger share at 51%. This is disturbing as this means we are making the least amount of progress to date in renewable production for the largest share of the state's energy use.

This important bill could be made more effective in achieving Hawai'i's renewable energy goals with two amendments:

1. On page 4, line 8, the per taxable year limit be put to at least \$6 million per taxable year, which is equivalent to 30 million gallons per year of production. It is important to note that renewable fuel facilities as large as 50 million gallons per year of capacity have been proposed for Hawai'i. Furthermore, ethanol imports alone, at a 10% blend with gasoline, amounted to more than 45 million gallons last year. If we want to replace a meaningful portion of imported fuels with locally produced renewable fuels, at least \$6 million per taxable year is a reasonable

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

amount that balances enough incentive for developers while minimizing cost for the State.

2. On page 5, line 16, the aggregate limit should be increased to \$18 million. In truth, any aggregate limit will make biofuels production facilities much more difficult to finance since the developer can never be sure his/her project will be completed in time to receive the credit – before the aggregate limit is reached. This means developers will not be able to include such benefits in their financing decisions. Nevertheless, understanding that the committee would prefer to have a limit to reduce the risk of an unexpectedly large tax credit claim, an \$18 million limit seems reasonable. This would then allow up to three 30 million gallon per year facilities in Hawai'i if amendment #1 above was also adopted. That would be 90 million gallons per year in aggregate or about double the amount of imported ethanol. This would also allow for production facilities on more than one island – for example, one 30 million gallon per year facility on three different islands.

Furthermore, we also request that on page 4, line 1, the production tax credit remain equal to 20 cents per seventy six thousand British thermal units throughout the remaining legislative process. We feel that is a reasonable figure that would incentivize production while limiting impact to the State's budget.

We strongly believe that this bill has the potential to open the door for significant renewable energy growth in Hawai'i.

As Hawai'i's energy issues become more complex and challenging, we appreciate this committee's efforts to look at policies that support renewable energy production.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Murray Clay
Managing Partner



40 Hobron Avenue
Kahului, Hawaii 96732
(808) 877-3144
Fax (808) 877-5030
www.biodiesel.com

February 29, 2016

**Testimony on Senate Bill 2652, SD1 Relating to Taxation
SUPPORT**

Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Hearing March 1, 2016 at 1:40 p.m., Conference Room 211

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members,

The management, investors and 70+ employees of the Pacific Biodiesel ohana thank you for hearing Senate Bill 2652 SD1 for consideration by the Committee on Ways and Means. This bill is crucial to the expansion of the biofuels industry in Hawaii, especially since our state is so far behind in transportation renewable energy use. We testify in strong support of this measure.

This bill supports the State of Hawaii's interest in becoming more energy self-sufficient, and does not add any additional burden to the state budget as it actually reduces the funding already designated for ethanol facility investment. If SB2652, SD1 is passed, it will be one of the most important actions the Legislature can take to incentivize local renewable fuel production, support current and future local jobs and ensure the future energy security of our island communities.

Pacific Biodiesel employs about 70 people in a wide range of positions from chemists to engineers, office and sales personnel to biodiesel facility operators and farmers, as well as numerous outside consultants, trucking and shipping operations. Employment represents over \$3 million in wages paid in 2015 and continued operations generate over \$20 million in revenue in the State of Hawaii every year. When biodiesel is purchased from Pacific Biodiesel in Hawaii, over 85% of the money stays in the Hawaii economy, and 98% of the money stays in the US economy. This is truly an economic boost as opposed to the economic drain of foreign petroleum.

It is the goal of all those connected with Pacific Biodiesel to continue with our mission to promote a clean, sustainable energy future through the community-based production of renewable fuels, but we need your help as federal support for biofuel continues to be inconsistent and short-term. Meanwhile, the petroleum industry with whom we must compete enjoys on-going, statutory support at all levels of government.

We ask you to please pass SB2652, SD1 to support the continued efforts of renewable fuel producers throughout the State of Hawaii.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert O. King".

Robert King
President
bking@biodiesel.com



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, March 1, 2016 1:40 pm
Conference Room 211, State Capitol
RE: Senate Bill 2652 SD1**

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Hawaii Gas strongly supports the Production Tax Credit on biofuels, to incentivize companies to invest in this important part of our renewable future.

Biofuel production, including biogas, provides unique benefits to Hawaii's energy future:

1. Biofuels can provide firm power to complement the intermittency of wind and solar resources.
2. Biofuels can help displace the oil now used to produce synthetic natural gas.
3. Biofuels can be used in the surface transportation (ground and marine) sectors to reduce the 500 million gallons of diesel and gasoline used each year in Hawaii today.
4. Biofuels diversify our fuel mix, which reduces risk and increases system reliability.

Today, there are no state incentives to produce biogas. Yet, biogas production is proven to be an effective source of energy, and especially so Germany, Austria and Sweden.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: greg.chou@ms.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2652 on Mar 1, 2016 13:40PM*
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 11:07:39 AM

SB2652

Submitted on: 2/29/2016

Testimony for WAM on Mar 1, 2016 13:40PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Greg Chou	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: anneg@jpms.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2652 on Mar 1, 2016 13:40PM
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 1:26:33 PM

SB2652

Submitted on: 2/29/2016

Testimony for WAM on Mar 1, 2016 13:40PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Paul DeJoria	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I own the Bali House in Keholo Bay as well as the Old Hotel in downtown Kona. Hawaii should go as green as possible. Please pass bill SB2652. It's good for all the people of Hawaii and encourages more energy from our waste in Hawaii. Thank you, John Paul DeJoria Chairman, Co-Founder John Paul Mitchell Systems and Patron Spirits Company

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov