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TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2017

TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2017  
9:00 A.M.

TESTIMONY OF DEAN NISHINA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF  
CONSUMER ADVOCACY, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER  
AFFAIRS, TO THE HONORABLE CHRIS LEE, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 113 AND HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 67  
CALLING ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND STATES TO LOWER COSTS  
FOR CONSUMERS, CREATE MORE JOBS, AND REDUCE THE IMPACTS  
OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE ECONOMY BY REPLACING FOSSIL FUELS  
WITH RENEWABLE ENERGY

**DESCRIPTION:**

This resolution requests to call on the Federal Government and states to lower costs for consumers, create more jobs, and reduce the impacts of climate change on the economy by replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy.

**POSITION:**

The Division of Consumer Advocacy (“Consumer Advocate”) offers the following comments.

COMMENTS:

The Consumer Advocate shares the legislature's concerns with potential cost impacts that customers must face related to their energy rates and bills. The Consumer Advocate notes that Hawaii has already adopted renewable portfolio standards benchmarks that target 100% by the year 2045.

Thus, the proposed resolution appears to be generally consistent with Hawaii's renewable portfolio standards objectives by encouraging the replacement of fossil fuels with renewable energy. The Consumer Advocate believes it is important, however, to ensure that fossil fuels are replaced by cost-effective renewable energy. It should be made clear that Hawaii is not encouraging the adoption of renewable energy at any cost; otherwise, Hawaii and its residents could face energy bills that are unnecessarily high. If energy bills increase because of the adoption of cost-ineffective renewable energy, this will result in adverse impacts on Hawaii's residents and businesses and, ultimately, the state's economy. Modification of the proposed resolution to make clear that Hawaii seeks cost-effective renewable energy would be consistent with Hawaii Revised Statute 269-92.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



FORD N. FUCHIGAMI  
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
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ROSS M. HIGASHI  
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**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 21, 2017  
9:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Room 325

IN REPLY REFER TO:

**LATE**

**H.C.R. 113**  
**CALLING ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND STATES TO LOWER COSTS**  
**FOR CONSUMERS, CREATE MORE JOBS, AND REDUCE THE IMPACTS OF**  
**CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE ECONOMY BY REPLACING FOSSIL FUELS WITH**  
**RENEWABLE ENERGY.**

House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** the intent of this concurrent resolution.

The DOT continues to promote, explore and implement renewable types of energy in its operations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 19, 2017 11:29 AM  
**To:** EEPtestimony  
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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HCR113 on Mar 21, 2017 09:00AM\*

**HCR113**

Submitted on: 3/19/2017

Testimony for EEP on Mar 21, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**HCR113**

Submitted on: 3/17/2017

Testimony for EEP on Mar 21, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Erica Scott	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**HCR113**

Submitted on: 3/17/2017

Testimony for EEP on Mar 21, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Margaret Maupin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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