

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

February 8, 2018  
8:30 a.m.

**MEASURE:** H.B. No. 1803

**TITLE:** RELATING TO RESOURCE CONSERVATION.

Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

**DESCRIPTION:**

Requires the PUC to adopt rules adopting federal energy efficiency and water conservation standards. Makes the rules effective if the federal government repeals current federal energy efficiency and water conservation standards.

**POSITION:**

The Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) offers the following comments for consideration.

**COMMENTS:**

The Commission takes no position with respect to adopting federal energy efficiency and water conservation standards as proposed in Section 2. Instead, the Commission notes that it is unclear how such standards for products in Hawaii would be enforced by the Commission. The Commission would need additional clarification relating to its jurisdiction and authority in this matter. The Commission, therefore, is uncertain as to whether it is the appropriate agency to adopt these rules and respectfully asks the legislature to consider another agency more suited to accomplish the goals this bill intends to achieve.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**HB-1803**

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 11:02:27 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2018 8:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Rene Siracusa       | Malama O Puna       | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

My name is Rene Siracusa and I am president of Malama O Puna, a 501(c)(3) environmental nonprofit based in Pahoia, Puna District, Island/County of Hawai'i.

Considering the current federal administration and the President's choice of Directors of the Dept. of the Interior, the EPA, and other departments and agencies, and based on some of the already existing attempts by that administration and those department heads to reduce environmental protections of all types, it is a valid concern that more protections will soon be on the chopping block. It is therefore a wise move to be proactive and create a State-level backup to maintain those protections in place for Hawai'i. That is what this legislation does, and we are in full support of this; should a "Plan B" be needed to protect the health and well-being of Hawaii's people, wildlife and environment, it will already be in place. Thank you for proposing this legislation.

Rene Siracusa, President

Malama O Puna, Pahoia, Hawaii

**HB-1803**

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 2:08:21 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2018 8:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>        | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Melodie Aduja       | OCC Legislative Priorities | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII**

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION THE HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Thursday, February 8, 2018

8:30 a.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325

**RE: Testimony in Support** of HB 1803, RELATING TO RESOURCE CONSERVATION

To the Honorable Chris Lee, Chair; the Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection:

Good morning. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill No. 1803 relating to energy efficiency; water conservation and the Public Utilities Commission.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in support of House Bill No. 1803 and is in favor of its passage.

House Bill No.1803 is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it requires the PUC to adopt rules adopting federal energy efficiency and water conservation standards. These rules become effective if the federal government repeals current federal energy efficiency and water conservation standards.

Specifically, the DPH Platform provides that "[t]he Democratic Party of Hawai'i believes that the preservation and restoration of our natural environment are essential. We support a sustainable society that utilizes the Earth in such a way that future generations will benefit from the practices of our generation. We support the restoration, preservation, and protection of our native ecosystems on each island. We believe in integrated approaches, practices and support public policies that create and maintain a sustainable way of life in Hawai'i.

We believe in supporting best management practices in sustaining our environment and in increased citizen involvement. We support programs that encourage sustainable clean, efficient, creative and environmentally-friendly modes of transportation, recycling, and waste reduction.

The conservation, preservation, and restoration of Hawaii's natural resources are connected to the health and welfare of our people; therefore, we support the conservation and protection of our natural environment, which includes reducing our carbon footprint for the benefit of current and future generations.

We support the protection of our 'aina against destruction by corporate, government, or military usage and expect full restoration and reparation of environmental damage to handle current and future demands for water, we mu assess the current condition of our aquifer and take appropriate action to secure our freshwater resources.

We support the democratic participation of citizens and residents to protect (i) valuable coastal ecosystems and reefs from misuse and (ii) beaches for public use and recreation. The Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management (CZM) law, HRS Chapter 205A, currently provides for public participation in the management of coastal resources.

We believe in the vigorous enforcement of our environmental laws and increased public-private stewardships and citizen involvement in protecting our resources.

We know that climate change is a real threat to our islands and the world. We strongly urge our candidates and elected officials to take immediate action to mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change. This includes funding adaptation measures including coastal retreat, effective participation of indigenous people in climate change governance, and recognition that indigenous, local, and traditional ecological knowledge is key in climate change adaptation solutions. (Platform of the DPH, P. 7, Lines 407-439 (2016)).

In the event that the federal government repeals current federal energy efficiency and water conservation standards, then House Bill No.1803 will become effective to provide that the PUC shall establish rules adopting current federal energy efficiency and water conservation standards. As such, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

**/s/ Melodie Aduja**

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

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# Hawai'i Energy

YOUR CONSERVATION & EFFICIENCY PROGRAM

1132 Bishop Street, Suite 1800 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813 • HawaiiEnergy.com • P: (808) 839-8880 • F: (808) 441-6068

Before the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection  
Tuesday, February 8, 2018, 8:30 A.M., Conference Room 325  
HB1803: Relating to Resource Conservation

Chair Lee, Vice-Chair Lowen, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on HB1803.

Hawai'i Energy works to empower island families and businesses on behalf of the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to make smart energy choices to reduce energy consumption, save money, and pursue a 100% clean energy future.

Hawai'i Energy supports the intent of HB1803 to establish energy efficiency standards should the federal standards be eliminated or reduced. However, we believe HB2248 is a better approach to establishing appliance standards in Hawai'i. Instead of relying on the Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules, testing protocols, and technical specifications pursuant to Chapter 91 per HB1803, HB2248 relies on standards already adopted by California in title 20 California Code of Regulations. This would significantly reduce the time and expense to establish standards while also providing a consistent industry standard. This will improve the chances of standards enacted in Hawai'i is enacted will be adhered to by manufacturers. Given the size of California's economy, they have a much stronger ability to influence the market.

Therefore, the Hawai'i Energy program encourages raising energy efficiency in Hawai'i through HB2248 rather than HB1803.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB1803.

Brian Kealoha  
Executive Director  
Hawai'i Energy

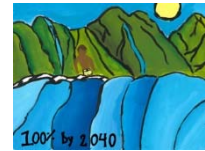
**HB-1803**

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 8:47:59 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2018 8:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Erica Scott         | Cuddle Party        | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:



## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

February 8, 2018, 8:30 A.M.

Room 325

(Testimony is 2 pages long)

### TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1803

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Lowen, and Committee members:

Blue Planet Foundation **strongly supports** House Bill (HB) 1803, which adopts federal appliance energy efficiency and water conservation standards as Hawaii state standards in the event that the federal standards are repealed or withdrawn.

As a local, mission-driven nonprofit that is committed to clearing the path for 100% clean energy, Blue Planet Foundation recognizes the power and possibility of energy efficiency. Energy efficiency is the cheapest, quickest, and cleanest way to accelerate Hawaii's transition to 100% renewable energy.

With a lack of clean energy and environmental protection priorities at the national level, House Bill 1803 is an important measure to make sure that Hawaii does not backtrack on its clean energy progress if the federal government decides to do so.

Many appliances, such as refrigerators, dishwashers, and commercial air conditioners, are regulated by federal appliance efficiency standards. Every state benefits from national efficiency standards. Hawaii consumers, for example, save about \$945 a year on utility bills thanks to these standards. As a whole, the savings equate to \$19.2 billion for products sold in Hawaii between 1987 and 2035.<sup>1</sup>

State-level appliance efficiency standards can fill in the gaps for appliances that are not regulated by national standards. According to the Appliance Standards Awareness Project and the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) state-level appliance standards could save Hawaii an additional \$1 billion in electricity costs over 20 years.<sup>2</sup> **Yet, Hawaii has no minimum appliance efficiency standards at the state-level.** House Bill 1803 is a safeguard for Hawaii consumers and sends a powerful message: If national standards go away, Hawaii will

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<sup>1</sup> See Appliance Standards Awareness Project, *State Benefits from Federal Appliance Standards*, <https://appliance-standards.org/map/benefits-from-federal>.

<sup>2</sup> See Joanna Mauer, Andrew deLaski, and Marianne DiMascio, *States Go First: How States Can Save Consumers Money, Reduce Energy and Water Waste, and Protect the Environment with New Appliance Standards*, available at <https://appliance-standards.org/document/report-overview-states-go-first>.



step into the breach and continue to use this proven tool to protect consumers and the environment.

We respectfully request that the Committee forward HB 1803 as currently drafted.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-1803**

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 10:12:20 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2018 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments: