

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 1:59:28 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dave Kisor		Oppose	No

Comments:

If this were such a good idea, then Puna legislators would have introduced it, but since it's such a hideous idea, it had to be made palatable and sold to those unaffected by the geothermal pirates. Puna is not industrial and out infrastructure would not be able to support heavy industry. This has to be the brainchild of someone in Jerusalem, Israel who couldn't give a rodent's anus about the health, safety and wellbeing of Puna residents, especially those of us who have already been damaged by their adequately cobbled together assemblage known affectionately as PGV. They produce energy, but at a cost to the residents. Tropical stormicane Iselle proved that back in August of 2014 and in fact this debacle has been going on for the last 30 years. As a Vietnam era Veteran who has been affected by their gas releases that are monitored with a state granted hourly weighted average, I have lost all confidence in the state, as that kind of maneuver only serves to protect hazardous industry from nearby residents. Stop and think for a moment about what energy intensive industries would be. Those would be metal smelting. That in itself should send up a red flag, because it infers there will be ocean bottom dredging for manganese nodules, which destroys an ecosystem. Then there are the tailing ponds, which won't have a liner, as this region is all lava and those industries wanting to do this will cut corners and be the cheapskates they are known to be. Do you want a tailing pond possibly poisoning your aina? I don't! Just because someone claimed jobs doesn't automatically make it good.



Testimony for
Committee on Economic Development & Business
Wednesday, January 31, 2018, 10:00 a.m. Room 309

Representative Cindy Evans, Chair
Representative Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

HB 2233 Relating to Special Purpose Revenue Bonds for a Geothermal Industrial Park

Dear Chair Evans and Members of the Committee:

This testimony is in **SUPPORT** of HB 2233 which would allow issuance of special purpose revenue bonds for the purpose of financing the costs of developing geothermal industrial park(s). The park(s) are to be adjacent to an existing or new geothermal power source and create opportunity for energy-intensive industries to locate in the park(s).

I am Lynn McCrory, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs for Pulama Lanai. Pulama Lanai is the entity that was set up by Larry Ellison to work with the community and government as we move the island of Lanai toward sustainability.

Geothermal energy is definitely a part of the renewable energy in our overall sustainability goal to produce the energy that Hawai'i needs, in Hawai'i. As we go forward, there will be opportunities on the neighbor islands to produce this energy and add new industries to what Hawai'i has to offer which is now primarily tourism. Focusing energy intensive industries around these geothermal facilities will add to our economy with new jobs and revenue.

We want a growing economy and energy self-sufficiency. We humbly ask that you SUPPORT HB 2233. Mahalo!

Me ke aloha pumehana
With warm aloha,

Lynn P. McCrory
Senior Vice President of Government Affairs

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 3:27:00 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bill Smith		Oppose	No

Comments:

HB2233 is an abomination in practical terms as it threatens lower Puna with the nightmare of industrialization that is financially supported by a government apparently disrespectful of Puna's rural values and lifestyles.

The bill proposes to finance “costs of developing a geothermal industrial park near a *new or existing geothermal power source*”. The *only* known geothermal power source is used by Puna Geothermal Venture, a site that has plagued its agricultural and residential neighbors for decades with repeated upsets and [emergencies](#). Possible additional locations to develop geothermal energy have been sought for years but have not been found.

Hawai`i island electric utility HELCO has said the current cheap renewable energy penetration levels and prevailing electricity prices on the Island of Hawai`i mean there is no urgent need for new geothermal] generation. As a practical matter, the bill would lead to unnecessary new geothermal generation and an unwanted park for new industrial development.

The bill says the industrial park would create “economic opportunity for energy-intensive industries engaged in commerce”. Puna residents do not want an industrial area here. Despite that community preference, the bill includes "the authority to purchase land and exercise the power of eminent domain ... to acquire lands near a geothermal source for the use and expansion of the geothermal industrial park”.

Geothermal is a difficult, expensive and unsafe energy resource that has only been found in our rural area where there is strong opposition to industrial development.

If the intent is to create economic opportunity for energy-intensive industries, why not develop an industrial park in a more appropriate location (such as Oahu or Maui) with easier and less costly renewable energy resources (such as solar and wind)? HB 2233 would offer a poorly concealed boost for unnecessary, unwanted geothermal development.

Please help preserve and protect the natural rural environment of Puna by killing HB2233.

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 3:35:11 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Bond		Oppose	No

Comments:

Please kill this as soon as possible. Hawaii does not need this kind of industrialization. We are not New Jersey. This is a huge fraud on the taxpayers and should be killed.

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 3:59:58 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle Matson	CPAC/HTF/NB#5/KPAC	Oppose	No

Comments:

We strongly oppose this for ANY of our Islands. Geothermal is known to create seismic instability and toxic groundwater.

We are supposed to be moving forward toward clean energy and self-sustainability, not industrial pollution.

There are other, safer and far more accessible and economical means toward achieving the 100% renewable objective.

Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i
Office of the Mayor

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January 29, 2018

Representative Cindy Evans, Chair
House Committee on Economic Development & Business
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 309
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Evans and Committee Members:

Re: HB 2233 Special Purpose Revenue Bonds for a geothermal industrial park
Hearing Date: 01/31/18 – 10:00 am; House Conference Room 309

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in opposition to HB2233.

HB 2233 talks about "creating economic opportunity for energy intensive industries engaged in commerce." This sounds like a very worthy goal. But please keep in mind the following:

1. The only existing geothermal facility in the State is located in lower Puna, a rural and agricultural district that would be vehemently opposed to being industrialized. It may be a so-called "inconvenient truth," but this community has already borne a disproportionate share of the burden of geothermal development, and to add more energy intensive industry would be considered an outrage.
2. Years ago, the Legislature abolished geothermal subzones, so creating an "industrial park near a new or existing geothermal power source" could mean industrial activity anywhere. Until a community has experienced geothermal energy exploration and development, it may not realize what it has in store. Adding "energy intensive industries" to the mix would really be a recipe for disaster.

If this bill is meant to further industrialize Puna, without naming Puna, it should be a non-starter. If it is meant to create the possibility of an industrial park anywhere else in this State, I can only say "Buyer Beware."

Please do not act favorably on HB 2233.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harry Kim".

Harry Kim
Mayor, County of Hawai'i

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 5:21:11 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lorn	Douglas	Comments	No

Comments:

Aloha from Lower Puna,

As a long time Puna resident I wish to go on the record strongly opposing this measure. Not only has HELCO stated there is no urgent need for more geothermal penetration, the proposed location has no reasonable safety zone to local residences. Years ago I lived for months with the sound and smell of HGV irresponsible drilling causing extreme venting.

This is a residential area and I am sure most all residents would not like to see industrial commercialization.

Having a geothermal installation in a residential area was a bad mistake from the beginning. Most all of Puna is a geothermal resource. Somebody wasn't thinking straight when they placed it in its location.

In conclusion there is no driving need for the power and no decent place to do this, please table this horrible idea before it gets any further.... Thanks Lorn Douglas

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 5:41:30 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph		Oppose	No

Comments:

STRONGLY OPPOSE!!! NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!

WE WANT CLEAN ALTERNATIVE ENERGY THAT DOESN'T POISON OUR NEIGHBORHOODS!!!

I have friends in Leilani Estates who get horribly sick everytime there is a leak of hydrogen sulfide from the PGV facility.

On the day of Hurricane Iselle, over 150 neighbors to PGV got very sick - two of my friends passed out from the gas and one of those friends never recovered AND DIED A FEW DAYS LATER!

NO MORE GEOTHERMAL - WE WANT CLEAN RENEWABLE ENERGY. SPEND OUR MONEY ON SOLAR!!!

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 5:47:48 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Biltoft	Adiabat Meteorological Services	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB 2233 is possibly the worst piece of legislation recently introduced to the Hawaii Legislature. It proposes to use Special Purpose Revenue Bonds for development of a geothermal industrial park for energy-intensive industries, to include the use of eminent domain to force people from their homes in the urban cluster near the Puna Geothermal Venture (PGV) geothermal plant. This shameful and senseless piece of legislation is designed to further exploit and endanger the people of Lower Puna, the fastest growing and most under-served population in Hawaii. Lower Puna certainly needs development, but that development should include sustainable agriculture and commerce, not energy-intensive industries that would further pollute the environment and endanger the lives of residents. PGV is one major earthquake away from catastrophic failure, and it would be foolish to invest in bonds based on exploitation of PGV's geothermal resources.

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 6:58:31 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marion McHenry		Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 7:21:55 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kat Culina		Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

Please oppose the expansion of unsafe and toxic geothermal industry and creation of industrial parks in rural areas like Puna. Puna community has been dealing with this hazardous and unregulated industry for decades. Enough is enough.

Mahalo,

Katarina Culina

PO BOX 2142

Pahoa, HI 96778

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 7:27:39 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sharon		Oppose	No

Comments:

NO more geothermal !!!

The community has been poisoned enough!

lets look at solar and other sources of energy.

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 7:42:41 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Avi Okin		Oppose	No

Comments:

We need alternate energy sources to fossil fuel and coal, but not a nes that are toxic to our cmmunities. Geothermal is to close to homes and people to be used. Vote NO.

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 7:44:23 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah Davis		Oppose	No

Comments:

NO!!!!!! Geothermal is an expensive and unsafe energy resource that has only been found in a rural area strongly opposed to industrial development. If the intent is to create economic opportunity for energy-intensive industries, why not develop an industrial park in a more appropriate location (such as Oahu or Maui) with easier and less costly renewable energy resources (such as solar and wind)? HB 2233 would offer a poorly concealed boost for unnecessary, unwanted geothermal development.

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 7:44:25 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez		Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 8:49:13 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jim Albertini	Malu 'Aina	Oppose	No

Comments:

Our Puna community organization, Malu 'Aina, strongly opposes this bill. It adds further injury to injury, creates a toxic industrial dump in the poorest area of the state. It amounts to environmental injustice dumped upon a community that has suffered for decades from geothermal abuse.. And it further adds insult and injury to Native Hawaiian spiritual beliefs of Pele as sacred diety. Why haven't we yet learned to respect the sacred and instead turn the sacred into industrial profit zones. Shame!.

Jim Albertini,

Malu 'Aina President.

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 8:56:18 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shana ritsema		Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha- i live close to the geothermal and it is the only drawback to the neighborhood. It is loud and i have personally been poisoned by it twice. I am always concerned that it could have a blowout and am highly annoyed by the noise pollution. There is not a good alert system in place in case there is a blowout and that is because they dont want the people to know how dangerous it is. This community has been suffering from this energy plant for a long time and it would be a huge disservice to the public to open up our precious land to this horrible industry any furthur. We must pursue solar, wind, and hydro but not geothermal in this area. It is of the utmost importance. Geothermal is toxic and not truly green or sustainable. Please put an end to this industry on the big island. It is not our best resouce. Thank you

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 9:12:31 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
shelley		Oppose	No

Comments:

STRONGLY OPPOSE!!! NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!

WE WANT CLEAN ALTERNATIVE ENERGY THAT DOESN'T POISON OUR NEIGHBORHOODS!!

mahalo,

shelley

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 9:24:28 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
alicia morrier		Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 9:51:12 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teresa L. Nakama	BIFA	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is not pono for official representatives that introduced this bill that doesn't represent the Puna community. Representative Nakashima-Honokaa, Evans-Kona District, C Lee-Kailua-Oahu, R. Onishi-Hilo, Yamane-Mililani, Oahu....

The Puna community strongly opposes this House Bill 2233...this is a detriment and will not benefit the greater community...this is about putting money into special interest group and not benefiting the greater community statewide....

Shame on those who introduced this bill and special interest to further burden the larger taxpayers of this State. We strongly oppose this bill for their request for this special revenue bond...Aole!!!!

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 9:57:27 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katharine E Avery		Oppose	No

Comments:

I have lived in Leilani with the horrible fear of being poisoned by geothermal energy blowouts or natural disasters leaving us to deal with gases and pollutants that neighbor's should not have to accept. We all know at this point geothermal energy on the Big Island is not safe nor sustainable. We need Solar and Wind and Wave power. Please do the right thing and stop this bill! Mahalo Kalia.

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 10:14:12 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dee Fulton	Mauna Mama Kona Coffee	Oppose	No

Comments:

Say NO to geothermal. It sounds earth-friendly but it's not.

Geothermal gases pose health risks to those near the production site.

Let's develop more solar!

A;loha

Deborah Fulton, Big Island

Holualoa, HI

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 10:30:26 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julia Paul		Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. Too many residential subdivisions in the area. Time to get rid of the grid. I live in the area where this is proposed and we have the cleanest air on the island and we live off grid. Time for newer more efficient technology.

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 10:49:22 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Lair		Oppose	No

Comments:

My family and I live close enough to the existing geothermal plant that we can hear it running at night. Alot of people I know including myself experience wierd symptoms of lethargy and headaches every so often after noticing alot of noise projecting from the current plants location some evenings. I also feel building another industrial area in Puna will further the decline of the lush Aina in many ways. Thank you.

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 11:15:15 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janet Kama		Support	No

Comments:

As a neighbor of Puna Geothermal Venture, I am in support of expansion of the plant and/or creation of a geothermal park.

We have lived in Leilani Estates since 1991, and our family's health and wellbeing have never been adversely affected by the plant.

In addition, the increase in power generated by PGV has been a benefit to Puna residents, who had been experiencing brown-outs and black-outs prior to the plant coming online.

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 11:47:50 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Bambara		Oppose	No

Comments:

Although I'm told you don't read these, I am writing to ask you all to Please oppose HB2233 - Geothermal is the past not the future of energy. Please stop letting questionable permitting occur for an UNSAFE energy source and stop trying to make us the armpit/energy generator for other islands with bills like this - they're dirty, just like the energy they represent. PLEASE Do your jobs and represent the interests of the people in this community, by OPPOSING THIS BILL and not selling us out to the highest corporate bidder.

Thank you.

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 5:21:53 AM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven Jacquier		Oppose	No

Comments:

There are so many problems with HB2233; I'd be the first to be all for such if it was a good idea here in Puna but it simply is not. The "resource" is completely different than that in Iceland and New Zealand, is in Lava Zone 1, surrounded by residential neighborhoods, and oversight is by the same incompetent and corrupt bureaucracy which has brought us false missile alerts, rat lungworm disease inaction & obfuscation, subdivisions without services, substandard roads, public beaches without toilets, the highest paid & least effective county employees in the entire USA, and so on. USGS scientists have spoken against this ill-conceived effort moving forward. Were the people of lower Puna consulted about whether or not we want this project? Film-maker Michael Moore should be invited to come make another movie here in Hawaii about how funding for rat lungworm disease research gets switched at the last second from Jarvi Lab at UHH to the fumbling HI Dept of Health without any opportunity for public comment and quite similarly how the Big Island in general and Puna in particular is treated by the state legislature, with HB2233 being a prime example. There is a long history of the most polluting and dangerous industries being deliberately sited in locations with the most poverty and this effort perpetuates that heinous pattern. This is a bill of which Donald Trump would heartily approve and which the numerous voters of the Big Island and other neighbor islands will not; people have become angry at mistreatment by venal elected representatives and will hold you accountable at the polls in 2018 and 2020. Please vote "No!" on HB2233.

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 5:56:31 AM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Catherine M Lux		Oppose	No

Comments:

Once again, Puna has its voice silenced. The voters of Puna do not want this Industrial Park. Is Puna District to be renamed: "Punishment" District?

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 6:55:29 AM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benjamin	Marantz	Oppose	No

Comments:



P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96837-0158
Phone: 927-0709 henry.lifeoftheland@gmail.com

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS

Rep. Cindy Evans, Chair

Rep. Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, January 31, 2018

TIME: 10:00am

PLACE: Conference Room 309

HB 2233 SPRBs to Industrialize Puna

STRONGLY OPPOSE

Aloha Chair Evans, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee,

Life of the Land is Hawai'i's own energy, environmental and community action group advocating for the people and `aina for 47 years. Our mission is to preserve and protect the life of the land through sound energy and land use policies and to promote open government through research, education, advocacy and, when necessary, litigation.

Let`s call a spade a spade instead of pretending it`s something else.

The bill talks about generalities, as if it could apply to all sorts of things. It doesn't. It calls for one thing. A rural residential area of Puna should be turned into an industrial park. Since the land owners might not agree, the bill turns to eminent domain. Just grab the land. Where will it be built? Near something else, without any reference to what near means. Why not be open and transparent?

The drive to get off fossil fuel and to decrease greenhouse gas emissions is common sense, a State goal, and good for the planet. Why then use these noble ideas to pit one community against another community?

Mahalo

Henry Curtis

Executive Director

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 7:16:22 AM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sylvia Dolena		Oppose	No

Comments:

The Geothermal plant in Puna District of the Island of Hawaii is in a lava zone and close to the ocean. There have been toxic chemical releases in the area in the past due to hurricanes and storms. This is not a safe area as the chemicals pollute our water table flowing into the ocean. There is documented evidence of the environment issues this would cause. This bill would put many people in a health risk.

Sylvia Dolena

Pele Lani Farm LLC

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 7:16:43 AM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah Umiamaka		Oppose	No

Comments:

HB2233 is an abomination in practical terms as it threatens lower Puna with the nightmare of industrialization that is financially supported by a government apparently disrespectful of Puna's rural values and lifestyles.

The bill proposes to finance "costs of developing a geothermal industrial park near a new or existing geothermal power source". The only known geothermal power source is used by Puna Geothermal Venture, a site that has plagued its agricultural and residential neighbors for decades with repeated upsets and emergencies. Possible additional locations to develop geothermal energy have been sought for years but have not been found.

Hawai'i island electric utility HELCO has said "given the current renewable energy penetration levels [and] prevailing electricity prices on the Island of Hawaii, [there is] no urgent need for new [geothermal] generation". As a practical matter, the bill would lead to unnecessary new geothermal generation and a park for unwanted industrial development.

The bill says the industrial park would create "economic opportunity for energy-intensive industries engaged in commerce". Puna residents do not want an industrial area here. Despite that community preference, the bill includes "the authority to purchase land and exercise the power of eminent domain ... to acquire lands near a geothermal source for the use and expansion of the geothermal industrial park".

Geothermal is an expensive and unsafe energy resource that has only been found in a rural area strongly opposed to industrial development. If the intent is to create economic opportunity for energy-intensive industries, why not develop an industrial park in a more appropriate location (such as Oahu or Maui) with easier and less costly renewable energy resources (such as solar and wind)? HB 2233 would offer a poorly concealed boost for unnecessary, unwanted geothermal development.

Please help preserve and protect the natural rural environment of Puna by strongly opposing misguided HB2233,



COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS

Rep. Cindy Evans, Chair

Rep. Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, January 31, 2018

TIME: 10:00am

PLACE: Conference Room 309

HB 2233 SPRBs to Industrialize Puna

STRONGLY OPPOSE

Aloha Chair Evans, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee,

The mission of Puna Pono Alliance is to build alliances that support environmentally safe, culturally sensitive, economically viable, and sustainable energy alternatives for Hawai`i County. We are committed to protecting the health, safety, sustainability and quality of life for all of our neighbors.

HB2233 is an abomination in practical terms as it threatens lower Puna with the nightmare of industrialization that is financially supported by a government apparently disrespectful of Puna's rural values and lifestyles.

The bill proposes to finance “costs of developing a geothermal industrial park near a new or existing geothermal power source”. The only known geothermal power source is used by Puna Geothermal Venture, a site that has plagued its agricultural and residential neighbors for decades

with repeated upsets and emergencies. Possible additional locations to develop geothermal energy have been sought for years but have not been found.

Hawai'i island electric utility HELCO has said "given the current renewable energy penetration levels [and] prevailing electricity prices on the Island of Hawaii, [there is] no urgent need for new [geothermal] generation". As a practical matter, the bill would lead to unnecessary new geothermal generation and a park for unwanted industrial development.

The bill says the industrial park would create "economic opportunity for energy-intensive industries engaged in commerce". Puna residents do not want an industrial area here. Despite that community preference, the bill includes "the authority to purchase land and exercise the power of eminent domain ... to acquire lands near a geothermal source for the use and expansion of the geothermal industrial park".

Geothermal is an expensive and unsafe energy resource that has only been found in a rural area strongly opposed to industrial development. If the intent is to create economic opportunity for energy-intensive industries, why not develop an industrial park in a more appropriate location (such as Oahu or Maui) with easier and less costly renewable energy resources (such as solar and wind)? HB 2233 would offer a poorly concealed boost for unnecessary, unwanted geothermal development.

Please help preserve and protect the natural rural environment of Puna by strongly opposing misguided HB2233.

Mahalo

Henry Curtis

Vice President for Governmental Affairs

Puna Pono Alliance

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 7:24:31 AM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Doran Vaughan		Oppose	No

Comments:

HB2233 threatens rural Puna on Hawaii Island with the nightmare of industrialization and exposure of residents to health and life threatening hazardous waste. Please help preserve and protect the natural rural environment of Puna by strongly opposing HB2233.

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 7:56:08 AM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roy Lozano	RoyL Goods	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose any industrial development in residential rural areas.

Period!

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:06:07 AM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nadia Ranne		Oppose	No

Comments:

No geothermal in or near residential areas! A geothermal industrial park near a new or existing geothermal power source is not acceptable as currently the only geothermal power source is Puna Geothermal Venture which is in Pahoia, in a RESIDENTIAL area. There have been many serious and dangerous problems at PGV along with poor regulation. --- There is much evidence that shows how terrible geothermal in Hawaii is for the environment, water pollution, health of humans and animals, and more known and unknown risks. -- Your primary role as government is to provide for our HEALTH AND SAFETY. Puna is not collateral damage. No geothermal in or near residential areas!!!

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:13:18 AM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven Whaley	Mankind Project	Oppose	No

Comments:

The last thing Puna needs is industrialized development in our rural neighborhoods. Puna Geothermal is a bad actor when it comes to honoring neighborhood desires for safety and clean air and this bill if passed allows huge changes in geothermal development that would change life as we know it.

Steven Whaley, resident in lower puna

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:28:23 AM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
M. Kathleen Howe	University of Hawaii, Hilo	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB2233. This geothermal industrial park should not be built.

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:45:05 AM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maria Arroyo		Oppose	No

Comments:

Geothermal is an expensive and unsafe energy resource. This is our home! and a rural area and I strongly opposed to industrial development.

1/30/18

Re: HB2233,

Jan 31, 2018 10:00 AM, EDB Rm 309,

Testimony of Robert Petricci,

Position: strongly oppose,

Rep. Cindy Evans, Chair, EDB

Rep. Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair,

Committee members,

Rep. Daniel Holt

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita

Rep. Linda Ichiyama

Rep. Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto

Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson

Aloha chair Evans and committee members

Geothermal development has a tainted history of accidents, toxic releases, and negative impacts on the communities in Puna where it has been so haphazardly done. There are facts you should be aware of concerning the serious impacts geothermal development has and continues to have on the surrounding communities before you make a decision that could further harm a community that has been mistreated by both geothermal developers and the state Department of Health. HB2233 is an affront to the constitutional right of the surrounding community to live in a safe and healthy environment. Contrary to what geothermal proponents say there is clear and convincing evidence supported by research and facts that show geothermal development in Puna has been and continues to be dangerous and harmful to the thousands of families that live in the surrounding communities.

On September 9, 2013, the final report of a study of geothermal health and safety issues funded by the county was delivered to the Mayor and published. Some of the facts and conclusions in the report included:

"Events during the HGP-A era and during the 1991 blowout (at PGV) provided exposures associated with adverse health effects. This knowledge, along with other information contained in this report ... has led the Study Group to conclude there is evidence that there were health effects from the exposures during the development of geothermal before

1993. The full extent and severity of those effects has not been documented. ...

Risks from geothermal energy production in Lower Puna exist. The actual extent and impacts of those risks remains unresolved. What is known is that hazardous chemicals are brought up by PGV. PGV adds industrial chemicals to the mix in the process and then sends the composite fluid back down. However, fluids inevitably escape to air, water, or at surface level. Harmful effects can only be understood through better monitoring and reliable health data.

On October 2, 2012, the Mayor weighed in, this time joining the chorus by saying in a news release a geothermal health study should be done: "Health issues related to the production of geothermal energy are a concern for many island residents.... [The] County Department of Research and Development has contracted for an independent joint fact finding study to help lay the groundwork for future geothermal health studies to be conducted in the Puna community." The contract with Dr. Peter Adler to plan future Puna geothermal health studies led to the working group and the September 9, 2013, report."

I spent 2 years volunteering as part of Dr. Adler's health issues review group. On September 22, 2013, it was reported that "Mayor Billy Kenoi says he intends to implement the recommendations of the Geothermal Public Health Assessment. HB2233 makes no mention of the findings and conclusions of the study group or the fact on just how dangerous this kind of development is, not to mention the overwhelming community opposition to further or expanded geothermal development in Puna. It would be reckless and irresponsible to support HB2233 without even understanding what the impacts currently are before expanding the threat to the people who have essentially been a sacrificial community for the state of Hawaii. Most of you have heard about the large anti geothermal demonstrations by the community against PGV and further expansion of geothermal development. This is a direct result of what has happened to the people who live there, you can expect even more robust opposition from these communities should HB2233 move forward.

Why? HB2233 threatens entire communities that have already endured significant harm and been treated as the problem by the DOH instead of residents with the right to be reasonably safe in their own homes. There are thousands of families in Puna that would be adversely impacted by HB2233, that dictates you need to make an informed decision based on "all" the facts, please do not play politics with this. You should also know the danger is ongoing and that even now there is litigation pending by over 100 area residents that PGV injured when they almost blew up the power plant on August 07, 2014. These families were trapped in their homes by Tropical storm Issell and could not escape the toxic releases as PGV struggled to regain control of their power plant. I wonder if you understand just how close PGV came to losing control of the power plant on 8/07/14, if not please look into it and that doesn't mean just asking PGV what happened as they have an interest in down playing the accident,

but do an independent investigation, I am sure you would be surprised how close PGV came to blowing up the plant just 3 and a half years ago.

Puna is the fastest growing district in the state and has been a sacrificial lamb for geothermal developers and experiments since the state first developed the experimental HPG-A power plant. HGP-A was allowed by DOH to open vent geothermal toxins unabated into our community sometimes for weeks at a time in the late seventies and early eighties. If you do not know, that is illegal now because the residents were so abused, finally after all else failed many broke the law and trespassed onto the PGV site and were arrested trying to stop PGV from continuing the practice. Unabated open venting finally ended not because DOH came to their senses or wanted to protect the area residents but because a judge ruled me not guilty of the crime of trespass because it was a "lesser evil" to break the law than to allow the state and PGV to so poison our community. Think about that because nothing has changed with the state regulatory system or DOH. Even now DOH is allowing PGV to operate on a clean air permit that expired years ago, they have simply refused to renew the permit as required by law. This should be a huge red flag for legislation like HB2233. DOH can not even regulate the geothermal power generation that already exist, that needs to be addressed before any expansion should ever be considered. Clean up the current mess before making it worse, please.

What has happened in Puna to our families should be a crime if it is not already. Please do your homework before voting on HB2233, there has been and continues to be unending litigation and opposition by the community against both the state and PGV since 1981 at least for good reason. Those issues have not been resolved and are ongoing even now, HB2233 will be seen as another attack on a community that has had to defend itself against both state regulatory indifference or and incompetence and developers who refuse to operate in a safe or reasonable manner. There are good reasons why no new geothermal plants have been built since 1991, despite huge political support, do you understand what they are?

Please oppose HB2233,

Mahalo for your consideration.

Robert Petricci,
Resident of Pohoiki

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 9:03:14 AM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bonnie	individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I live in Puna, about one mile East of the current Geothermal plant. We have put up with this plant for years and do not want an industrial Park so that Geothermal facility that is already here can sell its unused energy. Hawaii Electric has said there is not a need for additional electric energy production and I feel strongly that we should not be trying to create a need by turning a beautiful, rural part of the state into an industrial complex and all the problems that come with that.

I live here and strongly oppose this measure HB2233. Do the right thing, protect the Aina and its people and vote for people, the land, nature, and vital community over outside big money with profits as its primary motive.

Sincerely and with Aloha,

Tom and Bonnie McCarroll

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 9:11:51 AM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Greenleaf		Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 2233.

Bill Greenleaf

Greenleaf Farm, Makawao

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 9:17:17 AM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Roy		Oppose	No

Comments:

Isn't Hawaii Island, the planet's unique ecological treasure, entitled to some protections against environmental exploitation and degradation? Thank you for your courage in opposing this bill!

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 9:50:18 AM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
George Douvris		Oppose	No

Comments:

With due respect, as I feel most of the residents in lower Puna would agree, we are opposed to any geothermal expansion in our area. My wife, self and 3 children live within a mile of the present geothermal plant which was built as its name says as a "venture". Defined thus it was at attempt at an unforeseen result. With no clear understanding how this factory was built right in the middle of four residential subdivisions our life seems to be often in danger from lethal gas blowouts as well as the harm to use of our property for having to listen to the plants 24/7 machinery turbines. We have had to evacuate several times over the years because of such blowouts and have felt sick as well. Some residents even associate such blowouts as cause of death. It sits on a live earthquake line and would also be facing lava flow as it did last year. Not only has this plant been a menace to our community and we are shocked why it is not closed down, but now a move for more expansion. Our the lives, health and property use rights of residents not considered when there is a profit to be made by such "ventures". I hope the committee shows sensitivity, empathy, integrity and honesty when making a decision. Hawaii's way of life will be jeopardized and one can only wonder, would the owners of this plant be willing to live near this plant like we and several hundred other Hawaiian residents do

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:15:34 AM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wade Bauer		Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose hb2233. The existing geothermal in Puna has caused health problems and noise issues for nearby residents. Solar is a much safer alternative and I would support solar energy park in puna.

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:32:02 AM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronald S. Fujiyoshi	Ohana Ho`opakele	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 2233!

Geothermal has not proven to be a clean source of energy. It has been shown to cause serious health hazards to the public.

Drilling for geothermal is an insult to anyone who believes that Pele is a Hawaiian goddess. Those who have this belief, especially if they are Kanaka Maoli, the host people of Hawaii should have their religious beliefs respected.

The claim that the State of Hawai`i OWNS the rights for geothermal is highly suspect, especially when Public Law 103-150 clearly states that the Kingdom of Hawai`i was illegally overthrown.

Mahalo for allowing me to testify!

Ronald S. Fujiyoshi

Retired Christian missionary

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:46:27 AM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Weatherford		Oppose	No

Comments:

The beneficiaries of this measure are clear: "energy intensive industries", rather than the rural community in which the geothermal industrial park would be located. Thus, that community and it's legislators have been excluded from discussions regarding this legislation -- that is purely shameful.

Please do not support this legislation. By design and by process it is a dishonorable act.

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 11:05:02 AM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ali Ameden		Oppose	No

Comments:

Stop Geothermal! Invest in clean energy like solar!!

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 11:13:59 AM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diane Koerner		Oppose	No

Comments:

People living near the current geothermal plant experience toxic emissions and subsequent health issues. Plus, we want to preserve Puna as a rural area.

Geothermal is an expensive and unsafe energy resource that has only been found in a rural area strongly opposed to industrial development. If the intent is to create economic opportunity for energy-intensive industries, why not develop an industrial park in a more appropriate location (such as Oahu or Maui) with easier and less costly renewable energy resources (such as solar and wind)? HB 2233 would offer a

**poorly concealed boost for
unnecessary, unwanted geothermal
development.**

**Please help preserve and protect the
natural rural environment of Puna by
strongly opposing misguided HB2233.**

Mahalo,

Diane Koerner, Pahoia, HI

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 11:35:34 AM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Yeshuah Kauhane		Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

I respectfully enter my testimony in opposition to this bill. Geothermal energy in Puna is an attack on our rural community. The existing geothermal plant has been faced with opposition since its creation. Local residents have protested the dangers and injustice of the geothermal plant that has periodically poisoned and terrified us so that people that do not live here can be served their energy needs. Expansion of this venture goes against the desires of the people who live here, attacking their health, well being, and the character of our precious rural/agricultural neighborhood. My family and I strongly oppose this bill. Y. Kauhane

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 11:39:23 AM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patrick Donegan	Flying Disc Hawaii	Oppose	No

Comments:

The last thing Puna needs is industrialized development in our rural neighborhoods.

And the Geothermal Corporation has not been a good neighbor on many occasions, so they are not a trustworthy neighbor.

There are other ways to create energy and create wealth here in Puna, please consider those.



Written Statement of
Robbie Melton
Executive Director & CEO
Hawaii Technology Development Corporation
before the
House Committee on Economic Development & Business
Wednesday, January 31, 2018
10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

In consideration of
HB2233
**RELATING TO SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS FOR A GEOTHERMAL INDUSTRIAL
PARK**

Chair Evans, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development & Business.

The Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) **offers comments** on HB2233 that authorizes the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation to issue special purpose revenue bonds in its name to finance the costs of a geothermal industrial park near a new or existing geothermal power source for the purpose of creating economic opportunity for energy intensive industries engaged in commerce.

As part of HTDC's vision to create 80,000 new innovation jobs in Hawaii earning \$80,000 or more by 2030, HTDC supports initiatives aimed at promoting technology and innovation jobs.

Although HTDC statute allows us to develop industrial parks HTDC does not have expertise in geothermal power and issuing special purpose revenue bonds. HTDC suggests the Department may be better staffed to issue bonds. HTDC looks forward to working together with other stakeholders on this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 12:22:12 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dan Domizio	Self	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this measure [HB2233]. Lower Puna District does not need, nor do the people want, an industrial park! This is especially true when it will be linked to the Geothermal adventure which has already caused havoc in our rural community. As a provider of health services in this area for over 20 years, and having witnessed innumerable instances of community dissatisfaction with this sort of development, I cannot imagine who thought this is a good idea that would make people happy.

Please do not pass this bill.

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 12:28:01 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David A Mangel		Oppose	No

Comments:

I am retired but politically active and will campaign vigorously against any member who votes for this measure!

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 12:35:55 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicki Conti		Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Elected Officials , I can't believe or even begin to understand why that we are back here yet again .

How many times do the people of Hawaii Island have to stand up and repeat our opposition to turning our beautiful rural neighborhoods into "industrial areas " ?

Not only is this plan ill-formed and inconsiderate it is completely unnecessary and seems to have been but forward by persons whose sole goal is to obtain personal financial benefit .

The Puna district is the fastest growing area on the Big Island. It is estimated that Puna will have a higher population than [Hilo](#) by 2020. A quick search shows almost 100 new construction homes built in lower Puna in just this past year. It is quite obvious that people are not coming here to live or work in an industrial area

In this uncertain time when we have a completely narcissistic President, one that the people of Hawaii did not elect. A president who does not seem to have any thought other than what short term benefits are available to him ; is Hawaii going to follow suit ? is this our idea of making America great ? I would hope and encourage you, our representatives, to take a stand for our people, our environment ,and our planet .

I realize this is a lot of rhetoric, but frankly , we have been down this road before and you have already been presented with all of the reasons that geothermal is not a viable long term energy solution and that it is just plain dangerous, so I am left wondering what is the motivation here?

Please do not pass this bill .

Thank you

Nicki conti and Sevyn Galambos

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 12:44:41 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Barry		Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this HB 2233,

Mahalo,

Ms. Barbara Barry

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 12:46:48 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cynthia pierson		Oppose	No

Comments:

Malama aina

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 12:49:49 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Kuykendall	Malama Trees Farm	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha and thank you for considering our testimony. We are writing to voice our strong opposition to HB2233. The bill would "finance the costs of a geothermal industrial park near a new or existing geothermal power source for the purpose of creating economic opportunity for energy intensive industries engaged in commerce." The only existing geothermal power source in Hawaii is the Puna Geothermal Venture site which is within one mile of our farm.

We moved to this area grow food in a rural and healthy environment. Unfortunately, Puna Geothermal Venture, which is situated next door to agricultural and residential areas, has brought light and noise pollution, and many emergency situation--including during Tropical Storm Iselle when our family and many of our neighbors were sickened by releases by the plant while we were trapped by falling trees on roads and could not evacuate. PGV has been poorly regulated from the start and the neighbors have suffered for it.

We the neighbors of the plant oppose any industrial development next to the plant. Industry should be placed in existing industrial zones, rather than impose it on rural and agricultural areas. It is also a social injustice to expand industrial zones in an underserved, low-income area. Further, it is not wise to expand industry in a rural area with limited roads and access. For example, if hydrogen were produced near the plant, then hydrogen tanker trucks would be on our two-lane neighborhood roads and on the only access point to Hilo. This puts citizens at unnecessary risk. It would be more prudent to place a plant in Hilo or other industrial site near where the hydrogen would be consumed rather than saddle our neighborhood with more noise, light, risk, and pollution.

Placing energy-intensive industry in existing industrial zones also allows any electrical producer to supply power which will be useful as solar and wind continue to reduce the cost of electricity without the safety risks and recurring costs of geothermal power in Hawaii.

We ask for your support in opposing this bill.

Suzanne Wakelin and Paul Kuykendall

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 12:52:25 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sofia H Wilt	self	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a 25 year resident of Puna, I can see no benefit to the people or enviroment of Puna by bringing an industrial park to this rural community. In fact people specifically live here to avoid the common noise and air pollution, hustle and buslte that other areas of the island and mainland have. The increasing desireability to visit Puna for its tourist attractions (and much needed economic boost that is created) - will be ruined by an industrial park that runs counter to the theme of this natural and tranquil area. It is inappropriate, out of context and moreover unnecessary. There are many other safer, cleaner and less expensive sustainable energies available than expanding geothermal.

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 12:54:02 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Regina Miller		Oppose	No

Comments:



Environmental Caucus
of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

January 30, 2018

To Committee on Economic Development and Business
Rep Cindy Evans, Chair
Rep Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

Re: HB 2233 – Hawaii Technology Development Corp - Special Purpose Bonds
For Geothermal Industrial Park
Hearing: Wednesday, January 31, 2018, 10:00 a.m. Room 309

Position: OPPOSE

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii appreciates the opportunity to testify on this bill, which would authorize the Hawaii Technology Development Corp to issue Special Purpose Bonds in an unspecified maximum amount for a Geothermal Industrial Park to be located in the Puna District on Hawaii Island.

The Environmental Caucus OPPOSES this bill. A geothermal development in a highly active volcanic zone, which is what Puna is, is a very risky venture. Investors are not likely to take the risk. Even if they do, there is a great likelihood of financial failure. Even though HRS §206M-11 appears to insulate the State from financial responsibility if the bonds become worthless, this does not look like a good idea from a financial perspective.

More importantly, geothermal developments cause gas leakages, primarily hydrogen sulfide, which is a noxious gas, and not good for the human residents of Puna. We doubt very much that the people of Puna support this proposal, and we do not see that it is either necessary or desirable.

Alan B. Burdick, Chair
Environmental Caucus
Burdick808@gmail.com 486-1018

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 1:27:52 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

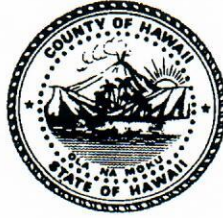
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Whispering Wind	Patients Without Time	Oppose	No

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB2233. Please do not pass.

Eileen O'Hara
Council Member
Council District 4

Chair: Environmental
Management Committee



Phone: (808) 965-2712
Fax: (808) 961-8912
Email: eileen.ohara@hawaiiicounty.gov

Vice Chair: Planning Committee and
Agriculture, Water & Energy
Sustainability Committee

County of Hawaii
Hawaii County Council

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 1402 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

Representative Cindy Evans
Chair, Committee on Economic Development and Business
Hawai'i State House of Representatives

January 30, 2018

**Re: In Opposition of House Bill 2233, from Hawai'i County Council District 4
To be heard by EDB on 01-31-18 10:00AM in House conference room 309**

Aloha Chair Evans and Committee Members:

I'm writing to express my opposition to House Bill 2233, which authorizes the Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation to issue special purpose revenue bonds in its name to finance the costs of a geothermal industrial park near a new or existing geothermal power source for the purpose of creating economic opportunity for energy intensive industries engaged in commerce.

This Bill fails to address many concerns regarding Puna Geothermal Venture in my District. It leaves the surrounding community at risk by excluding an emergency evacuation plan. Real-time air monitoring is not proposed. And finally, any mention of an alert system to warn of venting is not included. These are all important points of concern to the public that this Bill does not include.

Please consider the importance of what is being left out of this Bill, and contact me if you have any questions about my support or knowledge of the subject.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eileen O'Hara".

Eileen O'Hara
Council Member
Council District 4

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 1:49:44 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ursula Snover		Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 1:50:18 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Norris Thomlinson		Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose any expansion of geothermal in Puna. The existing plant has had severely deleterious effects on the health of humans and non humans. The idea of more geothermal, *especially* to power an industrial park, is completely at odds with the character and safety of the community. Please block any attempt to shove this down our throats.

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:18:57 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Clive Cheetham	Koa'e Community Association	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly oppose the passing of this bill. This 'industrial park' does not belong in Puna. I am representing myself and the Koa'e Community Association, of which organization I am the chair.

Mahalo for your consideration

Clive Cheetham

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:24:45 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Linda Payao		Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose the development of an Industrial Park in lower Puna. This area is now the only easily accessible ocean recreation area for the Puna District. It is also some of the most affordable land and housing available, and also currently suffers from a deficient infrastructure. The pollution, noise and additional traffic that an Industrial Park would bring would become a burden that would interfere with and degrade everyday life for residents and any ocean recreation for families or individuals. It would also greatly effect the value of land in the area, as people who purchased land for the peaceful environment would lose land values, while the individuals who propose this Park would see a great increase in their land value to the detriment of their neighbors. I don't consider that acceptable. The questionable development of geothermal energy on an active rift zone should not be further compounded by questionable commercial activities as well. Besides, if homeowners can't obtain homeowners insurance due to their lava zone rating, how can we expect a business to obtain necessary liability insurance that would protect the residents of the area?

Mahalo for your consideration of my concerns.

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:28:58 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vicki Vierra		Oppose	No

Comments:

Nothing could possibly be more inappropriate for Puna than HB2233. Although not specifically mentioned in the bill, Puna is currently the only geothermal site, and has been vehemently opposed since it's inception. Puna rainforests were never the right place to start a geothermal industry.

I realize that the oligarchs have long planned to make Puna 'the Pittsburgh of the Pacific'- against the wishes of the majority of the residents of Puna, as well as it's historical context as one of the island's bread baskets.

"Section 1: The legislature finds and declares that the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds under this Act is in the public interest and for the public health, safety, and general welfare."

Are you kidding me? Did a comedian write the first section?

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:36:47 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cherie Mcarthur	Puna Girl Farms	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am against HB2233 which would create a geothermal industrial park anywhere near the existing geothermal plant. This area is an ag area full of small farms that produce a variety of crops for the local and beyond this community. We choose to live here because of the quiet and beautiful aina.

we live less than 1/2 mile from the existing geothermal plant and chose not to be bought out for both financial and love of the area reasons. We are macadamia farmers and have at least 8 other 4-6 acre macadamia farms around us. We are all commercial farms and important to the island as there is a shortage of macadamias and people who want to farm. We have the background sounds of geothermal and depending on the wind direction , the smells too.

We don't want this expanded or good farmland used for industrial purposes. Farmland needs to be preserved or we will end up like some of our neighbor islands. Please listen to the people of Puna.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



LAUREL A. JOHNSTON
ACTING DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY LAUREL A. JOHNSTON
ACTING DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2233

January 31, 2018
10:00 A.M.
Room 309

RELATING TO SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS FOR A GEOTHERMAL
INDUSTRIAL PARK

House Bill No. 2233 authorizes the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) to issue Special Purpose Revenue Bonds (SPRBs) in its name to finance the costs of a geothermal industrial park near a new or existing geothermal power source for the purpose of creating an economic opportunity for energy-intensive industries engaged in commerce.

The Department has comments on this bill. The HTDC, a public body corporate and politic and an instrumentality and agency of the State, currently has the authority to issue SPRBs pursuant to Section 206M-9, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). Accordingly, all references to "part v, Chapter 39A" should be deleted from the bill because Part V, Chapter 39A refers only to SPRBs issued by the Department of Budget and Finance. The language that should be deleted is specifically at page 1, lines 5-6, and page 2, lines 5-6 and lines 10-11 of the bill.

While the HTDC has the general statutory authority to issue SPRBs for their projects, they will require specific issuance and appropriation authority, such as what is being contemplated in this bill, for any such issuance. In addition, please note that for the issuance of SPRBs, chapter 206M requires, among other things, that the project generate sufficient revenues to pay debt service on the bonds and all other applicable requirements of chapter 206M will need to be satisfied.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:06:45 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rob Guzman		Support	No

Comments:

Geothermal is the cleanest 24/7 energy source possible. Far less impact than even solar. Iceland turned their country around by developing Geothermal and now has about the highest standard of living in the world. In Alaska, residents get paid for the oil that is in that state. There is no reason why Hawaii cannot safely develop geothermal energy enough to not only provide cheap energy to residents, but even pay residents back for this resource, as is done in Alaska. While I'd like HECO/HELCO to have no part in this, and would prefer that the state do this and sell energy at cost to residents, anything that gets us off deadly fossil fuels is better than nothing. Please ignore the false testimony by residents claiming ill health effects from geothermal. These people are living on an active volcano which spews far more toxic gasses daily than the one small geothermal plant has in years. No person has been proved to have become ill from this and there is no higher incidence of such illness among employees who have worked there for years. While nobody wants huge industry near them, there are ways to minimize the sound and light pollution from geothermal development, and this must be ensured in order for it to proceed. Additionally, those nearby should have the chance to be bought out at above market value if any such development occurs. The fact is that opposition to geothermal equals continued dependence on far more toxic burning of diesel sludge, which also helps warm the planet and raise sea level. Continuing to support that is unconscionable.

I am writing in support of this as an epidemiologist who lives in Lower Puna in the direction that trade winds blow from the current PGV.

Robert Guzman, MPH

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:15:27 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kieba Blacklidge		Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha

I live directly behind the Geothermal on Hinalo street. This industrial plant already causes much grief with the stress of it being there, noise level and lack of sleep, and it cuts into my income on my Airbnb as I have had guests leave because of the noise and lights at night and leave me not so favorable reviews. A plant like this should be no where near any homes or housing additions.

please....I beg you not approve this bill which would decrease the quality of life for all of us that live in this mile radius.

Thank you,

Kieba Blacklidge

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:17:55 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tina Floyd		Oppose	No

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE this bill!

I recently moved to lower Leilani Estates, knowing I would be near the PGV geothermal plant. However, I had NO IDEA how loud it can be when its fans are running--like living near an airport with jet engines idling.

The sort of industrial park proposed in this bill DOES NOT BELONG in a rural residential area, full stop. The legislators that introduced this bill should propose it for THEIR OWN DISTRICTS.

I am disabled with a chronic illness. I was exposed to hydrogen sulfide for years when it was open-vented in my former community and I attribute some of my health issues with this long term exposure. To put Puna residents at risk of such exposure--which is not uncommon in industrial operations--would be a travesty and severe disregard for the relaxed rural lifestyle Puna residents chose in moving to this part of the state.

Please vote NO on this bill.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Tina V. Floyd

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:18:56 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lana Olson		Oppose	No

Comments:

House of Representative

The Twenty-Ninth Legislature

Committee on Economic Development & Business

Re: Relating to Special Purpose Revenue Bonds for a Geothermal Industrial Park, H.B. No.2233

NOT IN SUPPORT TO THIS BILL.

It is unfortunate that policy makers who do not live near such hazardous industrial facilities, like Geothermal, continue to propose such preposterous ideas, even though the community that have had to endure the impacts by the only GEOTHERMAL Company in the State of Hawaii, for decades have stood in protest. We all know that to propose any Geothermal project like this, you would need the hottest spot like the rift in Puna, Hawaii. Any other place in the State of Hawaii, you would have to "Frack." Your future plans are obviously another initiative to start all over again.

I am a member of the Pele Defense Fund and will continue to stand on the platform of "Desecration." The disrespect to a "Diety" who has time and time again since 1983 displayed her grace in "mana," and emense power.

Mr. Keohokalole, I would like to address this concern to you. You are Hawaiian. You are our chance to stop this act of disregard. Our families here and afar have great respect for "Pele." She has danced her way thru Puna and have shown what she can do. During the time development was being challenged by community in court for Kaha'ole'a, Puna, "Pu'u O'o was formed and our "Tutu" took the entire estate and continues to flow from that drill pad. Help the rest of your associates know the importance of our culture and practice.

I OPPOSE THIS BILL

Mahalo,

Terri L. Napeahi

Pele Defense Fund

(808) 315-9996

peledefensefund@gmail.com

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 3:27:35 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pua'ena N. Ahn		Oppose	No

Comments:

No. Geothermal is not clean, not sustainable, and an act of desecration of Tutu Pele. Lower Puna does NOT need more geothermal.

LATE

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 4:54:23 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sherri carden		Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill is an abomination to our island and an insult to the residents of lower Puna. I strongly oppose this bill and am apalled that it was introduced by other representatives from this island.

LATE

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 5:34:00 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Springer Kaye	Big Island Invasive Species Committee	Oppose	No

Comments:

This project is in conflict with the Puna Community Development Plan, which has the weight of law in the County of Hawaii. Community members do not support this project or the presence of the Geothermal Plant in the rural district. Mahalo.

LATE

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 6:06:44 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Madsen		Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Geothermal is plagued with problems from the constant grinding to dig new wells, recent earthquakes (with epicenters at the plant itself), use of chemicals contaminating ground water supply, and release of toxic fumes during emergencies to be breathed by nearby residents.

I follow green energy quite closely and UCLA has made emense progress lately in the field of hydrogen. Hydrogen is truly a safe, renewable green energy with ONLY safe outputs (geothermal is not by any stretch of the imagination).

If you do not know what I'm talking about then you are not up-to-date on what real "Green Energy" actually is. Way better technology already exists that in comparison places geothermal energy as unsafe and outdated.

I have recommendations, but unfortunately I do not feel Hawaii is progressive enough or takes green energy serious enough. I have shared my viewpoints elsewhere but not here because unfortunately I feel nothing would actually be done.

Mahalo,

Chris Madsen

LATE

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 6:45:37 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven bradshaw		Oppose	No

Comments:

As a 27 year resident of this island of Hawaii, I strongly, emphatically oppose this measure.

LATE

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 7:21:50 PM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Garris	Self	Oppose	No

Comments:

Input should be sought from Puna residents before state money is wasted on an unwanted industrial park.

LATE

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 4:04:38 AM
Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah L Sterling		Oppose	No

Comments:

Helco has said "given the current renewable energy penetration levels [and] prevailing electricity prices on the Island of Hawaii, [there is] no urgent need for new [geothermal] generation"

My husband and I live a mile away from the current plant in Puna. We are concerned about safety issues and worry that we will not have adequate warning in the event of an issue with the current plant. We have heard warning sirens from the plant, and the plant staff is not transparent about the reasons for the sirens when we have called to learn more.

There is no reason to expand this plant in our neighborhood of quiet residences and small agricultural ventures. The current plant is noisy already, and any additional industrial construction will diminish the quality of life for neighbors, and, could potentially impact our property value. But our main concern is a gas leak or some other accident.

Hawaii should be leading the vanguard in adopting solar and wind energy, not violating the earth with geothermal extraction. If Oahu and Maui need more power or economic growth, then let these islands bear the costs (in terms of safety and quality of life).

LATE

HB-2233

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 5:14:51 AM

Testimony for EDB on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Graham Ellis	Cirque Ohana	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB2233 is an abomination in practical terms as it threatens lower Puna with the nightmare of industrialization that is financially supported by a government apparently disrespectful of Puna's rural values and lifestyles.

The bill proposes to finance "costs of developing a geothermal industrial park near a new or existing geothermal power source". The only known geothermal power source is used by Puna Geothermal Venture, a site that has plagued its agricultural and residential neighbors for decades with repeated upsets and emergencies. Possible additional locations to develop geothermal energy have been sought for years but have not been found.

Hawai'i island electric utility HELCO has said "given the current renewable energy penetration levels [and] prevailing electricity prices on the Island of Hawaii, [there is] no urgent need for new [geothermal] generation". As a practical matter, the bill would lead to unnecessary new geothermal generation and a park for unwanted industrial development.

The bill says the industrial park would create "economic opportunity for energy-intensive industries engaged in commerce". Puna residents do not want an industrial area here. Despite that community preference, the bill includes "the authority to purchase land and exercise the power of eminent domain ... to acquire lands near a geothermal source for the use and expansion of the geothermal industrial park".

Geothermal is an expensive and unsafe energy resource that has only been found in a rural area strongly opposed to industrial development. If the intent is to create economic opportunity for energy-intensive industries, why not develop an industrial park in a more appropriate location (such as Oahu or Maui) with easier and less costly renewable energy resources (such as solar and wind)? HB 2233 would offer a poorly concealed boost for unnecessary, unwanted geothermal development.

Please help preserve and protect the natural rural environment of Puna by strongly opposing misguided HB2233.