



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony in OPPOSITION to SB 3096
Relating to Greenhouse Gases

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Hearing Date: January 31, 2018 Room Number: 224
Time: 1:15 PM

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health respectfully opposes this bill. The bill
3 seeks to amend Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 342B to prohibit the State from
4 discriminating against people who reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

5 The preamble in support of the bill describes potential discrimination against those
6 individuals who choose to disconnect from the electric grid and use alternative methods which
7 reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

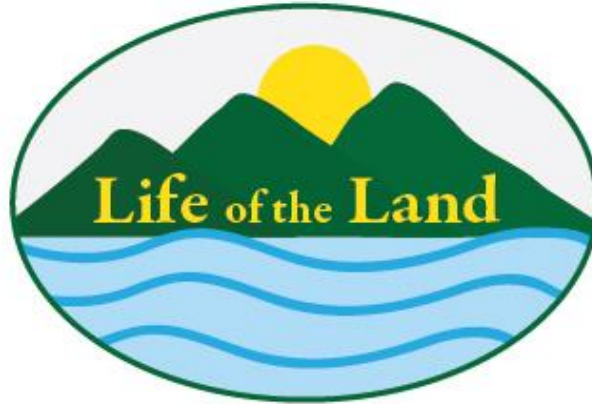
8 HRS Chapter 342B on Air Pollution Control applies equally and indiscriminately to all
9 regulated air emissions sources. It does not prohibit or discourage individuals from reducing
10 greenhouse gases by any means. On the contrary, HRS Chapter 342B, Part VI advocates and
11 requires reductions of greenhouse gas emissions.

12 Chapter 342B solely authorizes the Department to regulate air pollution in the state. It
13 does not authorize the Department to regulate the commercial activities of an electric utility.
14 These activities, such as fees or other requirements related to installing renewable energy
15 systems or disconnecting from the electric grid, are regulated by the Public Utility Commission.
16 The Department's work in regulating air pollution does not take into consideration an
17 individual's connection to, or disconnection from, the electric grid.

18 Chapter 324B is not an appropriate chapter for this proposed statute. Implementation of
19 this bill would redirect Department resources away from our primary purpose of air pollution
20 control toward drafting and processing rule changes which would not change how air emissions
21 are regulated in the state of Hawaii.

22 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

23 **Offered Amendments:** None.



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

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

Wednesday, January 31, 2018

1:15 p.m.

Conference Room 224

SB 3096 RELATING TO GREENHOUSE GASES.

STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, 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.

Each of us, individuals, organizations, churches, legislators, cities, states, and nations, **MUST** individually and collectively reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

Electric utility ratepayers can wait until 2045, assuming the RPS definition is fixed, to get all their electricity from renewable energy resources, mindful that the State definition of renewable energy is broad enough to include some energy sources that have very high carbon/methane emissions.

Or in the near term, ratepayers can install on-site renewable energy and energy storage. If that scares the electric utilities, then they should move faster towards true sustainability.

The State should not take the position that those conscientious entities that take the plunge to lower their greenhouse gas emissions should be discriminated against for leaving the grid.

Mahalo
Henry Curtis
Executive Director

SB-3096

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 9:15:26 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Phil Barnes | | Support | No |

Comments:

The more diverse our energy generation is then the more security is available to the state as a whole in terms of meeting our power needs. Both grid based and individually stored energy sources are needed for a sustainable energy future.

SB-3096

Submitted on: 1/27/2018 12:00:44 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Kat Culina | | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-3096

Submitted on: 1/28/2018 10:58:07 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D. | Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-3096

Submitted on: 1/27/2018 5:17:23 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Richard Reed | | Support | No |

Comments:

In light of the national trend to reduce environmental protections and our commitment to reducing greenhouse gases, the introductory paragraph itself is worth a bill. The action section is valuable to insure equal treatment off-grid investments in clean energy in areas such as State income tax credit. Beyond that it may help prevent social workers from considering off grid power to be less sufficient for the welfare of children or for the worthiness rating of borrowers by lenders.

SB-3096

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 8:29:56 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Joan Gannon | West Hawaii CHC | Support | No |

Comments:

Please prohibit State from discriminating against persons who reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by being off grid.

SB-3096

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 3:28:07 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Melodie Aduja | OCC Legislative Priorities | Support | Yes |

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018
Wednesday, January 31, 2018**

1:15 p.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 224

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 3096, RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

To the Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair; the Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

Good afternoon, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate Bill No. 3096, relating to prohibiting the State from discriminating against persons who reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of Senate Bill No. 3096 and support its passage.

Senate Bill No. 3096, is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it prohibits discrimination against persons who reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Specifically, the DPH Platform states 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 Hawai'i'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 must assess the current condition of our aquifers and take appropriate actions to secure our freshwater 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 adaption measures including coastal retreat, effective participation of indigenous peoples 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. 8, Lines 406-425, 432-439 (2016)).

Given that Senate Bill No. 3096 prohibits the State from discriminating against persons who reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, 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

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Tel.: (808) 258-8889