

**SR-136**

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

To the Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair; the Honorable Will Espero, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee on Transportation and Energy:

Good afternoon. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **SR136 Proposed SD1** relating to Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism ("DBEDT") partnering with the United States Department of Energy to establish an Office of Science National Laboratory in the Kalaeloa community development district pursuant to section 206E-193, H.R.S.

The OCC on Legislative Priorities is in favor of **SR136 Proposed SD1** and supports its passage.

**SR136 Proposed SD1** is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it urges DBEDT to partner with the United States Department of Energy to establish an Office of Science National Laboratory in the Kalaeloa community development district established pursuant to section 206E-193, Hawaii Revised Statutes; (2) DBEDT is to identify lands that can be transferred to the United States Department of Energy for the purpose of establishing an Office of Science National Laboratory in the Kalaeloa community development district; and (3) DBEDT is to report of its progress, challenges, and resource needs in pursuit of establishing an Office of Science National Laboratory to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2019.

The Platform of the DPH provides that "We believe in a government that will adequately, efficiently, courteously, openly, ethically and fairly administer to the needs of the people. (Platform of DPH, P.5, Line 443-448 (2016)).

We support energy independence, self-sufficiency, affordability and reliability for Hawai'i through the development of renewable alternative energy sources. Specifically,

we need to support policies that foster the development of energy production methods that de-emphasize carbon-based fuels and promote renewable sources such as wind, solar, wave, geothermal and Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC).

Electricity rates in Hawaii are among the highest in the nation despite the fact that we enjoy an abundance of sunshine year-round. Electric utility companies and cooperatives must open the grid to alternative power sources including solar panels and geothermal energy. We support the effort of our government officials to require utilities to provide for the maximum, comprehensive, integrated use of renewable energy and associated technologies such as storage and smart grid technologies. 462 (Platform of DPH, P.9, Line 451-462 (2016)).

"We seek to achieve energy sustainability based on renewable energy sources. We must encourage the use of clean alternative fuel sources to include our public transportation systems. We must increase the use of public transit, telecommuting, car and vanpooling, ridesharing, biking, walking, and other forms of transportation thereby reducing traffic congestion and air pollution. We must also urgently develop the use of a variety of cost-effective energy providing systems, encourage transit-oriented development, and support tax incentives that encourage renewable energy initiatives." (Platform of DPH, P.8, Line 443-448 (2016)).

We recognize the necessity of providing a safe, efficient transportation infrastructure. We endorse efforts to promote less reliance on imported fossil fuel and to support energy-efficient methods of transportation. Therefore, we support county, state, and federal efforts to provide more efficient and punctual methods of public transportation, to include but not limited to: sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, bicycle paths and lanes, mass transit, highways, airports, and ferry systems. We support the allocation of resources including public funds to address all necessary transportation issues, including increased funding for mass transit.

We endorse efforts to promote less reliance on the automobile by employing private and public use of alternative modes of travel. We encourage efforts to provide better vehicle and pedestrian safety. In particular, we support initiatives that will provide our state with more fuel-efficient vehicles, affordable mass transit and well-identified bike lanes. In order to be best served by mass transit, we must recognize the importance of the integration in an urban setting of any new modes of mass transportation with existing and future public streets and highways, bike lanes, retail establishments and services, and truly-affordable housing – while maintaining a high degree of open space at ground level in current and all future high-density developments.

We support the development of alternative emergency options for potential evacuation, with special attention to rural areas that only have one access point. (Platform of DPH, P.9, Line 465-483 (2016)).

Given that **SR136 Proposed SD1** requests the City and County of Honolulu, County of Mad, County of Hawaii, and County of Kauai Mayors to submit a plan detailing how each county intends to meet their pledge of eliminating fossil fuels from ground transportation by 2045; and the counties are requested to consider as part of their plan installing electric vehicle charging ports and converting their county's bus fleets to electric buses; and the Director of Health, in the Director's capacity as the Mayor of Kalawao County, is urged to sign the pledge to eliminate fossil fuels from all ground transportation in Kalawao County by 2045, and submit a report detailing how the county plans to eliminate fossil fuels from ground transportation by 2045, it is the position of the OCC on Legislative Priorities to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC on Legislative Priorities

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