



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented to the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 10:35 a.m.

By
Richard Rocheleau, Director
Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute
And
Michael Bruno, PhD
Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2547 SD1 – RELATING TO REWEWABLE ENERGY

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee:

The Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute (HNEI) supports this bill, provided that its passage does not impact the priorities as set forth by the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents Approved Budget. HNEI also provides the following comments.

SB 2547 SD1 would require HNEI to conduct a feasibility study on the State's ability to achieve its renewable energy goals by 2045.

HNEI has a history of supporting the Hawai'i PUC, conducting independent analysis to provide perspective and insight into some of the decisions the PUC must make. As part of that support, HNEI has conducted analyses and assessments to inform the PUC's evaluation of the renewable portfolio standards, most recently in supporting the report that was submitted by the PUC to the 2019 Legislature. This report, required every five years under HRS Section 269-95, includes assessments of the effectiveness and achievability of the RPS targets. The 2019 report found that achieving the 2020 target was very likely, and the 2030 target likely based on current utility plans. The report also stated that it was not possible to determine the achievability of the 2040 and 2045 targets due to several uncertainties (See report excerpt on the following page of this testimony).

It has been approximately 15 months since the latest PUC RPS report. While there has been substantial development by the utility toward the 2030 goals, HNEI believes that many of the uncertainties described in the report have not become certain. A more forward looking study, as contemplated by this bill, is important to fully evaluate the key uncertainties whose resolution could significantly impact the achievability of meeting the longer-term RPS targets and identify potential steps for their resolution.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provides comment on SB 2547 SD1.

- From PUC Report to the 2019 Legislature on Hawaii's Renewable Portfolio Standards (p. 11):

The achievability of the 2020 and 2030 RPS is dependent on several utility-scale renewable energy projects at identified sites that have been approved or are under construction. While uncertainty remains regarding whether many of the proposed projects will ultimately reach commercial operations, each being subject to several contingencies, including obtaining necessary permits, approvals by the Commission, and successful financing and project implementation.

Achievability of the 2040 and 2045 RPS is not possible to determine with certainty at this time for several reasons including:

- The long timeframe presents uncertainties regarding the amount of growth in electricity demand. Since the RPS requirements are expressed in terms of percentages of electricity sales, the amount of required renewable resources depends on uncertain future economic trends.
- Since the RPS percentage requirements are significantly higher for 2040 (70%) and 2045 (100%), the ability of the utility systems to accommodate increasing proportions of variable utility-scale generation and distributed generation becomes an increasingly important consideration.
- Achievement of the longer-term RPS depends, in part, upon development of renewable resources that are not currently proposed, known, or sited.
- Community acceptance regarding the siting of renewable energy resources and the potential impacts of unforeseen technological advancements are also key uncertainties in determining 2040 and 2045 RPS achievability.

An effort is made in this Report to make reasonable considerations regarding incorporation of renewable generation on each utility system. This Report does not, however, attempt to resolve these uncertainties. Several significant challenges in achieving the longer-term RPS requirements are discussed in a later section of this Report.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LT. GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310
P.O. BOX 541
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
Phone Number: 586-2850
Fax Number: 586-2856
cca.hawaii.gov

CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, February 27, 2020
10:35 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 2547, S.D. 1, RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dean Nishina, and I am the Executive Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Division of Consumer Advocacy. The Department appreciates the intent of and offers comments on this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to require the Hawaii Natural Energy Institute (HNEI) to conduct a feasibility study on the State's ability to achieve its renewable energy goals by 2045.

Significant progress has been made since the adoption of the Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS). In 2018, reported compliance with the RPS was 26.7% by the Hawaiian Electric Companies and 43.5% by Kauai Island Utility Cooperative. The Department and the Public Utilities Commission (PUC or Commission) continue to seek to achieve the State's goal of achieving 100% renewable energy by 2045. As part of its work with the Commission and utility companies, the Department evaluates the

progress being made and the potential to achieve the 100% goal, while helping to ensure that bills remain affordable for consumers. The Department notes that, consistent with the statutory requirements of Hawaii Revised Statutes section 269-95, the Commission regularly engages the HNEI to provide findings and recommendations on numerous items, including: (1) the ability of the utility companies to achieve the RPS in a cost-effective manner; and (2) projected standards that should be set five to ten years into the future. In that study, which is funded by the PUC special fund, the Commission must also report on factors such as: (1) the impact on customer rates; (2) utility system reliability and stability; (3) effects on the economy; (4) climate change policies; and (5) cost of fossil fuel volatility.

Given that the Commission is already required to produce the study described above once every five years,¹ it appears that the need for the HNEI to conduct a similar study may be duplicative. Instead, it might be more efficient for the HNEI to incorporate the task of estimating the percentage of compliance that is achievable by December 31, 2045, as part of the report that is supposed to be made by the Commission once every five years. Given changes in technology and the electric industry, as well as various uncertainties that are likely to persist, any HNEI estimate regarding the possible state of each of Hawaii's electric systems in 2045 will likely incorporate many significant assumptions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

¹ The last study was filed with the Legislature in December 2018. Reports filed by the Commission with the Legislature is available at: <http://puc.hawaii.gov/reports/legislature/>.



**Hawaiian
Electric**

**TESTIMONY BEFORE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS**

S.B. 2547, SD1

Relating to Renewable Energy

Thursday, February 27, 2020
10:35 AM, Agenda Item #11
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Chris Lau
Manager, Corporate Energy Planning
Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Chris Lau and I am testifying on behalf of Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc. (Hawaiian Electric) **in support of S.B. 2547, SD1**, Relating to Renewable Energy. The bill requires the Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute (HNEI) to conduct a feasibility study on the State's ability to achieve the 100 percent renewable energy goal by 2045.

Hawaiian Electric supports a study to raise awareness of the energy policy issues that need to be addressed in order to meet the State's renewable portfolio standards (RPS). Although HNEI reports on the RPS every five years¹, pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes § 269-95, the study proposed by S.B. 2547, SD1 can address additional issues outside of the scope of HNEI's current reporting. The study can identify potential hurdles that may hinder achievement of the RPS as well as define the required actions by specific stakeholders and the timeliness needed to overcome these

¹ https://puc.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/RPS-2018-Legislative-Report_FINAL.pdf

hurdles. Key policies that need to be revised or enacted to support RPS achievement as well as the costs and consequences of doing so can be examined so that all stakeholders that are impacted by the RPS can be informed. The study can also examine whether adopting alternative goals to 100 percent RPS such as a statewide decarbonization goal is preferable.

Hawaiian Electric remains committed to achieving the RPS goals of 100 percent by 2045 and getting off fossil fuels, but recognizes that achievement of this goal will require the collaborative efforts of many stakeholders. The entire state of Hawai'i, including policy makers, agencies, the judiciary, utilities, landowners, and communities must be aligned and work together to ensure this goal is achieved.

Accordingly, the Hawaiian Electric Companies support S.B. 2547, SD1 in its current form. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
Thursday, February 27, 2020 — 10:35 a.m. — Room 211

Ulupono Initiative supports the intent of SB 2547 SD 1, Relating to Renewable Energy.

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

My name is Amy Hennessey, and I am the Senior Vice President of Communications & External Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve our community's quality of life by creating more locally produced food; increasing affordable clean renewable energy and transportation options; and better managing waste and fresh water resources.

Ulupono supports the intent of SB 2547 SD 1, which requires the Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute to conduct a feasibility study on the State's ability to achieve its renewable energy goals by 2045.

Ulupono supports this bill as it attempts to identify the way in which the State will achieve its renewable energy goals by 2045. We would like to note that the State should consider having the Hawai'i State Energy Office oversee HNEI's work on the study to ensure the expected connection between the research entity and the agency responsible for that sector.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Amy Hennessey, APR
Senior Vice President, Communications & External Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



183 Pinana St., Kailua, HI 96734 • 808-262-1285 • info@350Hawaii.org

To: The Senate Committee on Ways and Means
From: Brodie Lockard, Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Thursday, February 27, 2020, 10:35 am

In strong support of SB 2547 SD1

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, and members:

350Hawaii.org's 6,000 members strongly support SB 2547 SD1.

We certainly need a feasibility study on the State's ability to achieve its renewable energy goals by 2045. Five years passing before anyone noticed that *we have no plan* demonstrates clearly how low a priority the RPS has been for the lege.

The study will surely find how much needs to be done and how far behind we are in planning and reaching 100% clean energy.

We can certainly reach a goal of 2045 *if legislators have the political will to do so.*

But the goal should be 100% by 2030. *And we can reach that if we take immediate action.* It is abundantly clear that 2045 is far, far too late to address the climate chaos that gets worse every day. And we are extremely short on time.

Unprecedented hurricanes, heat waves, rain bombs, floods, wildfires, droughts. and other monthly catastrophes make it clear that every level of government, everywhere, needs to act like the climate is an emergency. Because it is. And we have a decade before it's too late.

Last year, for example, towns and cities in Hawaii set or tied 270 record hot days. 270 in one year. Two weeks ago, a "bomb cyclone" caused 100-foot waves. In Britain.

We can still avoid some of the Climate Crisis's most cataclysmic effects. But only if we act immediately, and with enormous resolve.

Pass this. Watch the reports and disasters get worse. Then next year, pass laws that will get us to 100% by 2030. That will leave us eight years to take real action.

Brodie Lockard
Founder, 350Hawaii.org

LATE

SB-2547-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 5:07:27 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/27/2020 10:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Climate Protector	Testifying for Climate Protectors Coalition	Comments	No

Comments:

A feasibility study is a great idea, but don't wait until 2045, which is far too late! Please amend this bill to require the study by 2030 instead and pass that amended bill. Mahalo!

SB-2547-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 4:45:10 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/27/2020 10:35:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Overton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Eric Overton

Date: Thursday, February 27, 2020, 10:35 am

In strong support of SB 2547 SD1

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, and members:

As one of 350Hawaii.org's 6,000 members, I strongly support SB 2547 SD1.

We certainly need a feasibility study on the State's ability to achieve its renewable energy goals by 2045. Five years passing before anyone noticed that ***we have no plan*** demonstrates clearly how low a priority the RPS has been for the lege.

The study will surely find how much needs to be done and how far behind we are in planning and reaching 100% clean energy.

We can certainly reach a goal of 2045 ***if legislators have the political will to do so.***

But the goal should be 100% by 2030. ***And we can reach that if we take immediate action.*** It is abundantly clear that 2045 is far, far too late to address the climate chaos that gets worse every day. And we are extremely short on time.

Unprecedented hurricanes, heat waves, rain bombs, floods, wildfires, droughts, and other monthly catastrophes make it clear that every level of government, everywhere, needs to act like the climate is an emergency. Because it is. And we have a decade before it's too late.

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Pass this. Watch the reports and disasters get worse. Then next year, pass laws that will get us to 100% by 2030. That will leave us eight years to take real action.

Eric Overton

SB-2547-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 5:03:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/27/2020 10:35:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margaret A Clark	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support.

LATE

SB-2547-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 6:34:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/27/2020 10:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roseann Michaud	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As one of 350Hawaii.org's 6,000 members, I strongly support SB 2547 SD1.

We certainly need a feasibility study on the State's ability to achieve its renewable energy goals by 2045. Five years passing before anyone noticed that **we have no plan** demonstrates clearly how low a priority the RPS has been for the legislature.

The study will surely find how much needs to be done and how far behind we are in planning and reaching 100% clean energy.

We can certainly reach a goal of 2045 **if legislators have the political will to do so.**

But the goal should be 100% by 2030. **And we can reach that if we take immediate action.** It is abundantly clear that 2045 is far, far too late to address the climate chaos that gets worse every day. And we are extremely short on time.

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Pass this. Watch the reports and disasters get worse. Then next year, pass laws that will get us to 100% by 2030. That will leave us eight years to take real action.

Roseann Michaud

SB-2547-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 6:58:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/27/2020 10:35:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

I am writing in support of SB 2547 SD1.

The study will surely find how much needs to be done and how far behind we are in planning and reaching 100% clean energy.

We can certainly reach a goal of 2045 ***if legislators have the political will to do so.***

But the goal should be 100% by 2030. Hawaii needs to be ambitious and idealistic when addressing climate change - your youth deserve a hopeful future.

Please pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

SB-2547-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 7:06:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/27/2020 10:35:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leilani M Angel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, and members:

As one of 350Hawaii.org's 6,000 members, I strongly support SB 2547 SD1.

We certainly need a feasibility study on the State's ability to achieve its renewable energy goals by 2045. Five years passing before anyone noticed that ***we have no plan*** demonstrates clearly how low a priority the RPS has been for the lege.

The study will surely find how much needs to be done and how far behind we are in planning and reaching 100% clean energy.

We can certainly reach a goal of 2045 ***if legislators have the political will to do so.***

But the goal should be 100% by 2030. ***And we can reach that if we take immediate action.*** It is abundantly clear that 2045 is far, far too late to address the climate chaos that gets worse every day. And we are extremely short on time.

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Last year, for example, towns and cities in Hawaii set or tied 270 record hot days. 270 in one year. Two weeks ago, a "bomb cyclone" caused 100-foot waves. In Britain.

We can still avoid some of the Climate Crisis's most cataclysmic effects. But only if we act immediately, and with enormous resolve.

Pass this. Watch the reports and disasters get worse. Then next year, pass laws that will get us to 100% by 2030. That will leave us eight years to take real action.

Sincerely,

Leilani Angel

LATE

SB-2547-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 7:28:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/27/2020 10:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Grandinetti	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need solid plans to address climate change and reach our goal of 100% clean energy.

SB-2547-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 8:32:50 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/27/2020 10:35:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
katherine kazlauskas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In strong support of SB 2547 SD1

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, and members:

As one of 350Hawaii.org's 6,000 members, I strongly support SB 2547 SD1.

We certainly need a feasibility study on the State's ability to achieve its renewable energy goals by 2045. Five years passing before anyone noticed that ***we have no plan*** demonstrates clearly how low a priority the RPS has been for the lege.

The study will surely find how much needs to be done and how far behind we are in planning and reaching 100% clean energy.

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Pass this. Watch the reports and disasters get worse. Then next year, pass laws that will get us to 100% by 2030. That will leave us eight years to take real action.

Mahalo!

Katherine Kazlauskas

SB-2547-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 8:59:13 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/27/2020 10:35:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Camp	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Obviously we need a plan to know if we can achieve Hawaii's renewable energy goals by 2045.

SB-2547-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 9:06:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/27/2020 10:35:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lynn Aaberg	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members,

I am a member of 350Hawaii.org, strongly supporting this bill. We need to do everything we can to reduce greenhouse emissions, before it is too late for the children of the world, and we need to do it soon. A feasibility study will lead to a plan, and goals, and action.

Mahalo,

Lynn Aaberg

SB-2547-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 9:18:59 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/27/2020 10:35:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

From: Tlaloc Tokuda

Date: Thursday, February 27, 2020, 10:35 am

In strong support of SB 2547 SD1

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, and members:

As one of 350Hawaii.org's 6,000 members, I strongly support SB 2547 SD1.

We certainly need a feasibility study on the State's ability to achieve its renewable energy goals by 2045. Five years passing before anyone noticed that ***we have no plan*** demonstrates clearly how low a priority the RPS has been for the lege.

The study will surely find how much needs to be done and how far behind we are in planning and reaching 100% clean energy.

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Tlaloc Tokuda

Kailua Kona, HI 96740

SB-2547-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 9:59:54 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/27/2020 10:35:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christian Palmer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Senate Committee on Ways and Means
From: Christian Palmer

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

In strong support of SB 2547 SD1

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, and members:

I am writing to express my support for SB 2547 SD1. We need to achieve net-zero carbon in Hawaii and we need to know if that is achievable and what strategies we need to get there. This bill, by requiring a feasibility study will give us the information we need to develop a concrete plan to achieve the carbon zero by 2045 goal already established by the state of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Christian Palmer

SB-2547-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 10:10:38 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/27/2020 10:35:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
phyllis fong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-2547-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2020 5:04:14 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/27/2020 10:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, and members:

As one of 350Hawaii.org's 6,000 members, I strongly support SB 2547 SD1.

We certainly need a feasibility study on the State's ability to achieve its renewable energy goals by 2045. Five years passing before anyone noticed that ***we have no plan*** demonstrates clearly how low a priority the RPS has been for the lege.

The study will surely find how much needs to be done and how far behind we are in planning and reaching 100% clean energy.

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Pass this. Watch the reports and disasters get worse. Then next year, pass laws that will get us to 100% by 2030. That will leave us eight years to take real action.

me ke aloha 'Ä• ina,

Nanea Lo

SB-2547-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2020 7:06:30 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/27/2020 10:35:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keith Neal	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TESTIMONY BEFORE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

SB2547 SD1 - RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.

Thursday, February 27, 2020 10:35 AM, Agenda Item #19 State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, and members:

I support SB2547 SD1.

Hawaii's 100% renewable energy goal is a worthy endeavor. However, there must be a detailed plan with interim targets to be achieved.

Moreover, with most initiatives, achieving the last 20% often takes 80% of the effort. The state needs a detailed roadmap to act on now.

Sincerely,

Keith Neal

98743

SB-2547-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2020 8:15:27 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/27/2020 10:35:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gary Miller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Although it is a great concept to have a goal to reach 100 percent renewable energy, it will not be attainable if we have no plan on how to reach it.

We definitely need a feasibility study on the State's ability to achieve its renewable energy goals by 2045 if not sooner. Five years have passed before anyone noticed that ***we have no plan!!***

Please make this a priority so we can move forward to a cleaner/renewable future.

Thank you for your consideration of this important topic.

Gary Miller

LATE

SB-2547-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2020 8:30:07 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/27/2020 10:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	No

Comments: