



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LT. GOVERNOR

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

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Thursday, April 1, 2021
9:40 a.m.
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
H.B. 561, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, RELATING TO ENERGY**

Chair Baker 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 supports this bill.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) require the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) to determine whether analysis of the effect of the State's reliance on fossil fuels is necessary for proceedings involving water, wastewater, or telecommunications providers on an individual basis; and (2) provide that the analysis is not required for an electric or a gas utility's routine system replacements or determinations that do not directly pertain to capital improvements or operations, such as financing requests.

The Department recognizes the negative impact that price volatility of fossil fuels has on consumers and the negative impact of greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel use on our environment. Thus, examining the impacts of fossil fuel use by utilities, including water and wastewater utilities and telecommunications providers, is

necessary, and this analysis could be extended to water carriers that the Commission regulates under Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) chapter 271G.

The Department notes that S.D. 1's amendments to section 2, subsection (b) on page 2, lines 6 and 15, may narrow the scope of analysis to only "fossil fuel sourced electricity or gas" system capital improvements and operations. This may have unintended consequences, such as greenhouse gas emissions analyses not being required when evaluating wood or biomass burning projects and renewable energy projects that seek to tie energy payments to the price of oil being permitted, to name two examples. If this potential narrowing of scope is unintended, the Department suggests retaining the language from H.D. 2 that reads: ". . . reasonableness of costs [of] pertaining to electric or gas utility system capital improvements. . . ."

The Department appreciates how subsection (c) on page 3, lines 1 through 6, clarifies that the Commission is not required to conduct greenhouse gas analyses in applications related to utility operations, such as financing or routine matters. However, the Department suggests amending subsection (c) to read: "The analysis described in subsection (b) shall not be required for ~~[an electric or a gas]~~ a utility's routine system replacements, . . ." to make clear that the exemption also applies to water, wastewater, and telecommunications providers. This would improve administrative processes for the Commission, the Department, and all utilities when dealing with routine applications that do not require an analysis under HRS section 269-6.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

TESTIMONY OF
JAMES P. GRIFFIN, Ph.D.
CHAIR, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
STATE OF HAWAII

TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

April 1, 2021
9:40 a.m.

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

MEASURE: H.B. No. 561 HD2 SD1

TITLE: RELATING TO ENERGY.

DESCRIPTION: Requires the public utilities commission to determine whether analysis of the effect of the State's reliance on fossil fuels is necessary for proceedings involving water, wastewater, or telecommunications providers on an individual basis. Provides that the analysis is not required for an electric or a gas utility's routine system replacements or determinations that do not pertain to capital improvements or operations. (SD1)

POSITION:

The Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") supports this measure and offers the following comments for consideration.

COMMENTS:

The Commission is supportive of this measure's intent to provide greater clarity and flexibility to the Commission with regard to the applicability of these provisions to different industries and types of requests made by public utilities.

The changes proposed in this measure would eliminate the requirement for the Commission to conduct certain analyses when these analyses are not relevant to the decisions at hand. This would allow the Commission to utilize its resources more efficiently, without compromising the statutory intent.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Testimony to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Thursday, April 1, 2021

9:40 AM

VIA Video Conference

Conference Room 229, Hawaii State Capitol

HB 561 HD2 SD1

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the committee,

Hawaii Gas **supports** HB 561 HD2 SD1, which requires the public utilities commission to determine whether analysis of the effect of the State's reliance on fossil fuels is necessary for proceedings involving water, wastewater, or telecommunications providers on an individual basis. It also provides that the analysis is not required for an electric or gas utility's routine system replacements or determinations that do not directly pertain to capital improvements or operations.

This bill allows the public utilities commission to not require analysis described in section (b) that does not pertain to capital improvements or operations. Because this analysis is not relevant in many circumstances, it should therefore be done only when appropriate.

Please pass this bill unamended.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

April 1, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Re: HB561, HD2, SD1 RELATING TO ENERGY

Hearing: Thursday, April 1, 2021, 9:40 a.m., Room 229 via videoconference

Position: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i and its Natural Resources Committee and Human Environmental Impacts Committee supports HB 561, HD2, and requests this Committee amend HB561, HD2, SD1 back to HB561, HD2 and disregard the SD1 amendments. HB561, HD2 requires the public utilities commission to determine whether analysis of the effect of the State's reliance on fossil fuels is necessary for proceedings involving water, wastewater, or telecommunications providers on an individual basis. It provides that the analysis is not required for an electric or a gas utility's routine system replacements or determinations that do not pertain to capital improvements or operations. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD2)

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i (Party) has adopted at its 2018 State Convention, clear safeguards to protect the *'āina* through combating climate change by eliminating fossil fuels through electrification. At page 18 of the Party Platform, it specifically provides:

“We are committed to getting 100 percent of our electricity from clean energy sources within a decade. . . . We will transform Hawai'i's transportation by reducing fossil fuel consumption through cleaner fuels, vehicle electrification, and increasing the fuel efficiency of cars, boilers, ships, and trucks. We will make new investments in public transportation and build bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure across our urban and suburban areas. . . .

Democrats are committed to defending, implementing and extending smart pollution and efficiency standards and fuel economy standards for automobiles and heavy-duty vehicles, building codes and appliance standards. We are also committed to expanding clean energy research and development.



April 1, 2021

Page 2

We will work to expand access to cost-saving renewable energy by low-income households, create good-paying jobs in communities that struggled with energy poverty, and oppose efforts by utilities to limit consumer choice or slow clean energy deployment. We will streamline State permitting to accelerate the construction of new transmission lines to get low-cost renewable energy to market, and incentivize wind, solar, and other renewable energy.

While this bill appears to be supported by the 2018 Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform, we urge this Committee to pass HB 561, HD2 and to disregard the amendments contained in SD1. HB561, HD2 requires the public utilities commission to determine whether analysis of the effect of the State's reliance on fossil fuels is necessary for proceedings involving water, wastewater, or telecommunications providers on an individual basis. It provides that the analysis is not required for an electric or a gas utility's routine system replacements or determinations that do not pertain to capital improvements or operations. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD2)

Please revert back and pass HB561 HD2, which is an important and overdue legislation.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

Respectfully yours,

Alan B. Burdick
Co-Chair, Environmental Caucus
Co-Chair, Natural Resources Committee
Democratic Party of Hawai'i
Email: burdick808@gmail.com

Melodie R. Aduja
Co-Chair, Environmental Caucus
Co-Chair, Human Environmental Impacts Committee
Democratic Party of Hawai'i
Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com



March 312, 2021

Senator Roslyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Support of HB 561, HD2, SD1 RELATING TO ENERGY (Requires the public utilities commission to determine whether analysis of the effect of the State's reliance on fossil fuels is necessary for proceedings involving water, wastewater, or telecommunications providers on an individual basis. Provides that the analysis is not required for an electric or a gas utility's routine system replacements or determinations that do not pertain to capital improvements or operations. [SD1])

Thursday, April 1, 2021, at 9:40 a.m., Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers, and utility companies. LURF's mission is to research, educate, and advocate for reasonable, rational, and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **support of HB 561, HD2, SD1.**

HB 561, HD2, SD1. The purpose of this measure is to support the State's effort to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels by supporting energy efficiency and renewable energy. This measure requires the Public Utilities Commission to determine, on a case by case basis, whether the reliance on fossil fuels has an effect on the volatility of fossil fuel prices for additional types of utilities, including water, wastewater, and telecommunications.

LURF's Position. The Commission makes determinations on the reasonableness of the costs of utility system capital improvements and operations; however, this analysis may not be relevant in certain proceedings for certain providers and, therefore, this analysis should be conducted only when appropriate. This measure provides the Commission with flexibility to better focus its examination efforts on electric or gas utility capital improvements or operations, instead of routine system replacements.

For the reasons stated above, LURF is in **support of HB 561, HD2, SD1**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding this matter.



**Hawaiian
Electric**

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

**H.B. 561, H.D.2, S.D.1
Relating to Energy**
Thursday, April 1, 2021
9:40 am

Brian Hiyane
Managing Counsel
Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Brian Hiyane and I am submitting written testimony on behalf of Hawaiian Electric Company **in support** of H.B. 561, H.D.2, S.D.1.

Hawaiian Electric Company supports H.B. 561, H.D.2, S.D.1 because it will provide clarity to the types of proceedings before the PUC that require additional procedural steps, such as extensive greenhouse gas (GHG) analyses. Subsection (c) of H.B. 561, H.D.2, S.D.1 appropriately seeks to exclude from the scope of HRS § 269-6(b) “routine” system replacements or determinations that do not directly pertain to capital improvements or operations.

Accordingly, Hawaiian Electric supports H.B. 561, H.D.2, S.D.1. Thank you for this opportunity to submit this written testimony.



Testimony to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Thursday, April 1, 2021

9:40 AM

VIA Video Conference

Conference Room 229, Hawaii State Capitol

HB 561 HD2 SD1

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the committee,

Hawaii Clean Power Alliance (HCPA) supports HB 561 SD1, which requires the public utilities commission to determine whether analysis of the effect of the State's reliance on fossil fuels is necessary for proceedings involving water, wastewater, or telecommunications providers on an individual basis. Provides that the analysis is not required for an electric or gas utility's routine system replacements or determinations that do not directly pertain to capital improvements or operations.

Hawaii Clean Power Alliance is a nonprofit alliance organized to advance the development and sustainability of clean energy in Hawaii. Our goal is to support the state's policy goal of 100 percent renewable energy by 2045. We advocate for utility-scale renewable energy, which is critical to meeting the state's clean energy and carbon reduction goals.

HRS 269-6(b) was created by the legislature in 2011 and intended to reduce the State's reliance on fossil fuels through energy efficiency and increased renewable generation. This bill proposes to allow the PUC latitude to focus their analysis and resources on particular utilities and certain matters in order to achieve the state goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frederick Redell".

Frederick Redell, PE

Executive Director

(949) 701-8249

www.hawaiicleanpoweralliance.org



HB-561-SD-1

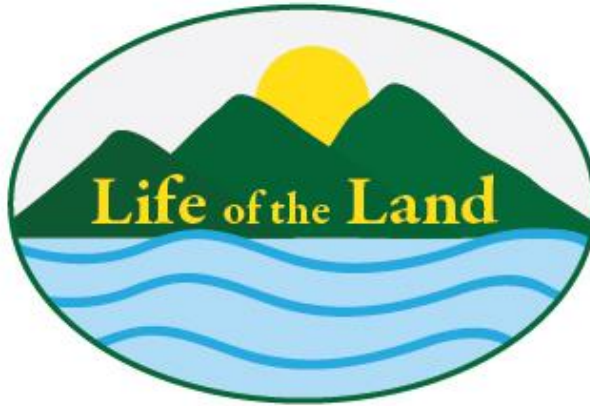
Submitted on: 3/30/2021 11:20:33 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
laurel brier	Testifying for Kauai women's caucus	Comments	No

Comments:

Reinstate HD2 version to include GHG reviews for biomass projects as well as fossil fuel projects. Do not be manipulated by the fraught Hu Honua project. Make the people and the environment the priority.



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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, April 1, 2021

TIME: 9:40 AM

HB 561 Relating to Energy

Please Pass HB 561 HD2

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, 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 51 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.

HB561 was a simple bill that would decrease the Public Utilities Commission's workload while not appreciably impacting the environment or climate change analysis. Replacing a transmission line would not need a full-blown lifecycle greenhouse gas emission analysis. Not would maintenance work on a generator or installing a telecom tower.

One can disagree what impact wildfires and forest-to-electricity facilities have to the planet, but to assert that one should not even look at the issue is less than credible.

Unfortunately, that is what the SD1 version does. It added a preamble to undermine the original intent of HRS §269-6(b) and added a provision that stated that no greenhouse gas analysis should be conducted for projects that convert healthy growing forests into electricity.

Please restore the bill to the HD2 version.

Mahalo
Henry Curtis
Executive Director

HB-561-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 9:14:54 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Culbertson	Testifying for Hawaii Forest Stewards	Comments	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators!

The SD1 version proposes to amend HRS 269-6(b) to state that only fossil fuel-based electricity and gas trigger a GHG review. Not biomass. BIG MISTAKE!

Biomass is not carbon friendly or desirable here on the Hamakua coast.

Please re-instate the HD2 version!

Mahalo!

HB-561-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 11:05:25 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sylvia Dolena	Testifying for PELE LANI FARM LLC	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB561 SD! in its current form.

I will support HB561 HD2. **Please omit SD!** as it is an obvious attempt to favor Hu Honua by eliminating "biomass" from the SD1 version.

It really is unconscionable to put a private foreign corporation over the island's delicate environment.

The SD1 version proposes to amend HRS 269-6(b) to state that only fossil fuel-based electricity and gas trigger a GHG review. **Not biomass.**



SEN. ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SEN. STANLEY CHANG, VICE CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL NO. 561, SD1

Thursday, April 1, 2021, 9:40 a.m.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice-Chair Chang, and Committee Members,

Earthjustice takes no position on HB 561's *original purpose* to grant the Public Utilities Commission discretion to determine whether greenhouse gas emissions analysis is required for water, wastewater, or telecommunications providers. But we ***strongly oppose the proposed SD1 amendments***, which seek to limit the Commission's duties to consider climate change impacts to the use of fossil fuel sources only – and not non-fossil sources that could have comparable or worse climate impacts.

First, excluding non-fossil fuel emissions from the Commission's purview would undermine our state's commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate climate change. As a matter of scientific fact, greenhouse gas emissions come from both fossil and non-fossil based sources, such as biofuels. Some non-fossil sources can pose genuine questions and controversies regarding their true climate benefits or burdens, all of which should be forthrightly examined. The Legislature should not arbitrarily exempt a broad realm of potentially harmful emission sources from Commission review and scrutiny.

Second, the proposed SD1 amendments, thrown in at the last-minute, are particularly egregious given the Hawai'i Supreme Court's recent opinion confirming that biofuels are *not exempt* from the Commission's duties to consider climate change in its decisions. That case is still pending, currently before the Court on another appeal, and the Legislature should not interfere in the process by passing this bill that would clash with the Court's ruling in that case.

Third, requiring the Commission to categorically ignore climate change impacts from non-fossil sources would contradict and subvert the State's public trust duties. Under article XI, section 1 of the Hawai'i Constitution, both the Legislature and the Commission must conserve and protect "all natural resources," including the "air" and atmosphere, for present and future generations. There is no legally valid reason for exempting non-fossil emissions from the equation.

In sum, because the proposed SD1 amendments to HB 561 run in the opposite direction of the State's goals and responsibilities to address climate change, they should be rejected. Mahalo nui for this opportunity to testify. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any further questions or for further information.

Kylie W. Wager Cruz, Esq.

/s/ Kylie W. Wager Cruz _____

Staff Attorney
Earthjustice, Mid-Pacific Office

HB-561-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 8:53:25 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Climate Protectors Hawai'i	Oppose	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair, the Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

From: Climate Protectors Hawai'i

Re: Hearing on HB561 HD2 SD1 **RELATING TO ENERGY**

Hearing Thursday April 1, 2021, 9:40 a.m. by videoconference

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i is a group focused on reversing the climate crisis and encouraging Hawai'i to lead the world towards a safe and sustainable climate and future. **The Climate Protectors Hawai'i OPPOSES the language in SD1 unless it is amended to include biomass (as well as fossil fuels) because of harmful net Greenhouse Gas impacts of burning trees.**

As a tropical island State, Hawai'i will be among the first places harmed by the global climate crisis, with more intense storms, loss of protective coral reefs, food insecurity, and rising sea levels destroying our shorelines. We must do all we can to reduce our carbon footprint and become carbon negative as soon as possible.

Fossil fuels are the leading cause of this climate crisis, but not the sole cause. Burning trees to generate electricity may be even worse than burning coal in terms of greenhouse gas emissions and climate disruption! Trees are renewable, but it is generally NOT carbon neutral to cut them down and burn them for electricity generation. We need to plant trees to sequester carbon, not burn them!

The SD1 Amendment, which restricts the analysis of Greenhouse Gas emissions to Fossil Fuel sourced electricity, may inadvertently lead to increased Greenhouse Gas production. The regrowth of trees over a subsequent 20 to 100 year time frame for re-sequestration of the released Greenhouse Gas is not satisfactory in the face of the current Climate Emergency. The Government of Canada has produced a Bioenergy

Greenhouse Gas Calculator here < <https://apps-scf-cfs.rncan.gc.ca/calc/en/bioenergy-calculator> > which clearly demonstrates that when you factor in fast growing trees, the transport distances of those trees, and the re-sequestration of CO2 by tree regrowth, **burning trees may produce more greenhouse gas accumulation than burning coal. Therefore, tree biomass as a fuel source must be included along with fossil fuels in the consideration by PUC and all authorities in the consideration of the Greenhouse Gas consequences of electricity production.** This consideration should not be limited to just fossil fuels.

The SD1 should be amended as follows in bold:

"(b) The public utilities commission shall consider the need to reduce the State's reliance on fossil fuels through energy efficiency and increased renewable energy generation in exercising its authority and duties under this chapter. In making determinations of the reasonableness of the costs [of] pertaining to fossil fuel **or biomass** sourced electricity or gas utility system capital improvements and operations, the commission shall explicitly consider, quantitatively or qualitatively, the effect of the State's reliance on fossil fuels **and biomass** on:

- (1) [~~price~~] Price volatility[~~;~~];
- (2) [~~export~~] Export of funds for fuel imports[~~;~~];
- (3) [~~fuel~~] Fuel supply reliability risk[~~;~~]; and
- (4) [~~greenhouse~~] Greenhouse gas emissions."

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i would support the bill with these small amendments, but otherwise oppose.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

HB-561-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 10:56:15 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John D. Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I testify in support.

HB-561-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 1:43:17 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dyson Chee	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Please reinstate the HD2 version of HB561, and thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-561-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 1:51:15 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lanny Sinkin	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Please reinstate HD2 version of this bill.

HB-561-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 1:59:49 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Bambara	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Please RE-INSTATE the HD2 version without the added and confusing SD1 languaging!

Sneaking in shady language to try yet another way to not require regulating biomass is hinky! Please Stop!! PLEASE GO BACK TO HD2 version of the bill without the confusing languaging.

Thank you for remembering you're supposed to be representing the PEOPLE and the AINA, not making EGREGIOUS loop holes for biomass.

HB-561-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 3:41:25 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica dos Santos	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

Please re-instate the HD2 version of this bill.

Respectfully,

Jessica dos Santos

HB-561-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 9:43:30 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

I ask that the HD2 version of this bill be re-instated. Mahalo.

HB-561-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 4:58:06 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
claudia rohr	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Legislators- Please reinstate the HD2 version of this Bill amending HRS 269-6(b) and do not exclude biomass burning power plants from the GHG analysis at the PUC.

(1) Cutting biomass, transporting it, moving and storing it requires fuel and without the GHG analysis biomass power plants will not bother to use biofuel for trucking and other equipment and will not hesitate to import biomass using fossil fuel powered ships.

(2) If biomass does not come from waste from managed forests, where the trees are replanted in crop cycles and are primarily used for value added products, biomass burning power plants are releasing once-sequestered carbon into the atmosphere in one puff! For example, the Hu Honua Bioenergy project was proposing to burn five acres of trees a day to power 16,000 homes (or 15% of the Big Island's electricity needs).

(3) Biomass burning power plants are not exempt from GHG analysis and GHG reduction plans under EPA clean air guidelines if the fuel does not come from managed forests so why exclude biomass burning power plants from the GHG analysis in the competitive environment at the PUC?

(4) excluding biomass burning power plants from the PUC's GHG analysis violates constitutional provisions protecting Hawaii citizens' rights to a clean and healthy environment.

Sincerely,

Claudia Rohr, 369 Nene St., Hilo, Hawaii 96720

HB-561-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 7:29:49 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edward Johnston	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Please just re-instate the HD2 version.

Adding SD1 is a bad idea.

HB-561-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 8:22:44 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronald Reilly	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and Members of the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee,

I urge that you re-instate the HD2 version of this bill.

The bill's provisions should NOT apply to only the burning of fossil fuels and gas but should include "biomass" which is not necessarily a source of clean energy.

Biomass must be considered by the PUC in making determinations of the reasonableness of the costs in power generation proposals.

On Hawaii Island the proposed burning of trees by Hu Honua is NOT a road to a clean energy future.

Thank you, Ron Reilly

HB-561-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 8:26:23 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
robert brower	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

this is a well intended Bill. However it needs to be reinstated in the HD2 verion End around tactic to **expempt bio mass burning is unacceptable**

HB-561-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 8:37:41 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM

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

Comments:

Reinstate HD2 version of HB561 do **not** exempt biomass projects from GHG review.
The climate crisis is real and happening NOW.

HB-561-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 5:00:21 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Hunt	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB561 started as a simple bill.

BUT- the bill was amended as HB561 SD1 with an OBVIOUS good ol boy deal/provision for Hu Honua.

The [SD1](#) version added a confusing purpose clause.

The SD1 version proposes to amend HRS 269-6(b) to state that only fossil fuel-based electricity and gas trigger a GHG review. NOT "BIOMAS".

THIS IS A DEVIIOUS, SNEAKY, LAST-MINUTE, CORRUPT special deal for Hu Honua who has simply NOT been able to achieve their goal (PROFIT for the foreign investors at ANY cost).

Hu Honua's history is:

lies,

illegal actions and dumping,

violations,

and their request includes:

POLLUTION (2 to 3 times WORSE than COAL),

and outrageous power costs (double the current KWH cost, increasing to TRIPPLE the cost after a few years).

Hu Honua has simply failed to achieve their greed-head SCAM through legal means.

I am deeply offended by those in office who think it is ok to:

1. put Hu Honua's foreign PROFITS over the legal process that other projects MUST by law, follow.

2. ignore the health & safety of islanders - especially those on the Hamakua and Hilo Coasts.

3. disregard the environmental quality, and quality of life of islanders,

4. create a sneaky, custom-tailored way AROUND the current court case that will LEGALLY determine the future of Hu Honua.

I and my community WILL expose those who vote for this SD1 fiasco (especially those taking "campaign contributions" aka corruption and payoffs.

HB561 SD1 is as bad and underhanded as I have seen from the legislature. SHAME ON YOU!!!

This underhanded, disrespectful, end run around our laws, our courts, the Utilities Commission, and the best interest of residents - all for Hu Honua's (foreign) profits MUST NOT PASS!

DO YOUR JOB. REPRESENT and respect your constituents who put you in office and pay your salaries TO REPRESENT us.

David Hunt, Honoka'a, Hawaii

HB-561-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 1:52:48 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bianca Isaki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please reject amendments in SD1 that confusingly restrict PUC consideration of greenhouse gas emissions to fossil fuel systems. This would allow a plethora of ill-conceived energy projects to evade review.

HB-561-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 5:23:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Hansen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please reinstate HB561 HD2 version of this bill.

It is misleading and wrong to pass as it is!

HB561 was a simple bill but was amended as HB561SD1 with a Hu Honua provision, the proposed power plant which wants to burn trees and BIOMASS. This SD1 version added a confusing purpose clause.

The SD1 version proposes to amend HRS 269-6(b) to state that only fossil fuel-based electricity and gas trigger a GHG review. Not biomass.

"In making determinations of the reasonableness of the costs [of] pertaining to fossil fuel sourced electricity or gas utility system capital improvements and operations, the commission shall explicitly consider, quantitatively or qualitatively, the effect of the State's reliance on fossil fuels on ...greenhouse gas emissions."

Please REINSTATE HD2 version of this bill.

Your consideration is appreciated.

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HB-561-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 6:05:23 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rodger Hansen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Legislators: Please reinstate HB561 HD2 version of this bill.

It is misleading and wrong to pass as it is!

HB561 was a simple bill but was amended as HB561SD1 with a Hu Honua provision, the proposed power plant which wants to burn trees and BIOMASS. This SD1 version added a confusing purpose clause.

The SD1 version proposes to amend HRS 269-6(b) to state that only fossil fuel-based electricity and gas trigger a GHG review. Not biomass.

"In making determinations of the reasonableness of the costs [of] pertaining to fossil fuel sourced electricity or gas utility system capital improvements and operations, the commission shall explicitly consider, quantitatively or qualitatively, the effect of the State's reliance on fossil fuels on ...greenhouse gas emissions."

Please REINSTATE HD2 version of this bill.

Your consideration is appreciated.

Rodger Hansen, Hakalau HI

HB-561-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 7:55:43 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Saturnino Doctor	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I opposed this bill. It seems that preferential treatment can be given to a biomass energy producer. A very slick wording and sleigh of thoughts that masks the real purpose of this Bill. Defer this bill and create a better one that gives every potential energy producer an even field in satisfying consumer cost, environment, water, waste, and public good criteria.

What entity is behind the introduction of this flawed bill?

HB-561-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 11:03:43 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
steve Johnson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators-

please re-instate the HD2 version of this Bill to amend HRS 269-6(b). This version shortsightedly narrows the application of the GHG analysis to fossil fuel sourced electricity and gas utilities and in this manner exempts biomass burning electric generating power plants like Hu Honua Bioenergy.

Biomass burning power plants must be held accountable for the sequestered carbon that they burn, the fossil fuel used to harvest, transport, and store biomass. Hu Honua proposed to burn 5 acres of trees a day without guarantee more trees would be planted.

Please, re-instate the HD2 version and eliminate the reference to fossil fuel sourced electricity and gas utilities to broaden applicability of the PUC's GHG analysis procedures. Stop global warming, and rising seas. Protect the people's right to live in a clean and healthy environment.

Mahalo for you service,

Steve Johnson, Pepeekeo, HI

HB-561-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 5:09:40 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Dean	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Representatives, The language in this bill is too narrow. Although I am strongly in favor of the intent of this bill, the focus on only fossil fuel operations allows other operations that may negatively effect the health and wellbeing of our natural world, to proceed. For example, all biomass electric generation facilities are an environmental disaster. Not only do they lay waste to the world's forests, which are carbon sinks, but they emit massive amounts of carbon right at the very moment when we need to be cutting carbon. If a company like Hu Honua cuts down the forest and burns it, by the time the trees regrow, it will already be too late. According to James Anderson, the Chair of Harvard Atmospheric Chemistry Dept. we have 5 years to turn this around before the damage is unstoppable. The amendment SD1 leaves Hu Honua out of this study. We all want to know the truth, don't we? Reinsert the language on HD 2 that will include the truth about burning wood as well as fossil fuels.

HB-561-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 5:53:04 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah Ward	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB561 was an acceptable bill.

BUT WAIT! SD1 proposes to amend HRS 269-6(b) to state that only fossil fuel-based electricity and gas trigger a GHG review. NOT "BIOMAS".

THIS IS A DEVIIOUS, SNEAKY, LAST-MINUTE, CORRUPT special deal for Hu Honua who has simply NOT been able to achieve their goal (PROFIT for the foreign investors at ANY cost).

Hu Honua's history is: lies, illegal actions and poisoned water dumping, violations, POLLUTION (2 to 3 times WORSE than COAL),and outrageous power costs (double the current KWH cost, increasing to TRIPLE the cost after a few years).

I am OUTRAGED by those in office who think it is ok to:

1. put Hu Honua's foreign PROFITS over the legal process that other projects MUST by law, follow.
2. ignore the health & safety of islanders - especially those on the Hamakua and Hilo Coasts.
3. disregard the environmental quality, and quality of life of islanders,
4. create a sneaky, custom-tailored way AROUND the current court case that will LEGALLY determine the future of Hu Honua.

I and my community WILL expose those who vote for this SD1 fiasco (especially those taking "campaign contributions" aka corruption and payoffs.

HB561 SD1 is as bad and underhanded as I have seen from the legislature. SHAME ON YOU!!!

This underhanded, disrespectful, end run around our laws, our courts, the Utilities Commission, and the best interest of residents - all for Hu Honua's (foreign) profits MUST NOT PASS!

DO YOUR JOB. REPRESENT and respect your constituents who put you in office and pay your salaries TO REPRESENT us.

If you pass this, you will be remembered by voters.

HB-561-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 6:19:50 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nako'olani Warrington	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please reinstate **HD2 version** of HB561.

HB-561-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 6:29:27 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tawn Keeney	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The SD1 Amendment, which restricts the analysis of Greenhouse Gas emissions to Fossil Fuel sourced electricity is dangerous through deleterious potential to increase Greenhouse Gas production. This SD1 Amendment has been placed in this bill surreptitiously in order to benefit the Hu Honua biomass project. It is well known that biomass production of electricity is associated with 1-1/2 x more greenhouse gas emission than burning Coal. The regrowth of trees over a subsequent 20 to 100 year time frame for re-sequestration of the released Greenhouse Gas is not satisfactory in the face of the current Climate Emergency to allow consideration of Biomass as a renewable or carbon neutral resource for electricity generation. The Government of Canada has produced a Bioenergy Greenhouse Gas Calculator here < <https://apps-scf-cfs.rncan.gc.ca/calc/en/bioenergy-calculator> > which clearly demonstrates that factoring in Hu Honua's fast growing trees, and the transport distances of those trees to Hu Honua, and factoring in re-sequestration of CO2 by tree regrowth, that Bioenergy production at Hu Honua will produce more greenhouse gas accumulation than burning Coal for at least 50 years and probably indefinitely. Biomass as a fuel source must be included along with fossil fuels in the consideration by PUC and all authorities of the Greenhouse Gas consequences of electricity production. This consideration cannot be limited to just fossil fuels. This bill must be abandoned or SD1 Amendment removed.

Tawn Keeney MD

HB-561-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 6:55:17 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark A. Koppel	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN STRONG OPPOSITION TO SD1

MARK KOPPEL

UMAUMA, HI

Aloha Honorable Legislators,

This legislation is obviously another ploy from the failed Hu Honua project. Hu Honua not only is based on a false premise, discussed by this bill, but it will produce electricity at FOUR TIMES the cost of solar.

BIOMASS BURNING CAUSES THREE TIMES THE CO2 POLLUTION OF COAL. IT IS ILLEGAL TO EXEMPT IT FROM A BILL THAT STATES THAT HAWAII WILL reduce CO2 emissions.

Hu Honua is nowhere near opening, and someday those who support it will find their reasons exposed.

I agree with all of the following testimony.

You will NOT pass SD1 without causing a lot of trouble for yourselves.

Maahalo

The SD1 Amendment, which restricts the analysis of Greenhouse Gas emissions to Fossil Fuel sourced electricity is dangerous through deleterious potential to increase Greenhouse Gas production. This Amendment has been placed in this bill surreptitiously in order to benefit the Hu Honua biomass project. It is well known that biomass production of electricity is associated with 1-1/2 x more greenhouse gas emission than burning Coal. The regrowth of trees over a subsequent 20 to 100 year time frame for re-sequestration of the released Greenhouse Gas is not satisfactory in the face of the current Climate Emergency to allow consideration of Biomass as a

renewable or carbon neutral resource for electricity generation. The Government of Canada has produced a Bioenergy Greenhouse Gas Calculator here < <https://apps-scf-cfs.mcan.gc.ca/calc/en/bioenergy-calculator> > which clearly demonstrates that factoring in Hu Honua's fast growing trees, and the transport distances of those trees to Hu Honua, and factoring in re-sequestration of CO2 by tree regrowth, that Bioenergy production at Hu Honua will produce more greenhouse gas accumulation than burning Coal for at least 50 years and probably indefinitely. Biomass as a fuel source must be included along with fossil fuels in the consideration by PUC and all authorities in the consideration of the Greenhouse Gas consequences of electricity production. This consideration cannot be limited to just fossil fuels. This bill must be abandoned or the SD1 Amendment removed.

HB-561-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 7:24:07 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeff Mcknight	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Energy production must not cause external damage to our planet. A power plant that burns trees would do that in major respects by increasing the carbon load on the environment. This makes a power plant that burns trees unsustainable, in violation of Hawaii's law requiring governmental actions to promote sustainability and reduce greenhouse emissions. See, e.g., the goal of HRS 226-18(a)(8) to "Support actions that reduce, avoid, or sequester greenhouse gasses in utility, transportation, and individual sector applications." Power plants that burn trees are a monster creator and emitter of greenhouse gases, in direct violation of this goal, which we now realize, as a State and a nation is essential to the survival of our planet. **Burning trees is definitely not carbon neutral.**

Burning wood is remarkably inefficient, even compared to coal. Many cities have curtailed or even banned burning of wood because it creates so much air pollution. Wouldn't solar power with battery back-up be safer and more cost-effective than burning wood?

Since burning trees only becomes carbon neutral after replanted trees reach the same maturity level as those that were burned, a net reduction in carbon emissions from burning burning wood would not be realized, and by that time, it would be too late. According to Bill McKibben, "If you burn a tree you put a lot of carbon into the atmosphere right away trapping heat at precisely the moment that we desperately need to be cooling the Earth. A slowly growing new tree won't suck it all back up until we have broken the back of the climate." Global temperature will have exceeded a 1.5-degree increase resulting in irreparable harm to our fragile ocean ecosystem.

If you truly care about the environment and your constituents then you will oppose this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-561-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 7:38:19 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryan Christopher	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The SD1 amendment needs to be removed from this bill. This is an attempt to give Hu Honua a free pass to pollute our aina. The residents of this island have made it very clear we do not want Hu Honua or their dirty electricity. Its amazing to me that elected officials continue to try and allow them loop holes so they can open.

HB-561-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 7:57:59 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julie Stowell	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please oppose the amended version of HB651. Please re-instate the HD2 version of this Bill to amend HRS 269-6(b). The SD1 version added a confusing purpose clause, to state that only fossil fuel-based electricity and gas trigger a GHG review. Not biomass. This would exempt biomass burning electric generating power plants like Hu Honua Bioenergy.

The biomass that Hu Honua is set up to burn, would cause damage to the air, water, environment. This is not renewable energy, it increases the carbon load and is unsustainable and in violation of Hawaii's own law requiring governmental action to reduce greenhouse emissions. Burning trees is not carbon neutral. Hu Honua would also be using fossil fuels to cut down the trees and in transport, releasing even more toxins into the atmosphere.

Please show us that you truly care about Hawaii and sustainability.

HB-561-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 7:58:28 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherri Thal	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

We have one chance to get this right before it is too late, and our sea levels rise to cover towns, homes, beaches, sacred places, and life as we know it in Hawaii and the world. Our lives depend on slowing Greenhouse Gases and changing the way that we live as humans. Allowing Biomass plants such as Hu Honua/Honua Ola to be in existence is contraindicative to life as these kinds of fuel sources contribute to GHG production and cut down the very trees used to sequester carbon. It is a lose-lose situation and is NEVER a solution to our energy issues. Solar battery storage easily takes the place of Biomass energy. Please oppose this bill, HB561 HD2 SD1 to save the planet and all of its inhabitants.

Mahalo for your time,

Sherri Thal, Kea'au, HI 96749

HB-561-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 8:24:21 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary True	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am strongly opposed to leaving out the word "biomass". I smell the influence of money in this, not protecting the aina or the people's best interests which is what we voted for you to do.

HB-561-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 8:36:02 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Laliberte	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Senators,

I support the passage of this bill in it's original form, **without** the SD1 amendment. Biomass burning creates greenhouse gas emissions, and the administrative sleight of hand to hide this fact is a blatant signal of support for dirty, polluting industries such as Hu Honua, Honual Ola or whatever they call themselves now. Be real, get serious and stop playing around with numbers and words.

It's urgent that you revert the bill back to its original form as outlined in HRS 269-6(b) and pass it as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Laliberte

Hilo, Hawaii

HB-561-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 9:03:09 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Koohan Paik	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Legislators,

I strongly oppose the SD1 version of HB561, which adds the the following clause:

"In making determinations of the reasonableness of the costs [of] pertaining to fossil fuel sourced electricity or gas utility system capital improvements and operations, the commission shall explicitly consider, quantitatively or qualitatively, the effect of the State's reliance on fossil fuels on ...greenhouse gas emissions."

Biomass has been omitted from the current version of the bill, perhaps under the false assumption that biomass is carbon-neutral.

The supposed "carbon neutrality" of biomass is a myth.

In 2010, a group of 90 prominent scientists wrote to Congress explaining that the notion that all biomass results in a 100 percent reduction of carbon emissions is *wrong*. Biomass can reduce carbon dioxide if fast growing crops are grown on otherwise unproductive land; in this case, the regrowth of the plants offsets the carbon produced by the combustion of the crops. But cutting or clearing forests for energy, either to burn trees or to plant energy crops, releases carbon into the atmosphere that would have been sequestered had the trees remained untouched, and the regrowing and thus recapture of carbon can take decades or even a century. Moreover, carbon is emitted in the combustion process, resulting in a net increase of CO2. (source: <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/90-scientists-urge-congress-not-to-cook-the-books-in-co2-accounting-for-biofuels-other-bioenergy-sources-94741714.html>)

Please side with Mother Earth and reinstate the HD2 version of HB561, which correctly recognizes biomass as a culprit in releasing carbon into the atmosphere.

Thank you,

Koohan Paik-Mander

LATE

HB-561-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 9:58:43 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Megan Lamson Leatherman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha esteemed Senators,

Please reinstate the previous iteration of this house bill (HB561), the house draft 2 (HD2) version. The recent addition of the senate draft 1 (SD1) should be deleted. This new version added a confusing purpose clause that provides a loophole for energy facilities that burn waste, sludge, or biomass.

The SD1 version proposes to amend HRS 269-6(b) to state that only fossil fuel-based electricity and gas trigger a green house gas (GHG) emissions review. This is inappropriate and needs to be changed immediately.

Other facilities, like the proposed biomass (read: tree burning) company in HÅ• mÄ• kua are indeed producing or proposing to produce electricity that may be considered by some as "renewal" but that's if and only if you ignore some of the many byproducts of running such a facility. By products like greenhouse gas emissions that would be sky high and cross-cuttingly detrimental to our people, our planet, and in particular, our coral reefs.

As a marine biologist, working to restore our coastal and nearshore ecosystems over the past 15 years... I have seen firsthand the impacts of climate change on our corals and coastal ecosystems, including wetlands, fishpond and anchialine pools. We are in a climate crisis (!) and must act now with pono legislation, and truly renewable and environmentally-friendly energy developments from here on forward. Please scrap SD1 from house bill 561. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Me ke aloha,

Megan Lamson Leatherman, M.S.

Honalo, HI

HB-561-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 10:23:23 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christine Heath	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please reinstate the HD2 version.

LATE

HB-561-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 10:27:51 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Hershey	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Legislators,

I strongly oppose the SD1 version of HB561, which adds the the following clause:

"In making determinations of the reasonableness of the costs [of] pertaining to fossil fuel sourced electricity or gas utility system capital improvements and operations, the commission shall explicitly consider, quantitatively or qualitatively, the effect of the State's reliance on fossil fuels on ...greenhouse gas emissions."

Biomass has been omitted from the current version of the bill, perhaps under the false assumption that biomass is carbon-neutral.

The supposed "carbon neutrality" of biomass is a myth.

In 2010, a group of 90 prominent scientists wrote to Congress explaining that the notion that all biomass results in a 100 percent reduction of carbon emissions is *wrong*. Biomass can reduce carbon dioxide if fast growing crops are grown on otherwise unproductive land; in this case, the regrowth of the plants offsets the carbon produced by the combustion of the crops. But cutting or clearing forests for energy, either to burn trees or to plant energy crops, releases carbon into the atmosphere that would have been sequestered had the trees remained untouched, and the regrowing and thus recapture of carbon can take decades or even a century. Moreover, carbon is emitted in the combustion process, resulting in a net increase of CO2. (source:

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/90-scientists-urge-congress-not-to-cook-the-books-in-co2-accounting-for-biofuels-other-bioenergy-sources-94741714.html>)

Please side with Mother Earth and reinstate the HD2 version of HB561, which correctly recognizes biomass as a culprit in releasing carbon into the atmosphere.

Thank you, Barbara Hershey

HB-561-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 10:39:03 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carl J. Berg	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose the changes to this bill.

Pleae reinstate the previous iteration of HB561 HD2

The SD1 version proposes to amend HRS 269-6(b) to state that only fossil fuel-based electricity and gas trigger a green house gas (GHG) emissions review. This is inappropriate and needs to be changed immediately. Biomass facilities also produce significang GHG that is NOT matched by planting new trees.

HB-561-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 11:03:44 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nedi McKnight	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Legislators,

I strongly oppose the SD1 version of HB561, which adds the the following clause:

"In making determinations of the reasonableness of the costs [of] pertaining to fossil fuel sourced electricity or gas utility system capital improvements and operations, the commission shall explicitly consider, quantitatively or qualitatively, the effect of the State's reliance on fossil fuels on ...greenhouse gas emissions."

Biomass has been omitted from the current version of the bill, perhaps under the false assumption that biomass is carbon-neutral.

The supposed "carbon neutrality" of biomass is a myth.

In 2010, a group of 90 prominent scientists wrote to Congress explaining that the notion that all biomass results in a 100 percent reduction of carbon emissions is *wrong*. Biomass can reduce carbon dioxide if fast growing crops are grown on otherwise unproductive land; in this case, the regrowth of the plants offsets the carbon produced by the combustion of the crops. But cutting or clearing forests for energy, either to burn trees or to plant energy crops, releases carbon into the atmosphere that would have been sequestered had the trees remained untouched, and the regrowing and thus recapture of carbon can take decades or even a century. Moreover, carbon is emitted in the combustion process, resulting in a net increase of CO2. (source:

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/90-scientists-urge-congress-not-to-cook-the-books-in-co2-accounting-for-biofuels-other-bioenergy-sources-94741714.html>)

Please side with Mother Earth and reinstate the HD2 version of HB561, which correctly recognizes biomass as a culprit in releasing carbon into the atmosphere.

Kind regards,

Nedi McKnight

Pa'auilo

LATE

HB-561-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 1:17:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha CPN Commitee Members,

I support the bill with ammendment. The ammendment is to please re-instate the HD2 version. The SD1 ammendments are very confusing (is that the plan?). The SD1 version should be deleted!

Mahalo for your consideration,

Tlaloc Tokuda

Kailua Kona, HI 96740

HB-561-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 4:15:27 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Harriet Burkholder	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose the SD 1 version of this bill and request that the former version be reinstated. Biomass is not carbon neutral and should be required to conduct a Greenhouse Gas Review, just as fossil-fuel-generated electricity is required to do so.

HB-561-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 8:39:18 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Noel Morin	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Baker, Vice-chair Chang, and members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

I offer comments on HB561 HD2 SD1.

Given the continued escalation of CO2 emissions, the threats posed by the consequent climate crisis on humanity, and our obligation to provide future generations with a sustainable planet, we must be vigilant about any activity that might translate into a net increase in emissions.

This measure makes an ambiguous call for exceptions to the analysis that must be performed when a utility makes adjustments to its systems or operations.

Removing the ambiguity will ensure that we don't inadvertently end up with solutions that increase our emissions. Please consider explicitly declaring situations where a change in the energy source or feedstock as requiring the analysis of greenhouse gas emission impact.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer feedback.

Sincerely,
Noel Morin

HB-561-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 8:31:48 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/1/2021 9:40:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Georgie Fong	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Opposed HB 561 SD1 Please reinstate HD2.

The new verison only requires only requires fossil fuel burning power plants and not BIO MASS to conduct green house gas review.Wood burning releases 1.5 times the amount of carbon released by coal burning plants

Replanting and regrowing new trees cannot replaced the carbon sequesting capacity of mature forest. It takes 30-40 years while burning a mature tree takes MINUTES.So, it in simple math referencing to money. We spending money quickly and generating income very slowly, so the REALITY is be IN DEBT.....THAT DEBT is accelerated CLIMATE WARMING !!!

Please reinstate HD2 version HB561

Mahalo