



# HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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Testimony of  
**SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer**

before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Thursday, March 17, 2022  
9:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

**COMMENTS  
SB 2535, SD2  
RELATING TO ENERGY.**

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on SB 2535, SD2, which establishes the number of miles from the shore of a main Hawaiian island where offshore wind turbines may be sited. The SD2 leaves blank the minimum distance from the shore that an offshore wind turbine may be sited and inserts an effective date of July 30, 2075, to encourage further discussion.

HSEO believes offshore wind could play an important role in helping the island of O'ahu and the State of Hawai'i achieve 100% renewable energy generation. O'ahu's limited land mass and high energy demand make it challenging to achieve electricity independence without off-island resources, based on what we currently know about O'ahu's renewable energy resource potential.

HSEO appreciates the SD2 leaves blank the number of miles from the shore that an offshore wind turbine must be sited and inserts a future effective date to encourage further discussion. HSEO believes much more analysis and discussion are needed before establishing an offshore wind setback by law. Establishing a minimum setback for offshore wind requires analysis to identify all the impacts, potential mitigations and their effectiveness based on distances from the shore and turbine sizes. HSEO initiated actions to inform this discussion including:

- Requesting the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to work with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory to publish a report to inform the cost and feasibility of developing a floating offshore wind project in Hawai'i at various locations off O'ahu. This report was published in October 2021.<sup>1</sup>
- Requesting BOEM to work with the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) to deploy a lidar buoy off O'ahu in the summer of 2022 for one year to gather ocean environment data to inform offshore wind potential and collect other marine data. The solicitation to deploy this buoy was issued by PNNL on February 7, 2022, and closes on March 15, 2022.<sup>2</sup> If deployed, data from this buoy would be published through PNNL's Lidar Buoy Program webpage.<sup>3</sup>
- Developing offshore wind visualization simulations from the shores of O'ahu and Moloka'i.

It would be appropriate to also consider the benefits and tradeoffs at various locations, distances, and depths at the time the energy is anticipated to be needed, based on the costs, energy needs, technologies, and mitigation measures available at the time.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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<sup>1</sup> [The Cost and Feasibility of Floating Offshore Wind Energy in the O'ahu Region \(boem.gov\)](https://www.boem.gov/energy-reports/the-cost-and-feasibility-of-floating-offshore-wind-energy-in-the-oahu-region)

<sup>2</sup> [PNNL : ASP : View Solicitation](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Lidar Buoy Program | PNNL](#)

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

TO THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

March 17, 2022  
9:00 a.m.

Chair Lowen and Members of the Committee:

**MEASURE:** S.B. No. 2535, SD2

**TITLE:** RELATING TO ENERGY.

**DESCRIPTION:** Establishes the number of miles from the shore of a main Hawaiian island where offshore wind turbines may be sited. Takes effect 7/30/2075. (SD2)

**POSITION:**

The Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) offers the following comments for consideration.

**COMMENTS:**

The Commission appreciates the stated intent of this measure to promote the transition to cheaper, cleaner energy, reduce the impact of fossil fuel generation on communities currently hosting fossil fuel plants, and ensure the protection of coastal and nearshore areas. The Commission believes it is important to maximize the benefits of the clean energy transition for Hawaii’s communities, ratepayers, and environment.

The Commission also believes that future projects should go through all appropriate government approval and community engagement processes. The Commission notes that a statutory boundary, depending on its terms and specified distance from shore, may exclude potential proposals prior to these governmental approval and community engagement processes running their course.

Should this measure be adopted, the Commission will ensure that the state’s electric utilities comply with its provisions.

S.B. No. 2535, SD2  
Page 2

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**Hawaiian  
Electric**

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**S.B. 2535 S.D. 2**

**Relating to Renewable Energy**

March 17, 2022

9:00 a.m., Agenda Item #8

Conference Room 325 & via Videoconference

Rebecca Dayhuff Matsushima  
Vice President, Resource Procurement  
Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Rebecca Dayhuff Matsushima and I am testifying on behalf of Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc. (“Hawaiian Electric” or the “Company”) with comments on S.B. 2535 S.D. 2, Relating to Energy, which establishes the number of miles from the shore of a main Hawaiian island where offshore wind turbines may be sited.

Hawaiian Electric believes that in order to reach Hawaii’s 100% renewable portfolio standard and ensure energy resilience, all viable renewable options, including offshore resources, should be considered in long-term planning efforts, and has identified offshore wind as a potential resource in its long-term plans. Hawaiian Electric notes that the Bureau of Ocean Management (“BOEM”) is currently reviewing three lease requests from two different developers for offshore wind projects in Hawai‘i. From the publicly available data made available by BOEM, the three proposed sites appear to be sited 9 miles, 12 miles, and 17 miles from the coast. Any setbacks established by this bill could affect the development of these projects.

Allowing for the potential incorporation of offshore windfarms would help diversify and increase Hawaiian Electric's renewable portfolio as we move toward 100% renewable energy sources and reducing Hawaii's carbon footprint and emissions.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on S.B. 2535. S.D.2.

**SB-2535-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 5:39:54 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We do not want this type of power in Hawaii. Keep it out of Hawaii!!

**SB-2535-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 5:53:50 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB2535, while well-intentioned, puts an unneeded obstacle in the path of offshore wind energy development by proposing a one-size fits all rule for all the Hawaiian Islands. The offshore topography is radically different between different parts of the Hawaiian Islands, as are other relevant features. It would make more sense to consider each proposal on a case by case basis, while requiring adequate public notice and hearings in order that all concerns may be vetted.



**SB-2535-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 3:37:12 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SB2535.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei, Maui