

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**MORRIS M. ATTA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2023  
ROOM 325  
10:30 A.M.**

**SENATE BILL NO. 817  
RELATING TO STATE ENTERPRISE ZONES**

Chairpersons Lowen and Gates and Members of the Committees:

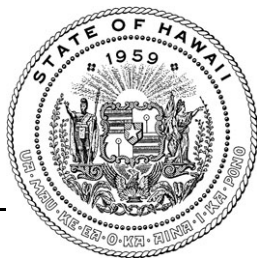
Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 817 that seeks to amend the definition of “eligible business activity” in State Enterprise Zones. The Department of Agriculture (Department) offers comments and concerns.

With respect to the inclusion of “value-added agricultural products”, the Department of Agriculture believes this will increase opportunities for the expanded use of Hawaii’s agricultural products.

With respect to the inclusion of the “development or production of renewable energy as defined in section 269-91” the Department has concerns and requests the Legislature first establish a fair balance between the competing goals for renewable energy and increasing local food self-sufficiency. Agricultural activities occupying the most productive agricultural lands (particularly here on Oahu in the Kunia Corridor, west of Kunia Road) will be even less able to compete and survive against the utility-scale solar energy industry if the latter is given further “regulatory flexibility” in seeking to occupy the same land used for production agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**  
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI  
A HO'OMĀKA'IKĀ'I

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR

**CHRIS J. SADAYASU**  
DIRECTOR

**DANE K. WICKER**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804  
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Statement of  
**CHRIS J. SADAYASU**  
Director  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
AND  
AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS**

Tuesday, March 14, 2023  
10:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of  
**SB817**  
**RELATING TO STATE ENTERPRISE ZONES.**

Chairs Lowen and Gates; Vice Chairs Cochran and Kahaloa and members of the Committees. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports SB817 which amends the definition of "eligible business activity" to include the processing of value-added agricultural products grown within an enterprise zone and the development or production of renewable energy.

It should be noted that DBEDT currently in most cases already accepts value-added agricultural processing companies into the program. This amendment does however add clarity to the statute. DBEDT also supports amending wind energy to renewable energy as defined in section 269-91 HRS. This will increase the pool of eligible companies that can participate in the Enterprise Zone program and support the state's renewable energy goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**JAMES J. NAKATANI**  
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII  
**AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Hui Hooulu Aina Mahiai  
235 S. Beretania Street, Suite 205  
Honolulu, HI 96813

TESTIMONY OF JAMES J. NAKATANI  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

10:30 a.m.

Via Videoconference  
Conference Room 325

SENATE BILL NO. 817  
RELATING TO STATE ENTERPRISE ZONES

Chairs Lowen and Gates, Vice Chairs Cochran and Kahaloa, and Members of the Joint Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 817 relating to state enterprise zones. ADC supports this measure, which amends the definition of "eligible business activity" to include the processing of value-added agricultural products grown within an enterprise zone and the development or production of renewable energy.

Including the processing of value-added agricultural products that are grown within an enterprise zone will foster economic development by encouraging the production of value-added products which can help farmers increase their income and expand into new markets.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



**Testimony to  
The Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection & Agriculture and Food Systems  
Tuesday, March 14, 2023  
10:30 AM  
Conference Room 325 & VIA videoconference  
Hawaii State Capitol**

**SB 817**

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and members of the committee,

Hawaii Gas **supports SB 817**, which amends the definition of “eligible business activity” to include the processing of value-added agricultural products grown within an enterprise zone and the development or production of renewable energy.

Hawaii Gas distributes a blend of gas that ranges from low-carbon to negative-carbon emissions through approximately 1,100 miles of mostly underground utility pipeline statewide. Our main utility system includes a blend of gas that includes Synthetic Natural Gas (SNG), Renewable Natural Gas (RNG), and Hydrogen. Despite representing less than 1% of the greenhouse gases emitted into Hawaii’s atmosphere, we are working to conscientiously reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by pursuing cost-effective, local, renewable energy projects.

As you know, the Enterprise Zone Program was initially established within DBEDT by the legislature to stimulate various business activity and employment in targeted areas of the state. Clean energy and agriculture are two of Hawaii’s top priorities and essential to the state’s sustainability. By expanding the definition of “eligible business activity” to include value-added agriculture products and the development or production of renewable energy, this proposal will bring the advantages of the EZ Program to two of the state’s top priorities and most challenging sectors.

For Hawaii Gas specifically, this will help stimulate and develop local feedstock that can be used to produce local renewable natural gas (RNG). RNG is made by capturing and refining biogases released from decomposing organic waste material. RNG is considered a carbon neutral and a carbon negative fuel and is derived from various biogenic feedstocks, including wastewater sludge, animal manure, food waste, agricultural residues, forest product residues, municipal waste, and energy crops. Hawaii Gas is actively pursuing locally sourced RNG and hydrogen projects as part of our decarbonization strategies to support the state’s goal of carbon neutrality.

We urge the committee to pass SB 817.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.





HAWAI'I FOREST INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (HFIA)

P. O. Box 66 ❖ 'O'ōkala, HI  
96774 Phone: 808-933-9411  
Email: hfia@hawaiiiforest.org  
Website: www.hawaiiiforest.org

**DATE:** 03/11/2023

**TO:** EEP Chair Lowen, EEP Vice Chair Cochran, AGR Chair Gates, AGR Vice Chair Kahaloa and EEP and AGR Committee Members

**FROM:** the Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA)

**SUBJECT:** In Support of SB817 Relating to State Enterprise Zones

Dear Chair Lowen, Chair Gates and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Directors and members of the Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA), please support SB817 Relating to State Enterprise Zones.

HFIA's membership includes individuals, small businesses, and corporations throughout the state of Hawai'i with a wide array of professional experience and expertise in agriculture and forestry.

The Hawai'i Enterprise Zone Program was established to incentivize the growth of business and increase employment in defined areas of the State. This program is one of the few that focuses efforts on improving the economy of our most rural communities where agriculture, including forestry, is often the main business activity. This measure SB817 will support Hawai'i's healthy and productive forests by expanding the definition of "eligible business activity" to include renewable energy and the processing of value-added agricultural products and providing the advantages of the program to more of our rural communities and businesses.

Sustainable management of our forest and agricultural lands is one of our State's top priorities and expanding the Enterprise Zone Program to include value-added agricultural products will support keeping our forests healthy, productive, and sustainable. Please support SB817.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Guy Cellier, Acting President  
Hawaii Forest Industry Association

*Established in 1989, HFIA's is a nonprofit organization founded by people committed to sustainable forest management. HFIA's mission is to promote healthy and productive forests and a sustainable forest industry through management, education, planning, information exchange, and advocacy. HFIA has over 120 members including woodworkers, landowners, sawyers, foundations, foresters, growers, educators, environmentalists, architects, millers, ranchers, and others interested in HFIA's mission and goals.*

HFIA Board of Directors

Officers: Acting President/Vice-President Guy Cellier, Secretary Peter D. Simmons, Treasurer Wade Lee  
Directors: Thomas Calhoun, Jeremy Campbell, Aaron Hammer, Nickolas Koch, Tai Lake, Michael Sowards, Irene Sprecher, Michael Tam, Jorma Winkler, Ron Wolfe, Aileen Yeh

**SB-817**

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 12:33:54 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/14/2023 10:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Henry Curtis        | Life of the Land    | Comments                  | In Person      |

Comments:

Aloha

Life of the Land takes no position on the bill itself, except that if it passes, Hawaii enterprise zones should not be expanded to include tree farms & Hu Honua.

Henry Curtis



Email: [communications@ulupono.com](mailto:communications@ulupono.com)

HOUSE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURE  
& FOOD SYSTEMS  
Tuesday, March 14, 2023 — 10:30 a.m.

**Ulupono Initiative supports SB 817, Relating to State Enterprise Zones.**

Dear Chair Lowe, Chair Gates, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food, renewable energy and clean transportation choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

**Ulupono supports SB 817**, which amends the definition of "eligible business activity" to include the processing of value-added agricultural products grown within an enterprise zone and the development or production of renewable energy.

Ulupono supports the State's goals to double local food production by 2030 and the 100% renewable portfolio standard by 2045. This bill seeks to expand business opportunities in both the agricultural and renewable energy sectors with the inclusion of value-added products and renewable energy developments in the enterprise zone. If we are serious about meeting these ambitious goals, the State must find a way to support industry with positive policies and sustained funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata  
Director of Government Affairs

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*



**SB-817**

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 9:17:39 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/14/2023 10:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                            | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Joseph Kohn MD      | We Are One, Inc. -<br>www.WeAreOne.cc -<br>WAO | Oppose                    | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Strongly Oppose SB817 that would change the law so that Hu Honua would qualify as a state enterprise zone! **Hawaii Gas testimony is full of toxic energy company lies. Methane is toxic to our existence** on this planet. Time to cut our losses with Hu Honua.

[www.WeAreOne.cc](http://www.WeAreOne.cc)



# Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

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March 12, 2023

To: The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair.  
The Honorable Elle Cochran, Vice Chair, and Members of the  
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

The Honorable Cedrick Asuega Gates, Chair.  
The Honorable, Kirstin Kahaloe, Vice Chair, and Members of the  
House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems

Re: **SB 817 – Relating to State Enterprise Zones**

Hearing: Tuesday, March 14, 2023, 10:30 am, Room 325 & videoconference

Position: **Strong OPPOSITION**

Aloha, Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloe, and Committee Members:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i has an enrolled membership of more than 7,000 voting residents here in Hawai'i. We strongly **OPPOSE** SB 817. The bill would amend HRS Chapter 209E, the State Enterprise Zones chapter, to provide **LARGE TARGETED FINANCIAL BENEFITS** to basically one enterprise, the highly controversial Hu Honua project on Hawai'i Island. The primary change proposed by this bill would amend HRS §209E-2, the definitions section, to change one class of financial beneficiaries of the Enterprise Zone regime of tax benefits to include enterprises that engage in

(4) [~~Production~~] Development or production of [electric power from wind] renewable energy, as defined in section 269—91 for sale primarily to a public utility company for resale to the public;

This change has one very obvious purpose, namely to provide tax benefits to Hu Honua. There is, to our knowledge, no other entity in the State that would benefit from this amendment.

And let's look at those tax benefits, as spelled out in HRS §209E-10 (a) and (c):

- (a) The department shall certify annually to the department of taxation the applicability of the tax credit provided in this chapter for a qualified business against any taxes due the State. Except for the general excise tax, the credit shall be eighty per cent of the tax due for the first tax year, seventy per cent of the tax due for the second tax year, sixty per cent of the tax due for the third year, fifty per cent of the tax due the fourth year, forty per cent of the tax due the fifth year, thirty per cent of the tax due the sixth year, and twenty per cent of the tax due the seventh year. .... [and]



Environmental Caucus of  
The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Testimony for the Committees on Energy and Environmental Protection and Agriculture and Food Systems  
SB 817 – relating to State Enterprise Zones  
Hearing: Tuesday, March 14, 2023, 10:30 am, Room 325  
Page 2

(c) In addition to any tax credit authorized under this section, any qualified business shall be entitled to a tax credit against any taxes due the State in an amount equal to a percentage of unemployment taxes paid. The amount of the credit shall be equal to eighty per cent of the unemployment taxes paid during the first year, seventy per cent of the taxes paid during the second year, sixty per cent of the taxes paid during the third year, fifty per cent of the taxes paid during the fourth year, forty per cent of the taxes paid during the fifth year, thirty per cent of the taxes paid during the sixth year, and twenty per cent of the taxes paid during the seventh year.

Hu Honua purports to develop “firm renewable energy” by proposing to cut down and burn hundreds of acres of eucalyptus trees, which is a highly polluting procedure. The proponents of this project have no credible plan for continued burning once the present forest is burned down. Evidently, they are proposing to IMPORT into Hawai'i tons and tons of wood pellets from some other State or country. **That would change their energy source to “unfirm” because it would be highly dependent on a very long supply chain of thousands of miles.**

Moreover, we understand that Hu Honua built their entire processing plant without the required Hawai'i County construction permits.

As most Legislators also know, this project has been embroiled in litigation before the Hawaii courts and the Public Utilities Commission for a decade, and that litigation continues today. Hu Honua's proposals have been rejected every step of the way by the PUC.

And Hu Honua's proposed charges for electricity greatly exceed what can be offered to the Hilo-area public if solar power were used.

One more point - The Enterprise Zones chapter has been on the law books since 1986, nearly 40 years. As the Tax Foundation of Hawaii pointed out in earlier testimony on the present bill before the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development and Tourism, it appears that the chapter has never been evaluated for effectiveness. The Tax Foundation stated:

The enterprise zone program has been around since 1986. Has there been a comprehensive evaluation of the program and do lawmakers know exactly how much bang they have gotten for their bucks? If the program works, great; if it doesn't work, scrap it. In either event, concurrent efforts must be made to improve Hawaii's business climate to enhance the economic prospects for all businesses.



Environmental Caucus of  
The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Testimony for the Committees on Energy and Environmental Protection and Agriculture and Food Systems  
SB 817 – relating to State Enterprise Zones  
Hearing: Tuesday, March 14, 2023, 10:30 am, Room 325  
Page 3

We agree with the Tax Foundation that, before any other business gets to reap tens of thousands of dollars in tax benefits from Chapter 209E, there needs to be a comprehensive review of its effectiveness. We believe further that this review must consider whether Chapter 209E is functioning in the public interest. Meanwhile, it is completely clear that opening up Chapter 209E to benefit Hu Honua is manifestly NOT in the public interest.

Please defer this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

*Alan B. Burdick* and *Melodie Adyja*, co-chairs  
Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i  
[Burdick808@gmail.com](mailto:Burdick808@gmail.com) 808-927-1500  
[legislativepriorities@gmail.com](mailto:legislativepriorities@gmail.com) 808-258-8889



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Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

March 14, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

**TESTIMONY ON SB 817**  
RELATING TO STATE ENTERPRISE ZONES

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference  
10:30 AM

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Gates, Vice-Chairs Cochran and Kahaloa, and Members of the Committees:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports SB 817**, which amends the definition of "eligible business activity" to include the processing of value-added agricultural products grown within an enterprise zone and the development or production of renewable energy.

The Hawai'i Enterprise Zone Program (EZ) was established to stimulate certain types of business activity and increase employment in targeted areas of the State via tax and other incentives. The EZ program is one of the few State programs which incentivizes economic development in the most rural and distressed communities where agriculture is often the main business activity. Agricultural-related businesses account for roughly half of all businesses in the EZ program.

Farmers can increase their revenues and profits by "adding value" to raw agricultural crops. Currently, off-grade and excess production is sometimes wasted due to market conditions. Converting them into value-added products will not only increase farm revenue but also provide new business opportunities, increase employment opportunities, and help address Hawai'i's goals of increased self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Including the processing of value-added agricultural products that are grown within an enterprise zone as an eligible business activity under that EZ program will support the production of value-added products which can help farmers increase their income while allowing locally produced value-added goods to compete with imported products, and expand into new export markets, strengthening our local economy.

The strength of Hawai'i's economy is dependent upon a diversity in commerce that is resilient to economic downturns and aggressive in creating new growth opportunities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**Testimony to the Committees on Energy & Environmental Protection and  
Agriculture & Food Systems  
Tuesday, March 14, 2023, 10:30 AM  
VIA Video Conference & Conference Room 325, Hawaii State Capitol**

**SB 817**

Chairs Lowen and Gates, Vice Chairs Cochran and Kahaloa, and members of the committees,

Hawaii Clean Power Alliance (HCPA) **supports** SB 817, which proposes to amend the definition of “eligible business activity” to include the processing of value-added agricultural products grown within an enterprise zone and the development or production of renewable energy.

Hawaii Clean Power Alliance is a nonprofit alliance organized to advance and sustain the development 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.

The Enterprise Zone program is a powerful economic development tool established by the state in 1986 in conjunction with the counties build stronger communities by bringing economic development and mandatory job growth to targeted economically challenged areas within the state. By expanding this definition to include value-added agriculture products and development and production of renewable energy brings heightened opportunity within two of the state’s most vital – and most at risk – policy priorities.

For farmers, these proposed amendments may help boost local farmers’ ability to grow crops that will provide them steady market commerce for multiple years.

This expanded definition opens opportunity for greater clean energy development and production, essential to meet the state’s clean energy goals. With the recent federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) incentives that provide for up to 50% investment tax credit for certain renewable energy development projects, this small incentive will prove to be beneficial in attracting these projects to Hawaii instead of the other 49 states, which are all vying for these IRA subsidized projects. These cost reductions available through the federal tax incentives would be passed on to ratepayers.

We ask the committee to pass this bill.

**SB-817**

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 8:58:56 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/14/2023 10:30:00 AM

| Submitted By  | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify           |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Maki Morinoue | HULI PAC     | Oppose             | Remotely Via Zoom |

Comments:

Aloha

**We OPPOSE Bill [SB 817](#).**

This bill goes against the PUC’s recommendation for a business model due to the environmental and financial impact on Hawaii State for Hu Honua, which allows them a tax break. At the same time, they increase our electricity bill while our state considers burning trees as ‘bioenergy.’

The proposed forest clearing and wood-burning Hu Honua Bioenergy power plant that would increase greenhouse gas emissions, raise electric rates and displace cleaner wind and solar-generated electricity is currently before the Hawaii Supreme Court for the fourth time.

Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) [§209E-2](#) currently includes in the definition of "eligible business activity" the “production of electric power from wind energy for sale primarily to a public utility company for resale to the public.”

House Bill (HB) 817 would amend the definition of "eligible business activity" to include “Development or production of renewable energy, as defined in section 269-91 for sale primarily to a public utility company for resale to the public.”

The benefits defined in HRS [§209E-10](#) are significant.

The amended bill would provide tax support for all renewable energy projects. Hu Hounua should have never been considered bioenergy because they use ‘wood’; instead, they burn wood, aka trees, and this would NOT be a regenerative direction.

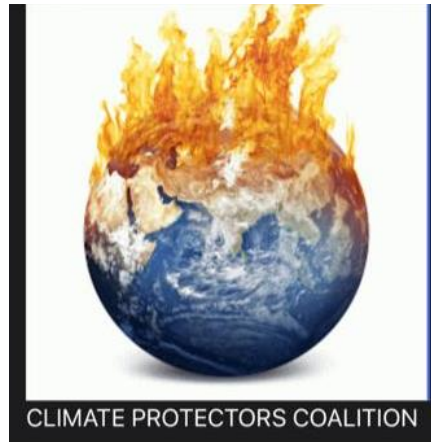
Please oppose this bill; the PUC has made several reasonable stances on why Hu Honua is NOT eligible to conduct business in Hawai’i State, let alone receive tax discounts.

Thank you for your time.

Maki Morinoue  
HULI PAC  
Holualoa  
96725







To: The Honorable Chairs Nicole Lowen and Cedric Gates, Vice-chairs Elle Cochran and Kirstin Kahaloe, and members of the House Committees on Energy and Environment and Agriculture

From: Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing **SB817 RELATING TO STATE ENTERPRISE ZONES**

Hearing: Tuesday, March 14, 2023, 10:30 a.m. CR325

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Gates, Vice Chairs Cochran and Kahaloe, and members of the Committee:

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i seeks to educate and engage the local community in climate change action, to help Hawai'i show the world the way back to a safe and stable climate.

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**Climate Protectors Hawai'i respectfully but STRONGLY OPPOSES SB817!**

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i appreciates the intent of the enterprise zone tax benefits to stimulate job creation in areas where they are most needed. This bill would expand the energy provision of the enterprise zone program from "electric power from wind" to all "renewable energy as defined in HRS section 269-91."

Unfortunately, the definition of “renewable energy” in HRS 269-91 includes highly polluting energy generated or produced using “Biomass, including biomass crops, agricultural and animal residues and wastes, and municipal solid waste and other solid waste.” This means that in the enterprise zones, very generous tax benefits could be extended to the wealthy owners of power plants that burn wood (or trash). There are two main problems with incentivizing such plants:

- Burning biomass is **much more expensive for consumers** than energy generated by solar photovoltaic or wind power with storage, so encouraging plants that burn biomass or wood **would raise rates for consumers above the level for competitively bid purchased power.**
- **Burning wood or other biomass is even worse for the climate and health than coal!** Burning wood not only involves large carbon emissions, but it eliminates the carbon sequestration benefit the cut trees provide. Replanting trees to replace the cut ones would not catch up with the lost carbon sequestration for decades, if ever. Incentivizing wood-burning plants with enterprise zone tax credits **runs directly counter to Hawaii’s statutory carbon negative target**--Hawaii intends to sequester more carbon than it emits as soon as practicable but not later than 2045.

**Please hold or defer this anti-consumer, anti-environment bill!**

If the bill is to proceed, it should at least be amended in SECTION 1, in the definition of “Eligible business activity, as follows:

“[Production] Development or production of ~~electric power from wind~~ renewable energy [as defined in section 269—91] generated from sources other than biomass or municipal solid waste or other solid waste and selected by competitive bidding for sale primarily to a public utility company for resale to the public;”

Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawai‘i (by Ted Bohlen)

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## Executive Officers

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**Gary Okimoto**, Safeway, *Vice Chair*

**Maile Miyashiro**, C&S Wholesale, *Secretary/Treas.*

**Lauren Zirbel**, HFIA, *President and Executive Director*

**John Schilf**, Rainbow Sales and Marketing, *Advisor*

**Paul Kosasa**, ABC Stores, *Advisor*

**Derek Kurisu**, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

**Toby Taniguchi**, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

**Joe Carter**, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, Odom, *Advisor*

**Charlie Gustafson**, Tamura Super Market, *Immediate Past Chair*

1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 | Honolulu, HI 96813

P: 808-533-1292 | e: [info@hawaiiifood.com](mailto:info@hawaiiifood.com)

TO: Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection, and Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen and Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chairs

Rep. Elle Cochran and Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chairs

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: Tuesday, March 14, 2023

TIME: 10:30am

RE: SB817 Relating to State Enterprise Zones

Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

HFIA is in support of this measure. Allowing for the production of renewable energy and the manufacture of value added agricultural products is in keeping with the intent of Enterprise Zones in the state. These are the types of activities that can help create a more diverse, stronger local economy and we encourage the State to support them. We urge the committee to vote yes and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.

# TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

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126 Queen Street, Suite 305

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

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**SUBJECT:** NET INCOME, GENERAL EXCISE, UNEMPLOYMENT, Expand enterprise zone eligibility to include renewable energy

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 817, HB 852

**INTRODUCED BY:** DELA CRUZ, CHANG, KEITH-AGARAN, MCKELVEY, Kidani, Wakai; HB by HOLT, BELATTI, COCHRAN, HASHIMOTO, KITAGAWA, LAMOSAO, LOWEN, MARTEN, MATAYOSHI, ONISHI, QUINLAN, TAKENOUCI, TODD

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** Amends the definition of "eligible business activity" to include the processing of value-added agricultural products grown within an enterprise zone and the development or production of renewable energy.

**SYNOPSIS:** Amends section 209E-2, HRS, to add as an eligible business activity the processing of value-added agricultural products all or some of which were grown within an enterprise zone.

Also expands the existing eligible activity of production of electric power from wind to development or production of renewable energy for sale primarily to a public utility.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Upon Approval.

**STAFF COMMENTS:** The enterprise zone program was enacted as a cooperative program between the state and the counties to promote jobs in areas of high unemployment. Certain areas are designated as enterprise zones through joint action of the state and counties. In a zone, the state offers an income tax credit for the tax attributable to the eligible business conducted in the zone, which is normally applied on a sliding scale – 80% for the first year, 70% for the second, and so on until the credit is 20% for the seventh and last year in the program. It also offers an unemployment tax credit for the tax attributable to employees doing the eligible business in the zone, on the same sliding scale. Finally, the state offers a general excise tax exemption for the eligible business attributed to the zone. The counties also offer incentives, which vary by county. In return, the business commits to either maintain or increase the number of employees in the zone doing the eligible activity, depending on whether it was already in the zone upon designation or moved to the zone.

As business incentives go, the enterprise zone program is better than most. The incentive applies to a specific activity (here, creating and maintaining employment) targeted to the problem the program seeks to address. The incentive tapers off over time and then stops. It requires accountability, namely required reports to DBEDT for a business to retain its eligibility. The business itself may need a different kind of assistance, such as financing, but the state is here focusing on creating and maintaining jobs in areas that need them.

One criticism of the program is that the designated eligible activities do not seem to have a common thread running through them except that the various activities seem to have been the Flavor of the Month at one time or other. Eligible activities at present are:

- Agricultural production or processing
- Manufacturing
- Wholesaling/Distribution
- Aviation or maritime repair or maintenance
- Telecommunications switching and delivery systems
- Information technology design and production
- Medical research, clinical trials, and telemedicine
- For-profit training programs in international business management or environmental remediation
- Biotechnology research, development, production, or sales
- Repair or maintenance of assisted technology equipment
- Certain types of call centers
- Wind energy producers

The enterprise zone program has been around since 1986. Has there been a comprehensive evaluation of the program and do lawmakers know exactly how much bang they have gotten for their bucks? If the program works, great; if it doesn't work, scrap it. In either event, concurrent efforts must be made to improve Hawaii's business climate to enhance the economic prospects for all businesses.

Digested: 3/10/2023



# MAUI

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON  
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION and AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS  
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 325  
TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2023 AT 10:30 A.M.

To The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair  
The Honorable Elle Cochran, Vice Chair  
Members of the committee on Energy & Environmental Protection  
To The Honorable Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair  
The Honorable Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair  
Members of the committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

### SUPPORT FOR SB817 RELATING TO STATE ENTERPRISE ZONES

The Maui Chamber of Commerce **SUPPORTS SB817** which amends the definition of "eligible business activity" to include the processing of value-added agricultural products grown within an enterprise zone and the development or production of renewable energy.

We would like to note that the Hawai'i Enterprise Zone Program (EZ) was established to stimulate certain types of business activity and increase employment in targeted areas of the State via tax and other incentives. The EZ program is one of the few State programs which incentivizes economic development in the most rural and distressed communities where agriculture is often the main business activity. Agricultural-related businesses account for roughly half of all businesses in the EZ program.

Farmers can increase their revenues and profits by "adding value" to raw agricultural crops. Currently, off-grade and excess production is sometimes wasted due to market conditions. Converting them into value-added products will not only increase farm revenue but also provide new business opportunities, increase employment opportunities, and help address Hawai'i's goals of increased self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Not only will this bill help local farmers, but also our local manufacturers who use locally grown produce to create their value-added products. We work with many local manufacturers through our Made in Maui County Festival and understand being included in enterprise zones would include them in both state and county perks, including expedited county permitting, GET exemptions, etc. which may significantly help their business.

Including the processing of value-added agricultural products that are grown within an enterprise zone as an eligible business activity under that EZ program will support the production of value-added products which can help farmers increase their income while allowing locally produced value-added goods to compete with imported products, and expand into new export markets, strengthening our local economy.

For these reasons, the Chamber **SUPPORTS SB817**.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap  
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.



March 14, 2023

Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Chair  
Representative Elle Cochran, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair  
Representative Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

**Testimony in Support of SB 817, RELATING TO STATE ENTERPRISE ZONES (Amends the definition of "eligible business activity" to include the processing of value-added agricultural products grown within an enterprise zone and the development or production of renewable energy)**

**Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 10:30 A.M.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325 & Via 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. One of LURF's missions is to 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 provide testimony in **support of SB 817**, which amends the definition of "eligible business activity" to include the processing of value-added agricultural products grown within an enterprise zone and the development or production of renewable energy.

**LURF's Position.** LURF members include property owners, farmers and ranchers who own, maintain, and engage in agricultural enterprises, and who consider efforts to protect and support agriculture significant to the continued conduct of their operations and to help sustain and preserve farming and ranching businesses into the future. LURF members also lead the state with respect to renewable energy research, development and installation of renewable energy technology and implementation energy efficiency alternatives, as our statewide membership includes the two of the largest renewable energy utilities, major landowners, homebuilders, commercial and industrial developers, and hotels – who employ and support renewable energy and support the State's renewable energy goals.

Economic diversity, value-added agricultural products and clean energy are part of Hawaii's top priorities and are important for the State's sustainability and self-sufficiency.

LURF supports SB 817, because the bill will support, encourage, incentivize, and expand the pool of eligible companies, organizations, and individuals that are willing to produce value-added agricultural products and develop or produce renewable energy within State Enterprise Zones.

For the reasons stated above, LURF **supports SB 817**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this measure.

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



**SB-817**

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 6:20:57 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/14/2023 10:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| David Hunt          | Individual          | Oppose                    | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

SB817 / HB852

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair

Rep. Elle Cochran, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Kirstin Kahaloe, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, March 14, 2023

TIME: 10:30 AM

PLACE: Conference Room 325

**STRONGLY OPPOSE.**

**SB 817** RELATING TO STATE ENTERPRISE ZONES.

Amends the definition of "eligible business activity" to include the processing of value-added agricultural products grown within an enterprise zone and the development or production of renewable energy.

Sponsors: DELA CRUZ, CHANG, KEITH-AGARAN, MCKELVEY, KIDANI, WAKAI

**With this bill, Hu Honua would qualify as a state enterprise zone. With this bill, Hu Honua would be rewarded** millions of dollars - tax (public) dollars. With this bill thousands of clearcut acres would be left with the “state enterprise zone” label.

The BENEFITS of being a designated enterprise include at least the following, per HRS 209E-10:

(a) . . . Except for the general excise tax, the credit shall be eighty per cent of the tax due for the first tax year, seventy per cent of the tax due for the second tax year, sixty per cent of the tax due for the third year, fifty per cent of the tax due the fourth year, forty per cent of the tax due the fifth year, thirty per cent of the tax due the sixth year, and twenty per cent of the tax due the seventh year. . . .

PLUS: (c) In addition to any tax credit authorized under this section, any qualified business shall be entitled to a tax credit against any taxes due the State in an amount equal to a percentage of unemployment taxes paid. The amount of the credit shall be equal to eighty per cent of the unemployment taxes paid during the first year, seventy per cent of the taxes paid during the second year, sixty per cent of the taxes paid during the third year, fifty per cent of the taxes paid during the fourth year, forty per cent of the taxes paid during the fifth year, thirty per cent of the taxes paid during the sixth year, and twenty per cent of the taxes paid during the seventh year.

**Please vote NO, Do NOT pass.**

Do not be deceived. This is **yet another attempt** by Dela Cruz and Wakai **to aid Hu Honua**. We saw it with SB72, we saw it with SB2510 last year (Veto'd).

**Dela Cruz and Wakai are doing the bidding of Hu Honua. Period.** It has been covered extensively in the **press**.

The arrogance is appalling. Hu Honua was built ***WITHOUT the permits*** required in the Hawaii County Code. They have been cited, and this was reported in the media. (the Warren Lee good-ok-boy abuse of former position and influence).

Hu Honua has devoured thousands of hours in the PUC and in the courts filing endless appeals - ***spending MILLIONS of taxpayer dollars***.

Hu Honua would have cost 24 cents per KWH initially, increasing to ***44 cents per KWH*** and simultaneously displaced and ***prevented*** non-polluting clean, reliable solar with storage (“firm solar”) at ***8 cents per KWH*** from coming on-line. Hu Honua is anti-competitive, anti-democratic, anti-consumer, anti-ratepayer, old-technology dirty energy.

Hu Honua has been killed several times, but like the blood sucking vampire that it is, ***Hu Honua keeps rising from the dark depths / in part thanks to Dela Cruz and Wakai and a few others***.

WHY?

Hu Honua is literally a crap-cake that Dela Cruz and Wakai keep trying to spread Aloha Frosting on.

WHY?

Do not fall for their evasion, misrepresentations, falsehoods, threats, manipulations, and smooth talk.

***SB817 / HB852 and Hu Honua are BAD for Hawaii, bad for Hawaii's economy, bad for Hawaii residents and ratepayers, bad for our land, air and water, and bad for our climate.***

Please stand up to this irresponsible, abusive, and good-ol-boy legislation. **Please VOTE NO.**

DO NOT REWARD Hu Honua and their filthy rich, arrogant non-resident investors with tax breaks. Has Hawaii not already seen enough exploitation?

**SB-817**

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 8:34:34 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/14/2023 10:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Scott Garris        | Individual          | Oppose                    | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

No backdoor to Hu Honua.

**SB-817**

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 8:02:50 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/14/2023 10:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Edward Johnston     | Individual          | Oppose                    | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Hawaii Enterprise Zones NOT be expanded to include "tree farms"!

This is yet another attempt to circumvent the legal process and allow

Hu Honua tree burning company to operate and raise our electric bills

and make us breath their smoke.

**SB-817**

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 1:20:57 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/14/2023 10:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Caroline Azelski    | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

In support of. Thank you.

**SB-817**

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 7:37:43 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/14/2023 10:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Keith Neal          | Individual          | Oppose                    | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

**Strongly Oppose.**

The state of Hawaii must not promote crops that are intended to be burnt. This is very inefficient and polluting. Furthermore, such a practice depletes soil nutrients important for food production.

The age of combustion is over! Should we continue, we invite shared peril.

Keith Neal

Waimea

**SB-817**

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 8:34:32 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/14/2023 10:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Matt Binder         | Individual          | Oppose                    | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Hu Honua is an idea that might have made sense in the 1800's. But now we have many options that are less expensive, less polluting, and don't contribute nearly as much to Global Warming.

I think the people pushing this project know that, and that's why they're insisting on tax credits, exemptions from competitive bidding, and they have to bend reality to justify their greenhouse gas emissions.

I was a solar engineer back in the 1980's and my company competed for large-scale electricity generating projects. I know a loser project when I see one. This project has all the worst features we've had to live with for too long here: obsolete technology, owners demanding special treatment and government handouts, no concern for how much it costs the ratepayers, or how much it pollutes the environment.

Don't saddle us with a tree-burning boondoggle.

This bill is a sell-out to Hu Honua campaign contributors and you will regret passing this.

Vote No.



**SB-817**

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 9:14:18 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/14/2023 10:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| donn viviani        | Individual          | Oppose                    | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am Donn Viviani, I live in Kailua. I am a retired EPA scientist who served as director of EPA's Climate Policy Assessment Division. I am board President of the Climate Protection and Restoration Initiative. I am asking you not to include energy crop growth in the enterprise zone defined by SB 817. Simply put here is why:

Producing renewable natural gas (RNG) from waste material can reduce net methane emissions. That's because the methane produced would otherwise be emitted into the atmosphere. Producing RNG from energy crops however is not preventing methane from being released, but rather is creating methane that would not have existed except for the energy crop growth. Methane storage and transport is a very "leaky" business. Some of that anthropogenic methane will leak.

Because methane is more than thirty times more potent in warming effect than CO2 is, it does not take much leakage to cancel out the benefit of CO2 sequestered in the growth of the energy crop, and it does and will leak. Adding to this net emission is the energy embedded in growing, harvesting and processing the energy crop. There is also the loss of the utility of the land used to grow the crops and tax expenditures from the enterprise zone. By all means include waste, manure, etc digestion in the definition. But not energy crops unless a life cycle analysis of the process is performed proving a net decarbonization benefit.

Please remove Energy Crops from this definition. I appreciate the opportunity to comment  
Thank you Donn Viviani PhD

**SB-817**

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 9:33:15 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/14/2023 10:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Shannon Rudolph     | Individual          | Oppose                    | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Oppose

**SB-817**

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 12:13:30 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/14/2023 10:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Diane Ware          | Individual          | Oppose                    | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Dear Chairs and Committee Members,

I strongly oppose this bill to include biomass burning such as cutting forests. Burning biomass has been shown to increase GHG emissions, emissions are released into the air which will endanger public health to nearby residents. I suffer from asthma and can not tolerate such emissions.

Please stick with current forms of renewables which are also cheaper for rate payers. Higher rates plus tax breaks are not tenable.

Mahalo for voting pono,

**SB-817**

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 2:10:22 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/14/2023 10:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b>  | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Mary Whispering Wind | Individual          | Oppose                    | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Congress Members,

I OPPOSE SB817, because I strongly OPPOSE the Hu Honua Bioenergy power plant.

**SB-817**

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 4:39:19 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/14/2023 10:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Phaethon Keeney     | Individual          | Oppose                    | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha esteemed legislators,

Please oppose SB817. All renewable energy projects are not equal, and should not be treated as such, as Hawaii State legislature recognizes, we are in a Climate Emergency. Some renewable energy projects actually increase GHG emissions and harm surrounding communities in many ways, such as dedicated energy crops like long rotation whole tree woody biomass. Woody biomass releases many years of carbon storage in one instant, using carbon intensive heavy equipment to harvest, haul and chip (with visual, economic, health and traffic drag on impacted communities), and takes decades to centuries to pay back in tree regrowth, much less soil carbon loss after intensive harvest, or the potential carbon sequestration lost having left older and larger trees standing rather than harvesting/starting the cycle over again. There is some debate about short rotation energy crops such as switchgrass and the potential to re-sequester carbon into the soil on shorter time scales, but please be careful in amending renewable energy bills without being clear about what is renewable and what is DESIREABLE for Hawaii. At the very least there should be a requirement to provide a clear and evidenced GHG lifecycle analysis under a limited threshold to qualify for any tax exemption designed for GHG reduction. Even then, short rotation energy crops could be debated on the merits of competition with food crops for island geography limited prime agricultural lands, so please oppose SB817 and bills like it until this discussion for Hawaii's future could be more developed in the public sphere. We must be balanced and aware in promoting the renewable energy future that Hawaii's people actually want, until then let's stick with tax breaks for proven solutions such as solar, wind and water projects that work with surrounding communities.

Mahalo nui loa,

Phaethon Keeney

Honokaa Hawaii

**SB-817**

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 10:38:12 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/14/2023 10:30:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Mark A. Koppel      | Individual          | Oppose                    | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Submitting Testimony Strongly Opposed to SB817

Mark Koppel

31-392 Lepoloa Rd

Ninole HI 96773

Aloha:

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair

Rep. Elle Cochran, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Kirstin Kahaloha, Vice Chair

Testimony in strong opposition to SB817

Mark Koppel

31-392 Lepoloa Rd

Ninole, HI 96773

This comment is submitted in light of the March 13, 2023 Unanimous decision by the Supreme Court which, using very harsh language completely rejected every aspect of Hu Honua's frivolous appeal against the PUC.

This decision, I'm sure, will be made available to you.

In addition to affirming that Hu Honua is Not Renewable Energy and Not Carbon-Neutral, the justices had this to say:

**Hu Honua's insistence that the PUC should not consider the price consumers would have to pay for its electricity "difficult to understand."**

**Where Hu Honua's lawyers got that idea "remains a mystery."**

There you have it, folks. This bill is a joke. I wish it were funny.

SB817 is a stupid, cynical, appalling, lie of a bill that is designed by the usual sponsors, Delacruz and Wakai to help the failed power plant, Hu Honua.

Hu Honua is owned by California billionaire Jenny Johnson of the multi-billion dollar Franklin-Templeton Fund, and her millionaire friends. Do you really think these people want to help Hawaii? They want to make money!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Lots of it, through electricity charges to HELCO TRIPLE THAT OF EXISTING SOLAR!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Hu Honua is NOT RENEWABLE since it BURNS trees producing CO2, the infamous greenhouse gas. Even if Hu Honua planted the replacements (Warren Lee REFUSES to provide Any Plan At all), trees don't absorb CO2 until after 10-30 years, a FACT Warren doesn't tell you! Can we now retire the lie? Hu Honua Is Not Renewable or Carbon Neutral. (Insert a line of exclamation points here)

Hu Honua was never needed and will pollute the air, water (21 MILLION gallons of water taken out and put back in WITH TOXIC CHEMICALS to the Hakalau aquifer Every Day. (Hu Honua's own filings). The water will go straight off Hu Honua's cliff into the Ocean, killing fish, mammals and Coral.

The "state enterprise zone" is a total farce. These zones are designed by honest legislators to help attract business to Blighted Areas, of which Pepe'ekeo is certainly not one. Another cynical ploy to throw taxpayer money at Jenny Johnson, who certainly doesn't need it. Were Delacruz and Wakai persuaded by the huge fundraiser Hu Honua threw for them last year? Who can say, except them?

Furthermore, Hu Honua Doesn't Even Qualify Under Delacruz and Wakai's SB817!!!!!!!!!!

They amend the SEZ to include "production of renewable energy. As we've seen, There Is No Way that Hu Honua is renewable. STRIKE ONE.

THE fake new SEZ is for, in the bill's words:

Energy Crops. The Bishop Estate planted the eucalyptus for plywood export to Japan. It's a low-energy junk tree. It Is Not an Energy Crop. STRIKE TWO.

The bill also specifies : "forest product residues". Are living trees Forest Residues? Only in backwards world. haha STRIKE THREE AND YOU'RE OUT, BILL 817 AND HU HONUA AND DELACRUZ AND WAKAI.

As to Hawaii Gas's comments on RNG, how is that relevant to 817, which is about burning trees for Hu Honua? Hawaii Gas is terrified because they know their company is doomed. Propane and NG are Terrible polluters, and now will be Totally Unnecessary as we Follow State Law and produce zero-CO2 energy via solar and wind. Hawaii Gas obviously needs some new leadership who know what they're talking about.

Please show the Hawaii public that there are honest legislators who will reject these cynical attempts (the third one that I know of!!!) to help one specific polluting company that will triple people's electric rates.

Mahalo

Mark Koppel