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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Wednesday, February 12, 2025
10:01 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211 and Videoconference

Providing Comments on
SB 1588, SD1

RELATING TO NUCLEAR ENERGY.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on SB 1588, SD1, which requires an interim report to the Legislature prior to the convening of the 2026 legislative session, and requires a final report forty days prior to the convening of the 2027 legislative session.

HSEO notes that Article XI, section 8, of the Hawaii State Constitution states that "No nuclear fission power plant shall be constructed or radioactive material disposed of in the State without the prior approval by a two-thirds vote in each house of the legislature."¹

Nationally, Advanced Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) have emerged as a goal of the U.S. Department of Energy to develop safe, clean, and affordable nuclear power options. SMRs can be built in relatively small physical footprints, reduced capital investment over full scale nuclear plants and can provide incremental power generation at sizes ranging from tens of megawatts up to hundreds of megawatts. Development of light water-cooled SMRs, which undergo licensing review by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), may initially be deployed around 2030 at a price that has yet to be

determined. For those reasons, HSEO will continue to monitor developments with SMRs.

The formation of a nuclear energy task force may be a number of years premature, given the current lack of cost, management of nuclear waste, production and safety information on SMRs.

Also, Governor Green's direction to HSEO has been to "conduct a full-scale analysis of every possible energy source, except nuclear, that can accelerate Hawaii's transition away from fossil fuel dependence."

Therefore, HSEO requests that the creation of a nuclear task force be set aside until commercial SMR units have been installed elsewhere, and operational data, installation cost, and waste management systems have been developed and can be evaluated for applicability in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

¹ Hawaii State Constitution. <https://lrb.hawaii.gov/constitution/>.

SB-1588-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 4:46:02 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurel brier	Testifying for Kauai Climate Action Coalition	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB1588 is a dangerous, illinformed and expensive diversion from good, reliable alternative energy solutions and real climate action where we should be investing and earlier commitments were leading. Hawaii, with its increasing volatile weather and geological considerations, cannot safely store or dispose of waste. This proposed action is not in alignment with our energy goals. Let SB158 die. Strongly oppose



Sustainable Energy Hawai'i

sustainableenergyhawaii.org
info@sustainableenergyhawaii.org

February 12, 2025

SUPPORT for SB1588 - RELATING TO NUCLEAR ENERGY

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Committee members.

On behalf of **Sustainable Energy Hawai'i (SEH)**, a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to improving the quality of life for Hawaii Island residents. Our mission is to enable an economic, social, and environmental revival in Hawaii through a just transition to sustainable, 100% locally sourced renewable energy and the creation of a thriving clean hydrogen economy.

SEH supports SB1588, which *'Establishes the Nuclear Energy Task Force within the Hawai'i State Energy Office. Requires reports to the Legislature.'*

Hawai'i has an aggressive and much-needed goal to transition its energy system to one that is clean, renewable, and sustainable. This is critical not only to decarbonize but also for energy sovereignty. We have made good progress in deploying renewable energy solutions like solar, wind, and storage, and some progress with geothermal. However, a broader, more comprehensive approach that will provide a reliable, affordable, and secure energy future is needed, especially considering the power required to electrify the transportation sector. We cannot afford to leave options unexplored.

SB1588 will establish a task force that will ensure that we evaluate all viable, clean energy solutions, including advanced nuclear technologies.

Advanced nuclear power may complement Hawaii's renewable energy portfolio by providing a reliable, clean baseload power source. It operates at high capacity factors, reducing the need for storage solutions. Importantly, next-generation nuclear solutions, such as small modular reactors (SMRs), promise safer and more flexible deployment options with lower risks associated with waste.

SEH supports the study of advanced nuclear technologies. The proposed task force will help us understand the environmental and social considerations, economic feasibility, and regulatory challenges associated with the technology and determine its role in Hawaii's energy future.

We urge the Committee to pass SB1588.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of Sustainable Energy Hawai'i.

Respectfully,

Keith Neal
Policy Lead
sustainableenergyhawaii.org



To: The Senate Committee on Ways and Means
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2025, 10:01am

In strong opposition to SB1588 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and WAM Committee members;

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org is in **strong opposition to SB1588 SD1** that establishes the Nuclear Energy Task Force within the Hawai'i State Energy Office. 350Hawaii is extremely concerned about SB1588 SD1 and the economic and environmental harms it would lead to should it be passed.

We realize that this measure would just establish a taskforce, but **why throw away money on something that the Energy Office has already indicated would be an expensive form of energy**, let alone the environmental risks? Ratepayers and taxpayers do not need this type of wastefulness.

The bill text in SB1588 SD1 is rife with factually inaccurate information, including the statement that nuclear energy is "carbon-free electricity". In fact, there is no such thing as a zero- or close-to-zero emission nuclear reactor. Even existing reactors emit due to the continuous mining and refining of uranium needed for the reactor. Essentially, this measure is straight from the false narrative talking points being promoted by the nuclear industry. Unfortunately, for those unfamiliar with this technology, it sounds like the panacea Hawaii has been waiting for.

Bottom line, if we are already having such an immense challenge just being able to site a landfill on Oahu, how would we ever be able to site a nuclear waste facility that would contain lethal radioactive waste, that according to scientists, must be maintained and **funded** for at least 200,000 years? And the more nuclear waste that accumulates, the greater the risk of radioactive leaks, which can damage water supply, crops, animals, and humans. And even if proponents of this measure suggest we can just send the waste off somewhere else, why would we want to pollute somebody else with the radioactive waste for 200,000 years? This is not a pono plan.

This bill is not only a distraction from Hawaii achieving our clean energy goals, it would pose serious harms to our health and environment. Invest our resources in clean energy— renewables and energy efficiency, **not boondoggles**.

We strongly urge the Committee to OPPOSE and not advance this misguided and harmful measure. Nuclear energy has no place in Hawaii's clean energy future.

Mahalo,

Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

February 11, 2025

Testimony in Opposition to SB1588 SD1: Relating to Nuclear Energy

To: Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Sharon Y. Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

From: The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2025, 10:01 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i respectfully opposes SB1588 SD1, which establishes the Nuclear Energy Task Force within the Hawai'i State Energy Office and requires reports to the Legislature. While we recognize the need for exploring diverse energy solutions, we believe that nuclear energy poses significant risks and challenges that outweigh its potential benefits.

Key Concerns:

1. **Hawaii's Constitutional Ban on Nuclear Power:** Article XI, Section 8 of Hawaii's constitution explicitly prohibits nuclear fission power plants without legislative approval. This critical provision protects the health and safety of Hawaii's residents and reflects long-standing public opposition to nuclear energy.
2. **Safety Risks:** Nuclear energy carries inherent risks, including the potential for catastrophic accidents, as evidenced by historical events like Chernobyl and Fukushima. Ensuring the safety of our communities and environment must be our top priority.
3. **Waste Management:** The disposal of nuclear waste remains an unresolved issue. Radioactive waste can remain hazardous for thousands of years, posing long-term environmental and health risks.
4. **High Costs:** The construction and maintenance of nuclear power plants are extremely costly. These funds could be better invested in renewable energy sources like solar and wind, which are safer and more sustainable.
5. **Environmental Impact:** While nuclear energy is low in greenhouse gas emissions, the mining and processing of uranium, as well as the construction of nuclear facilities, have significant environmental impacts.

6. **Public Opposition:** There is considerable public opposition to nuclear energy in Hawai‘i. Many residents are concerned about the potential risks and prefer to focus on renewable energy solutions that align with our state's values and goals.

Arguments in Opposition:

1. **Protecting Public Health and Safety:** Establishing a Nuclear Energy Task Force contradicts Hawai‘i’s constitutional ban on nuclear power. The potential for catastrophic accidents endangers the health and safety of residents, making nuclear energy an unacceptable risk.
2. **Sustainable Waste Management:** The unresolved issue of nuclear waste disposal poses long-term environmental and health hazards. Given the longevity and hazardous nature of radioactive waste, the lack of sustainable waste management solutions makes nuclear energy impractical.
3. **Economic Considerations:** The high costs associated with the construction, maintenance, and decommissioning of nuclear power plants are unjustifiable. Investment in safer, renewable energy sources would yield more sustainable and economically viable benefits for Hawai‘i.
4. **Environmental Stewardship:** The environmental impact of uranium mining, processing, and nuclear facility construction is significant. These activities can cause habitat destruction, pollution, and other detrimental effects that conflict with Hawai‘i’s commitment to environmental preservation.
5. **Public Sentiment and Opposition:** The considerable public opposition to nuclear energy reflects the community’s preference for clean, renewable energy solutions. Ignoring public sentiment undermines trust in governmental decision-making and disregards the values of Hawai‘i’s residents.

We believe that investing in renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric power is a safer and more sustainable path forward for Hawai‘i. We urge the Committee to reconsider SB1588 SD1 and instead support initiatives that promote clean, renewable energy without the associated risks of nuclear power.

Thank you very much for considering our testimony.

Mahalo nui loa!

Melodie Aduja and Alan Burdick Co-chairs
Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i

Aloha WAM Chair [Dela Cruz](#), Vice Chair [Moriwaki](#) and Committee Members [Aquino](#), [DeCoite](#), [Elefante](#), [Hashimoto](#), [Inouye](#), [Kanuha](#), [Kidani](#), [Mercado Kim](#), [Lee](#), [Wakai](#), [Fevella](#),

My name is Dave Mulinix, Representative of Greenpeace Hawaii. On behalf of our thousands of members and supporters in the state of Hawaii we have great concern and stand in STRONG OPPOSITION to SB1588 that establishes the Nuclear Energy Task Force within the Hawai'i State Energy Office.

The goal of this bill is to research various so called new advanced nuclear technologies to see if they are a viable option for Hawaii. The reality is that the nuclear industry is constantly coming up with "new ideas" to repackage and sell their dirty nuclear energy to the public. The truth is, nuclear energy has serious safety issues, is highly toxic for 200,000 years, and **the most expensive source of energy on the planet.**

Nuclear proponents advocate using new, supposedly safer, reactor designs as a climate solution. These untested designs, such as the Integral Fast Reactor, Pebble Bed Modular Reactor, Thorium Fueled Reactors, Molten Salt Reactors, and others, including Small Modular Reactors are all still in the experimental stage. The designs—all of which have been around for decades, would take decades to bring them to commercial operation. To achieve even that would require utilities to want to build them, but none do. Their costs would be even higher than current reactor designs—one reason utilities aren't interested. Safety-wise, the designs are unproven and would require extensive and time consuming testing before the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission could license them. Waiting for such reactors to materialize would forestall much faster and cheaper climate solutions.

Four additional points that already clearly demonstrate, without the need of a nuclear energy task force, that nuclear energy is not, and has never been, a viable option for Hawaii:

- 1) Hawaii's constitution explicitly prohibits nuclear fission power plants without legislative approval (Article XI, Section 8). This critical provision protects the health and safety of Hawaii's residents and reflects long-standing public opposition to nuclear energy.
- 2) Creating a Nuclear Energy Task Force is unnecessary. Hawaii's constitution, existing laws, and community values have already rejected nuclear power as a viable option. Establishing this task force would be a waste of taxpayer money and distracts attention away from actual viable clean energy technologies that have proven to cut climate-killing carbon emissions.
- 3) The Three Mile Island, Chernobyl, and Fukushima nuclear power plant disasters have all proven that nuclear power is not safe, clean, or cheap.
- 4) For some 70 years the US government has searched the entire Earth and so far has found no safe place to store nuclear waste. So the waste from nuclear power plants are currently stored on site until a viable way to permanently store the waste can be found. If we can't find a safe place on Oahu to build a new waste dump, then how are we going to find a place to store nuclear waste that will remain toxic for some 200,000 years?

Forming this task force is a wasted effort. It is clear that nuclear energy in Hawaii is not a viable option. Why would we waste our time, taxpayer money, and precious resources on something we already know the answer to?

Please vote no on SB1588 that will waste taxpayer money and distract attention away from actual viable clean energy technologies that have proven to cut climate-killing carbon emissions.

Mahalo

Dave Mulinix, CoFounder and Hawaii State Representative
Greenpeace Hawaii

References:

Nuclear Information and Resource Service/World Information Service on Energy

Nuclear Power and Climate: Why Nukes Can't Save the Planet

<https://www.nirs.org/wp-content/uploads/factsheets/nukesclimatefact614.pdf>

Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists

Molten salt reactors were trouble in the 1960s—and they remain trouble today

<https://thebulletin.org/2022/06/molten-salt-reactors-were-trouble-in-the-1960s-and-they-remain-trouble-today/>

Union of Concerned Scientists Statement on Thorium-Fueled Reactors

https://www.ucsusa.org/sites/default/files/legacy/assets/documents/nuclear_power/thorium-reactors-statement.pdf

Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists

A small modular reactor's demise calls for big change in Energy Department policy

<https://thebulletin.org/2023/11/a-small-modular-reactors-demise-calls-for-big-change-in-energy-department-policy/>

Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists

Say no to small modular reactors: Stop normalizing the exploitation of nature

<https://thebulletin.org/2024/04/say-no-to-small-modular-reactors-stop-normalizing-the-exploitation-of-nature/>

Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists

Can small modular reactors help mitigate climate change?

<https://thebulletin.org/premium/2021-07/can-small-modular-reactors-help-mitigate-climate-change/>

Union of Concerned Scientists

Small Nuclear Reactor Contract Fails, Signaling Larger Issues with Nuclear Energy Development in U.S.

<https://www.ucsusa.org/about/news/small-nuclear-reactor-contract-fails-signaling-larger-issues-nuclear-energy-development>

Union of Concerned Scientists

Small Modular Reactors: Safety, Security and Cost Concerns

<https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/small-modular-reactors>

SB-1588-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 11:00:49 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition **OPPOSES** this bill!

SB-1588-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:23:58 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Pitcaithley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee

I am vehemently opposed to SB1588, a bill for a Nuclear Energy Task Force. It is unnecessary and misaligned with Hawaii's constitution, its commitment to renewable energy, and the values of its residents. We have failed to maximize our renewable resources such as wind and solar and geothermal.

The Energy Office has stated that nuclear energy would be too expensive. We need to instead spend tax dollars on truly renewable and sustainable sources of energy.

Oahu lacks the capacity for a site for the lethal radioactive waste that must be maintained and funded for 200,000 years. In fact, they are challenged in finding a location for another needed landfill in Oahu.

This bill is such a bad idea, it is not even taking into account that the transport of nuclear fuel is hazardous. It would have to be transported a great distance across the ocean to get to Hawaii. An accident occurring during transport, would result in a disaster to Hawaii's pristine marine environment. It also does not take into account that the risk for storage of nuclear wastes could be affected by earthquakes, volcanic activity, and tsunamis.

It is a myth that nuclear energy is renewable, or has "zero emissions" and is a distraction from proven sustainable and renewable resources such as solar, wind and geothermal power.

Please do not let this bill move forward

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony,

Ann Pitcaithley, resident of Maui for 35 years

SB-1588-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 12:46:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is a waste of time and money. There is no safe or acceptable place in Hawaii to put the radioactive waste from a nuclear power generator, and no place in the mainland will accept it, either. They have never even found an acceptable long-term storage location for the nuclear waste they are already generating. Please do not allow SB1588 to proceed any further.

SB-1588-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 1:09:57 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONGLY OPPOSE!

SB-1588-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 1:26:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brodie Lockard	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This BAD bill (**HB558** in the House, and **SB1588** in the Senate) is not only a distraction from Hawaii achieving our clean energy goals, it could pose serious harms to our health and environment.

HB558/SB1588 establishes the Nuclear Energy Task Force within the Hawaii State Energy Office. While this measure would just establish a taskforce, **why waste the money on something that the Energy Office has already indicated would be an expensive form of energy, let alone the environmental risks?**

Bottom line, if we are already having such an immense challenge just being able to site a landfill on Oahu, how would we ever be able to site a nuclear waste facility that would contain lethal radioactive waste, that according to scientists, must be maintained and funded for at least 200,000 years?

Here are just a few more reasons why this bill is a VERY BAD idea.

Transporting Nuclear Fuel is a Hazard

As an isolated island chain, Hawaii faces unique and significant risks in transporting nuclear fuel over vast ocean distances. Any accidents during transport could have catastrophic consequences for Hawaii's pristine marine environment and tourism-dependent economy.

Nuclear Waste Storage is Infeasible

Hawaii's geological instability, including frequent earthquakes, volcanic activity, and tsunami risks, makes it an unsafe location for storing nuclear waste. There are no viable long-term solutions for safely containing radioactive materials in such a volatile environment.

Hawaii's Renewable Energy Goals

Hawaii is already on the path to achieving 100% renewable energy by 2045 through Act 97 (2015). Nuclear energy is not renewable, it is not "zero-emissions," and pursuing it would divert attention and resources from proven, sustainable solutions like solar, wind, and geothermal power.

SB-1588-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:15:35 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Bernstein	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senator Dela Cruz and Members of the WAM Committee:

I'm writing in support of SB1588. If we are to meet our emissions and RPS goals, we need to consider all non-carbon options. Nuclear offers a great deal of promise as it is carbon free and could serve as baseload power. Please pass SB1588 out of your committee.

Mahalo,

Paul Bernstein

SB-1588-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:24:19 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TOM DIGRAZIA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose!

SB-1588-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 12:01:04 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Wiencek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

I cannot understate my *strong support* for this bill. Nuclear energy is a **CLEAN, SAFE, EFFECTIVE** energy source. It is powerful and leaves minimal footprint. Incorporating nuclear energy into our broader renewable energy goals is critical to powering the clean energy/economy transition. We need nuclear energy for a carbon free future.

SB-1588-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 1:30:54 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jim Scancella	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Nuclear Energy is not the answer! I has never been economically viable. It has never been safe!

SB-1588-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 1:48:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary True	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am strongly opposed to SB1588. What do our Hawaii leaders not understand about Chernobyl and Fukushima? We have the same unstable environment with frequent earthquakes.

Thanks for your attention, Mary True

SB-1588-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 2:14:54 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT this measure.

SB-1588-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 2:44:15 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
A Wilkie	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please Oppose this bill. Nuclear energy is toxic and unstable.

Thank you

Peter Sternlicht. An Individual Resident of Hawai'i Island
Statement in Support of SB1588_SD1

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Dear Chairman Wakai, Vice Chairman Chang and members of the Committee,

Energy is the master resource. All economic activity depends upon its availability and its affordability. For these reasons and more, I strongly support SB1588_SD1.

We now know that firm, dispatchable and baseload power is needed to effectively decarbonize Hawaii's electrical grid. There are only two technologies that are suited to provide that type of energy: Geothermal and nuclear. We need both.

This bill is an opportunity to gather the critical data needed to further Hawaii's energy sovereignty. I encourage characterizing nuclear technology, especially within the current categories of Gen III and Gen IV nuclear and for them to be studied in detail. Within the latter category, Gen IV, Molten Salt Reactors (MSR) is reported to be a very promising, safe technology utilizing very low radiation materials for heat generation and within an extremely small footprint.

Knowledge is a powerful tool to use when crafting public policy. I wholeheartedly support passage of SB1588 which wisely strives to achieve that end.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Sternlicht', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter Sternlicht
Pepeekeo, HI 96783

SB-1588-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 3:47:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Ware	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Committee Members, WAM

*I, Diane Ware, resident of Ka'u moku am strongly opposed to SB1588 to establish a Nuclear Energy Task Force and urge you to **not** move this bill forward. This bill, which seeks to establish a Nuclear Energy Task Force, is unnecessary and misaligned with Hawaii's constitution, its commitment to renewable energy, and the values of its residents.*

***The Energy Office has already stated nuclear energy would be too expensive.** Allowing SB1588 to move forward would waste our tax dollars, and risk steering our state away from its sustainable energy goals.*

*On top of that, if we are already having such an immense challenge just being able to site a landfill on Oahu, how would we ever be able to site a nuclear waste facility that would contain lethal radioactive waste, that according to scientists, must be maintained and **funded** for at least 200,000 years?*

*I strongly urge the Committee to **NOT** allow this bill to move forward.*

Volcano HI 96785

SB-1588-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 3:57:33 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am of the opinion that in general looking into offshore wind, tidal, hydroelectric and solar are the best options for clean energy, and would rather invest money into developing and assessing the feasibility of green hydrogen and research in UH for nuclear fusion, which seems to come with less baggage than fission. I do believe that if a task force is created for nuclear or any other kind of energy utility the way the task force is laid out in the bill is a decent setup for transparency and shared skill set. Mahalo.

SB-1588-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:06:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aya Kimura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Nuclear energy is expensive, polluting, and the too risky. Nuclear energy depends upon massive subsidy to plan and build which could be used for more sustainable meaning of war energy. Nuclear energy produces radiation even during the normal operation which exposes workers Pretend to be from the merchandise socioeconomic backgrounds. Nuclear energy also produces hot water that needs to be disposed of which then changes the surrounding ecosystem. Nuclear waste is also a huge issue that does not have good solution. We will be burdening the future generation for the contamination from the nuclear waste. Nuclear reactors could also be a security risk I could be a target for pouring attacks.

SB-1588-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:11:41 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kylie Hopkins	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE!

I am strongly opposed to SB1588 to establish a Nuclear Energy Task Force and urge you to NOT move this bill forward. The establishment of a Nuclear Energy Task Force is unnecessary and does not align with Hawai'i's constitution, its commitment to renewable energy, and the values of its residents.

The Energy Office has already been clear that it is too expensive. So allowing SB1588 to move forward would waste our tax dollars, and risk moving our state away from its sustainable energy goals.

I strongly urge the Committee to NOT allow this bill to move forward.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kylie Hopkins

SB-1588-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:41:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Lum	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*I am strongly opposed to SB1588 to establish a Nuclear Energy Task Force and urge you to **not** move this bill forward. This bill, which seeks to establish a Nuclear Energy Task Force, is unnecessary and misaligned with Hawaii's constitution, its commitment to renewable energy, and the values of its residents.*

***The Energy Office has already stated nuclear energy would be too expensive.** Allowing SB1588 to move forward would waste our tax dollars, and risk steering our state away from its sustainable energy goals.*

*On top of that, if we are already having such an immense challenge just being able to site a landfill on Oahu, how would we ever be able to site a nuclear waste facility that would contain lethal radioactive waste, that according to scientists, must be maintained and **funded** for at least 200,000 years?*

I strongly urge the Committee to NOT allow this bill to move forward.

Mahalo,

Jennifer Lum, 'Ewa Beach

SB-1588-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:10:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samantha Nelson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Samantha, I am strongly opposed to SB1588 to establish a Nuclear Energy Task Force and urge you not to move this bill forward. This bill, which seeks to establish a Nuclear Energy Task Force, is unnecessary and misaligned with Hawaii's constitution, its commitment to renewable energy, and the values of its residents.

***The Energy Office has already stated nuclear energy would be too expensive.** Allowing SB1588 to move forward would waste our tax dollars, and risk steering our state away from its sustainable energy goals.*

*On top of that, if we are already having such an immense challenge just being able to site a landfill on Oahu, how would we ever be able to site a nuclear waste facility that would contain lethal radioactive waste, that according to scientists, must be maintained and **funded** for at least 200,000 years?*

I strongly urge the Committee to NOT allow this bill to move forward.

Thank you for your time.

SB-1588-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:19:10 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathy Shimata	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*I am strongly opposed to SB1588 to establish a Nuclear Energy Task Force and urge you to **not** move this bill forward. This bill, which seeks to establish a Nuclear Energy Task Force, is unnecessary and misaligned with Hawaii's constitution, its commitment to renewable energy, and the values of its residents.*

***The Energy Office has already stated nuclear energy would be too expensive.** Allowing SB1588 to move forward would waste our tax dollars, and risk steering our state away from its sustainable energy goals.*

*In addition, we are having a very difficult time trying to site a landfill on Oahu. Would we ever be able to site a nuclear waste facility that would contain lethal radioactive waste, that according to scientists, must be maintained and **funded** for at least 200,000 years?*

I strongly urge the Committee to NOT allow this bill to move forward.

Mahalo,

Kathy Shimata

3453 Pawaina St

Honolulu. 96822

SB-1588-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:00:33 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marion McHenry	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*I am strongly opposed to SB1588 to establish a Nuclear Energy Task Force and urge you to **not** move this bill forward. This bill, which seeks to establish a Nuclear Energy Task Force, is unnecessary and misaligned with Hawaii's constitution, its commitment to renewable energy, and the values of its residents.*

***The Energy Office has already stated nuclear energy would be too expensive.** Allowing SB1588 to move forward would waste our tax dollars, and risk steering our state away from its sustainable energy goals.*

*On top of that, if we are already having such an immense challenge just being able to site a landfill on Oahu, how would we ever be able to site a nuclear waste facility that would contain lethal radioactive waste, that according to scientists, must be maintained and **funded** for at least 200,000 years?*

I strongly urge the Committee to NOT allow this bill to move forward.

Sincerely,

Marion McHenry

Kauai

SB-1588-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:20:28 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eliel Starbright	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*I am strongly opposed to SB1588 to establish a Nuclear Energy Task Force and urge you to **not** move this bill forward. This bill, which seeks to establish a Nuclear Energy Task Force, is unnecessary and misaligned with Hawaii's constitution, its commitment to renewable energy, and the values of its residents.*

SB-1588-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:46:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victoria Anderson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hon. WAM Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members:

I strongly oppose SB1588, which proposes establishing a Nuclear Energy Task Force. Please do not move this dangerous bill forward. Where would Hawaii put a nuclear waste facility containing lethal radioactive waste, that needs to be maintained and **funded** for at least 200,000 years? Moreover, we must not risk Hawaii's delicate marine environment by risking accidents while transporting nuclear fuel. Also, it's impossible to safely store nuclear waste in Hawaii's volatile volcanic geological environment.

Mahalo

Victoria B. Anderson

SB-1588-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:34:20 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Morin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Committee members. I'm testifying in support of SB1588 SD1, which 'Establishes the Nuclear Energy Task Force within the Hawai'i State Energy Office. Requires reports to the Legislature.' To ensure that Hawaii is truly sustainable and resilient, we must explore all solutions that have the potential to help address our energy needs in the distant future. Traditional clean energy solutions like solar, storage, and wind are helping us transition to renewables. However, a more robust effort is needed, especially as we aim to electrify our economy. It's become apparent that we cannot rely exclusively on solar, wind, and storage. This is especially true for Oahu, where most of Hawaii's energy demand exists. SB1588 SD1 will ensure we evaluate all viable, clean energy solutions, including advanced nuclear technologies. The measure's proposed Nuclear Energy Task Force will help us understand the technology's risks and benefits, feasibility, and role in our energy portfolio. Nuclear power technology has evolved and may present features that mitigate the risks associated with legacy water-cooled plants. For example, small modular reactors (SMRs) might offer us a significant amount of clean baseload power, distributed deployment, and lower risks associated with waste. On the other hand, they may present us with unacceptable and unmitigable risks. SB1588 SD1 allows us to understand the technology so that we can make the right decisions about advanced nuclear energy options. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Noel Morin Hilo - Climate, Sustainability, and Resilience Advocate

SB-1588-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:50:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nadine NEWLIGHT	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

oppose

SB-1588-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:31:00 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lana Brodziak	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

PLEASE do not support the development of this type of task force!!

NO NUCLEAR POWER IN HAWAII!!

The USA has developed the technology to use solar and wind energy to meet our energy needs.

SB-1588-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:31:39 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Goodwin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not move this bill forward. The economy of scale for nuclear energy in small population Hawaii prohibits its competitiveness. Please don't subject our citizens to a fight over where to store the radioactive waste for forever. Non polluting renewable energy is our path to a clean and healthy environment for future generations, Let's stay that course.

LATE

SB-1588-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:46:28 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann V Saffery	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha All,

*I am strongly opposed to SB1588 to establish a Nuclear Energy Task Force and urge you to **not** move this bill forward. This bill, which seeks to establish a Nuclear Energy Task Force, is unnecessary and misaligned with Hawaii's constitution, its commitment to renewable energy, and the values of its residents.*

***The Energy Office has already stated nuclear energy would be too expensive.** Allowing SB1588 to move forward would waste our tax dollars, and risk steering our state away from its sustainable energy goals.*

*On top of that, if we are already having such an immense challenge just being able to site a landfill on Oahu, how would we ever be able to site a nuclear waste facility that would contain lethal radioactive waste, that according to scientists, must be maintained and **funded** for at least 200,000 years?*

I strongly urge the Committee to NOT allow this bill to move forward.

Mahalo,

Ann V Saffery

Honolulu, HI

LATE

SB-1588-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 11:10:14 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JACK SHRIVER	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Jack Shriver. I have been a resident of Hawaii for about 22 years, and involved in the energy field for 35 years. Like all of us, I hope that my children can afford to live here if they choose to, and the availability and cost of energy is one of the key underpinnings of our economic viability. Over the course of my career I have served 22 years as a trained and certified nuclear engineer in the United States Navy, 10 years as a Hawaiian Electric utility employee and energy project developer (building renewable solar and power plants), and I am currently employed with a major engineering firm that focuses on the design of electrical infrastructure.

I fully support all of Hawaii's efforts to transition to a modern, clean, reliable, resilient, affordable, and locally produced energy economy. All of my experience leads me to the conclusion that these goals cannot be accomplished using the technologies and plans that are currently under consideration with a reasonable expectation of grid reliability, and at a reasonable cost to Hawaii residents. Nuclear power may or may not be a critical element to our energy future, but any plans that do not evaluate the viability of modern nuclear technology are incomplete, and a fair evaluation of the current technologies is essential to our state's energy future. Prior decisions on the potential use of nuclear power in Hawaii were made over 45 years ago, and were based on old technology and influenced by a fear-mongering campaign conducted by the oil industry to reduce competition in the energy field. The citizens of Hawaii deserve a fresh look at all available energy generating technologies that could contribute to our goals and our economic and environmental survival.

Major strides in the nuclear energy field have been made in the last decade that warrant a thorough review, especially in comparison side-by-side against other technologies currently under consideration. It is clear that there is no one silver bullet that will achieve our goals, and that a portfolio of energy resources will be needed to meet our needs. We deserve a complete review of nuclear power based on today's facts and forecasts, not on yesteryear's fears and failures.

As a minor detail, I suggest that the bill be modified to eliminate the requirement for the Navy representative to be appointed by the Chief of Naval Operations. This requirement will not add any value to the bill, and may delay the appointment of such an expert by the Navy. If an official must be designated in the bill, then I suggest the Commander, United States Pacific Fleet would be more appropriate and effective.

I fully support the initiative to form a task force to review this technology and whether it would be beneficial to our lives here in Hawaii, and I look forward to participating and seeing the results!

Very Respectfully, Jack Shriver

LATE

SB-1588-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 2:36:38 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Navarra	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in **strong opposition to SB 1588** and urge you to **halt this bill from moving forward**. Establishing a Nuclear Energy Task Force is not only unnecessary, but it directly contradicts Hawai‘i’s constitution, our state’s commitment to renewable energy, and the values of our communities.

Hawai‘i’s Energy Office has already determined that nuclear energy is far too costly to be a viable solution for our state. Pursuing this path would **waste taxpayer dollars** and distract from the real work of accelerating **proven** renewable energy solutions. At a time when we should be focused on expanding solar, wind, and other clean energy sources, creating a task force to explore an option that is financially and logistically unrealistic makes no sense.

Beyond the economic and policy misalignment, the issue of nuclear waste disposal is an insurmountable challenge. If O‘ahu is struggling to find a site for a landfill, **how could we possibly justify siting a facility to contain highly radioactive waste**—a substance that scientists warn must be securely maintained for at least **200,000 years**? This is not a burden we should place on future generations.

I strongly urge the Committee to reject SB 1588 and keep Hawai‘i on track toward a clean, renewable energy future.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Jennifer Navarra

LATE

SB-1588-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 2:52:31 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Dean	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Why would you even investigate Nuclear when you know solar/battery is the cheapest, safest, most reliable, most sustainable? The amount of materials used to build the facility is overwhelming. Then you're locked into buying uranium and disposing of the waste for decades, knowing full well, you can't dispose of the waste, there is no away, in throw it away. Mining uranium is toxic for the near by communities. Processing the uranium is toxic. Shipping the uranium is dangerous, even more so after it's depleted. You can't do it without federal subsidies, but if you could get the kind of federal subsidies required to build a nuke, then just build out a solar grid that handles net metering instead?

LATE

SB-1588-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 4:20:24 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Fryer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB1588. This bill, which seeks to establish a Nuclear Energy Task Force, is unnecessary and misaligned with Hawaii's constitution, its commitment to renewable energy, and the values of its residents. Allowing SB1588 to move forward would waste taxpayers' money while also diverting our state from its sustainable energy goals.

LATE

SB-1588-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 10:49:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2025 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrice Choy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB1588. Hawaii should not go down the nuclear road. We have enough problems as it is. Red Hill is still not cleaned up. Our water has been poisoned. Landfills are toxic and yet that's all the mayor can think about, and now there is the threat of utilizing nuclear power? We can't afford to deal with nuclear radiation on top of all that we are faced with. How much more poisoning can our 'aina take?

Establishing a Nuclear Energy Task Force is scary and a waste of voter/tax payer money.