

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 597-24

Honolulu, Hawaii
, 2024

FEB 16

RE: H.B. No. 1629
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2024
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Energy & Environmental Protection and
Water & Land, to which was referred H.B. No. 1629 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to require contested cases or
environmental impact statement cases involving renewable energy,
except cases involving incineration, to be:

- (1) Prioritized and decided expeditiously; and
- (2) Appealed from an agency's decision directly to the
Hawaii Supreme Court for final decision.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure
from the Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative and Climate Protectors
Hawaii. Your Committees received testimony in opposition to this
measure from the Hawaii Clean Power Alliance. Your Committees
received comments on this measure from the Judiciary; Department
of the Attorney General; and Public Utilities Commission.

Your Committees find that in order to achieve the State's
goal of one hundred percent renewable energy by the year 2045,
there is a need to support the efficient permitting of renewable
energy projects. This measure facilitates a swift transition to

2024-1519 HB1629 HD1 HSCR HMSO



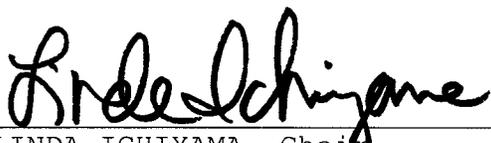
clean energy and supports innovative projects that seek to reduce the State's climate impact by establishing an expedited process to prevent lengthy legal challenges that could delay or possibly stop viable renewable energy projects.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Clarifying that contested cases, environmental assessment cases, or environmental impact statement cases involving large-scale energy projects over twenty megawatts in size would be required to be appealed directly to the Hawaii Supreme Court for final decision and prioritized and decided expeditiously;
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Energy & Environmental Protection and Water & Land that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1629, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1629, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Energy &
Environmental Protection and
Water & Land,


LINDA ICHIYAMA, Chair


NICOLE E. LOWEN, Chair



