

Honolulu, Hawaii
MAR 22, 2024

RE: S.B. No. 2770
H.D. 1

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

Sir:

Your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, to which was referred S.B. No. 2770, H.D. 1, entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to authorize the counties to establish an opt-in program that allows an annual payment in lieu of real property taxes for land or improvements that produce or store renewable energy sold to an electric utility.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawaii State Energy Office; Department of Budget and Fiscal Services of the City and County of Honolulu; Hawaii Solar Energy Association; Clearway Energy Group; Ulupono Initiative; Longroad Energy; Hawaiian Electric; and one individual.

Your Committee finds that Act 97, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, established a one hundred percent renewable portfolio standard for electric utilities by December 31, 2045, which requires that all net electricity sales be from renewable energy sources. Your Committee further finds that several renewable energy projects have faced drastic property tax increases, which have impacted the financial viability of those projects and created uncertainty for future renewable energy projects. This measure will provide more certainty for developers of renewable



energy projects by allowing the counties to establish opt-in programs for in-lieu payments of real property taxes.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2770, H.D. 1, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Consumer
Protection & Commerce,



MARK M. NAKASHIMA, Chair



