

LINDA LINGLE

GOV. MSG. NO. 840

July 11, 2006

The Honorable Robert Bunda, President and Members of the Senate Twenty-Third State Legislature State Capitol, Room 003 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. President and Members of the Senate:

I am transmitting herewith HB2878 HD1 SD1 CD1, without my approval, and with the statement of objections relating to the measure.

HB2878 HD1 SD1 CD1

A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS TO ASSIST TRADEWINDS FOREST PRODUCTS, LLC.

Sincerely,

LINDA LINGLE



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2006 STATE OF HAWAII H.B. NO. 2878 H.D. 1 S.D. 1 C.D. 1

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS TO ASSIST TRADEWINDS FOREST PRODUCTS, LLC.

#### BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

- 1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds and declares that the
- 2 issuance of special purpose revenue bonds under this Act is in
- 3 the public interest and for the public health, safety, and
- 4 general welfare.
- 5 The legislature finds that it is in the public interest to
- 6 support economic development and job growth, expansion of the
- 7 State's promising forest products industry, and non-petroleum-
- 8 based generation of electric power. The legislature therefore
- 9 finds that support for a new eucalyptus wood veneer
- 10 manufacturing facility is in the public interest as it will
- 11 provide over one hundred family-wage jobs, further the
- 12 development of a state-based world class forest products
- 13 industry, and generate three to five megawatts of renewable
- 14 electric energy for general consumption.
- 15 The legislature further finds that Tradewinds Forest
- 16 Products, LLC, proposes to build a \$30,000,000 facility on the
- 17 Hamakua coast that will process domestic eucalyptus logs, some

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1	harvested	from state-owned plantations, into high strength, thin
2	veneer sh	eets for exportation. The same facility would generate
3	surplus e	lectricity from the burning of wood by-products.
4	The	legislature finds that the issuance of special purpose
5	revenue b	onds under this Act will assist Tradewinds Forest
6	Products,	LLC, in constructing its veneer mill and cogeneration
7	facility	and make the combined facility more economically
8	feasible	and will provide numerous other benefits, including:
9	(1)	Providing family-wage jobs to facility employees, as
10		well as to loggers and truckers supplying and
11		transporting timber to the mill, and personnel
12		replanting and maintaining the forest plantations;
13	(2)	Providing skilled industrial jobs in a location where
14		economic activity is behind the norm and unemployment
15		is above state averages;
16	(3)	Developing a new export product for the state by using
17		a renewable resource unique to Hawaii's location in
18		the United States, which may later result in local
19		production of selected building products;
20	(4)	Possibly becoming a precursor to a major forest
21		products industry in our state by taking advantage of
22		our exceptional climate to grow superior timber;

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1	(5)	Producing electric power for public consumption
2		efficiently from local renewable resources that will
3		help the State and the federal government meet goals
4		and mandates for energy efficiency and renewable
5		energy use;
6	(6)	Creating the potential to efficiently and economically
7		dispose of green waste in the region; and
8	(7)	Generating millions of dollars of construction project
9		spending and building the skill base of local workers.
10	SECT	ION 2. Pursuant to part V, chapter 39A, Hawaii Revised
11	Statutes,	the department of budget and finance, with the
12	approval	of the governor, is authorized to issue special purpose
13	revenue bo	onds in a total amount not to exceed \$25,000,000, in
14	one or mo	re series, for the purpose of assisting Tradewinds
15	Forest Pro	oducts, LLC, with one or more of the following:
16	(1)	The establishment of a veneer mill and an associated
17		cogeneration plant for the combined production of
18		eighty million to one hundred million square feet of
19		eucalyptus veneer that is one-eighth of an inch thick
20		and up to five megawatts of electricity from renewable
21		resources; and

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1	(2) The financing of the costs related to the planning,
2	design, and construction of the facility, including
3	the costs of constructing, equipping, and purchasing
4	tangible assets, including land, for a facility site.
5	The legislature hereby finds and determines that the
6	activity and facilities of Tradewinds Forest Products, LLC,
7	constitute a project as defined in part V, chapter 39A, Hawaii
8	Revised Statutes, and the financing thereof is assistance to an
9	industrial enterprise.
10	SECTION 3. The special purpose revenue bonds and the
11	refunding special purpose revenue bonds issued under this Act
12	shall be issued pursuant to part V, chapter 39A, Hawaii Revised
13	Statutes, relating to the power to issue special purpose revenue
14	bonds to assist industrial enterprises.
15	SECTION 4. The department of budget and finance is
16	authorized, from time to time, including times subsequent to
17	June 30, 2011, to issue special purpose revenue bonds in
18	whatever principal amounts the department shall determine to be
19	necessary to refund the special purpose revenue bonds authorized
20	in section 2 and to refund special purpose revenue bonds
21	authorized in this section, regardless of whether the
22	outstanding special purpose revenue bonds or refunding special

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- 1 purpose revenue bonds have matured or are the subject of
- 2 redemption or whether the refunding special purpose revenue
- 3 bonds shall be bonds for the multi-project programs described in
- 4 section 2. In making this determination, the department shall
- 5 comply with federal law relating to the exemption from federal
- 6 income taxation of the interest on bonds of the nature
- 7 authorized by this section.
- 8 SECTION 5. The authorization to issue special purpose
- 9 revenue bonds under this Act shall lapse on June 30, 2011.
- SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.

#### HB No. 2878 HD 1 SD 1 CD 1

#### THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: May 4, 2006 Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Twenty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006.

Calvin K.Y. Say

Speaker

House of Representatives

Patricia Mau-Shimizu Chief Clerk

House of Representatives

#### THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: May 4, 2006 Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the Senate of the Twenty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006.

Robert Bunda

President of the Senate

Paul Kawaguchi Clerk of the Senate

#### PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, under Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, the Governor is required to give notice, by a proclamation, of the Governor's plan to return with the Governor's objections any bill presented to the Governor less than ten days before adjournment sine die or presented to the Governor after adjournment sine die of the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, House Bill No. 2878, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to Assist Tradewinds Forest Products, LLC," passed by the Legislature, was presented to the Governor within the aforementioned period; and

WHEREAS, House Bill No. 2878 is unacceptable to the Governor of the State of Hawaii;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor of the State of Hawaii, do hereby issue this proclamation, pursuant to the provisions of Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, giving notice of my plan to return House Bill No. 2878 with my objections thereon to the Legislature as provided by said Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution.

DONE at the State Capitol, Honolulu, State of Hawaii, this 26th day of June, 2006.

> LINDA LINGLE Governor of Hawaii

# EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS HONOLULU July 10, 2006

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 2878

Honorable Members Twenty-Third Legislature State of Hawaii

Pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, I am returning herewith, without my approval, House Bill No. 2878, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to Assist Tradewinds Forest Products, LLC."

The purpose of this bill is to authorize the issuance of up to \$25,000,000 in special purpose revenue bonds to assist Tradewinds Forest Products, LLC ("Tradewinds"), a Delaware limited liability company, in the establishment of a veneer mill and associated cogeneration plant (the "project").

This bill is objectionable because there are serious questions as to whether issuance of the contemplated special purpose revenue bonds would serve a public purpose and whether financing of the project is an appropriate use of such bonds. First, based on an initial review, it is doubtful that special purpose revenue bonds could be issued for this project since most of the \$30,000,000 project does not appear to qualify for special purpose revenue bond financing on a federal tax-exempt basis. Absent a detailed legal analysis of the engineering schematics and components of the project by bond counsel, federal tax-exempt financing for the project likely would be limited to \$10,000,000 under section 144 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Generally, special purpose revenue bonds are marketable only if they can be issued on a federal tax-exempt basis. Absent sufficient special purpose revenue bond financing, it is unclear whether the project would produce the local products and jobs anticipated in the bill. Tradewinds has had an agreement for the

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS HOUSE BILL NO. 2878 Page 2

past five years with the State to build a timber processing plant and to harvest eucaplyptus and maple planted in the Waikea Forest Reserve. However, due to difficulties in securing financing, the project has been delayed and has not produced the local products and jobs initially anticipated.

Unfortunately, it appears the proposed project has not been adequately explained to the community such that residents of the area have raised questions and concerns about the potential impacts. Additionally, questions have been raised as to the appropriateness of using publicly issued financing for a project that proposes to use the public's resources for private gain. Until these concerns are fully and fairly addressed, the State should not be asked to issue bonds for this proposal.

For the foregoing reasons, I am returning House Bill No. 2878 without my approval.

Respectfully,

LINDA LINGLE Governor of Hawaii