



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
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TESTIMONY OF THE HAWAII SOLAR ENERGY ASSOCIATION
IN REGARD TO H.B. 2507
RELATING TO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTION
BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
ON
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2008

Chair Morita, Vice-Chair Carroll, my name is Richard Reed and I represent the Hawaii Solar Energy Assn. (HSEA). HSEA supports the passage of H.B. 2507.

H.B. 2507 creates within DBEDT two temporary full time “specialized personnel” to provide professional and technical support to the greenhouse gas emission task force established in 2007 by Act 234.

In recent memory the DBEDT Energy Division has been under funded relative to the many tasks they have been asked to administer. The problems that will be addressed by the task force are intractable. They will not go away in a year and neither should the funding. In my experience it will take the new appointments at least that long simply to come up to speed.

Per our previous testimony on H.B. 2505, we believe that DBEDT’s Energy Division is at a crossroads. It must rebuild and reconstitute itself very quickly. The federal funds that have employed the majority of positions in the Division for approximately twenty-eight years will be depleted in four years at the current burn rate.

It is imperative that DBEDT acquire a number of competent full-time staff over the next few years to administer, analyze, and manage the incredibly important transition that is now underway in Hawaii from a fossil to renewable-based economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.