

TESTIMONY OF WARREN BOLLMEIER ON BEHALF OF WSB-HAWAII BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

HB 1144 HD1, RELATING TO CONSERVATION OF THREATENED AND ENDANGERED
SPECIES

March 24, 2009

Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair English and members of the Committee, I am Warren Bollmeier, testifying on behalf of WSB-Hawaii, an independent consultancy in renewable energy in Hawaii. WSB-Hawaii has assisted a number of windfarm developers on projects such as the Hawi Renewable Development windfarm on the Big Island and the Kaheawa Pastures windfarm on Maui. In the case of the latter, WSB-Hawaii prepared the Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") for the original developer Zond Systems, Tehachapi, California.

The purpose of HB 1144 HD1 is to authorize the development and use of programmatic safe harbor agreements and programmatic habitat conservation plans that cover multiple landowners or a class of landowners or extend over a wide area or region

WSB-Hawaii **supports** this bill for the following reasons:

- (1) Protection of Endangered Species. WSB-Hawaii worked closely with the Department of Forestry and Wildlife ("DOFAW") Division of DNLR on the Kaheawa project to evaluate the risks and prepare mitigative measures to protect endangered species such as the Nene, Newell's Shearwater and the Dark-rumped Petrel. At that time I realized the potential for DLNR to become more directly involved in working with developers, especially with Habitat Conservation Plans. However, DLNR did not have the resources then, and I am now encouraged that additional resources may be provided in the future;
- (2) When Multiple Projects are Contiguous. One specific benefit I see in the bill would be when one or more projects are contiguous. In this case, a programmatic HCP could be justified, as opposed to each developer preparing their own HCP. This would benefit the developers, and the state, as DLNR could address preservation strategies on a broader scale. The developers would likely save development costs, which could be passed on to the utility and the consumer by way of lower power purchase rates; and
- (3) HCEI Renewable Development Zones. It would also appear that the bill would support the HCEI goal of establishing renewable development zones. Specifically, programmatic HCPs conducted in designated zones, regardless of land ownership and zoning designations, would help prepare the renewable development zones for development with the same types of benefits as noted above.

Thank for this opportunity to testify.