

February 23, 2009

Via Email: EEPtestimony@Cap itol.hawaii.gov

The Honorable Hermina M Morita, Chair The Honorable Denny Coffman, Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection Conference Room 325, State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Ken Ito, Chair The Honorable Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Water, Land & Natural Resources Conference Room 325, State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Bill No. Time Cat AF AS AX BC Type 1

Re:House Bill 589 Relating To Renewable Energy FacilitiesHearing Date:Tuesday, February 24, 2009Hearing Time:10:00 a.m.

Dear Representatives Morita, Coffman, Ito, Har, and Members of the House Committees on Energy & Environmental Protection and Water, Land & Natural Resources:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in favor of House Bill 589 Relating To Renewable Energy Facilities. We support the intent of the Bill and look forward to working with the proponents of the Bill to provide comments on the final verbiage.

The development of renewable energy resources is critical, but often the large parcels of land best situated for the placement of these facilities are not subdivided into the areas actually needed. The landowner is therefore faced with either encumbering its whole lot, thereby rendering part of the lot unusable for other productive activities, or spending the time and money to subdivide the lot. These choices are often disincentives to the development of a renewable energy facility. In addition, it is difficult for a lessee and its lender to get title insurance for a lease of less than a legally subdivided lot. Without title insurance, almost no lender will be willing to finance the project.

Creating an exemption from the subdivision laws to allow a lease and easement of an area which is a portion of a subdivided lot will facilitate the issuance of title insurance and promote the development of renewable energy facilities.