



Western States Petroleum Association

LATE TESTIMONY

House Committee on Commerce Finance

DATE: February 27, 2012
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 308
RE: HB1454: Relating to Petroleum Products

I am testifying on behalf of the Western States Petroleum Association (known as WSPA) in opposition to HB1454 Proposed HD1. WSPA is a non-profit trade association representing a broad spectrum of petroleum industry companies in Hawaii and five other western states. A purpose of HB1454 Proposed HD1 is to allow gasoline dealers to enter into cooperative purchasing agreements to acquire discounts on gasoline purchases.

WSPA is opposed to this measure on the basis that it is special interest legislation designed to protect a select group of competitors from the antitrust laws. State and federal antitrust laws are designed to protect consumers from anticompetitive practices. In addition, Hawaii can enact an exemption from its own antitrust laws, but Federal law also prohibits agreements in restraint of trade and Hawaii cannot create an exemption from Federal law. This measure may also be unconstitutional to the extent that it interferes with any existing contractual agreements.

Thank you for giving WSPA the opportunity to testify today.