



**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

February 10, 2012, 9:00 A.M.

Room 325

(Testimony is 1 page long)

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2523**

Chairs Chang and Coffman and members of the Committees:

The Blue Planet Foundation supports HB 2523, a measure which, *inter alia*, seeks to establish a regulatory structure for the installation and implementation of an interisland high-voltage electric transmission cable system.

While it appears that the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has the authority to regulate the owner or operator of an interisland high-voltage electric transmission cable system as a public utility, this measure brings added clarity that such a project would be under the regulatory auspices and framework of the PUC.

Blue Planet Foundation's mission is to end the use of fossil fuels on Earth, starting by making Hawai'i a role model for energy independence. We support the appropriate development of all of Hawai'i's clean, indigenous, and renewable energy sources as quickly as possible. Given Hawai'i's population distribution and the landscape of renewable energy potential, the islands cannot "go it alone" to achieve statewide energy independence. The state's electrical grid system requires modernization to accommodate renewable power, and interconnecting the islands provides greater stability while enabling the maximum amount of renewable energy.

Hawai'i's islands have varying amounts of technologically acquirable renewable energy resources and an uneven distribution of electricity demand based on population and economic activity. Maui, for example, has surplus wind energy at night, while Oahu has an expanding fleet of electric vehicles that could put that energy to work. Legislation to establish a regulatory framework for the implementation of an interisland cable system can provide more certainty, stability, and oversight in the development process. By providing structure for a statewide electrical grid we can get the most out of our state's abundant solar, wind, and geothermal energy resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

# LATE TESTIMONY

## Testimony in opposition to HB2523

I am against the tax payer/rate payer windmill project. I am fully aware that Hawaii needs to find ways to minimize its carbon footprint, but I don't agree with the windmill project because the windmills have a lifespan of 25-30 years. This project is a short term solution to a long term problem. Also, why are we sacrificing our natural resources for the energy needs of Oahu? Oahu needs to find ways to minimize its energy usage, not find other ways to consume more. I will not support a project of this magnitude because the residents of Lanai will not benefit from it.

On Lana'i, we are told that the project will create "good jobs", so out of curiosity, I sent out an e-mail on 01/28/2012 to find out more information about these "good jobs" that I keep hearing about. I clearly stated that I needed more information regarding the qualifications needed for these jobs, benefits offered, type of positions offered, and retirement options. I have not received a response back yet.

Also, Lana'i residents are being told that the windmill project will "foster economic stability". We live in a consumer driven economy where ordinary people having money in their pockets to spend, drives the economy. How many long term jobs are we looking at? How long will these jobs last? Where's the information for these jobs?

Also, please think about the impact that the windmill project will have on Lana'i residents and local businesses. The proposed area being considered for the windmill project is used for Axis and Mouflon state hunting. During these times, restaurants and stores see a peak in business. Residents on Lana'i also see an extra source of income because residents rent out homes and vehicles.

Residents of Lana'i also attend these hunts, so that they may be able to provide food for their homes. Those lands are also prime fishing grounds used by local residents for sustenance. Have you ever tried shopping in the grocery stores on Lana'i? I just bought a gallon of milk. It cost me \$7.79. Tax was not included. Please don't destroy our natural resources on Lana'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Jason J. Gill

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 09, 2012 6:39 PM  
**To:** WLOtestimony  
**Cc:** zacherk@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2523 on 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/EEP 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2523

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Keri Zacher  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [zacherk@hotmail.com](mailto:zacherk@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/9/2012

**Comments:**

Solar is beginning to make a positive change on Oahu. Supporting something proven successful makes much more sense than taking a gamble on a possible destructive unknown. HECO has noticed and wants to raise rates to make up for lost revenue...shouldn't our representatives take notice too?