

HB1751 HD2

Measure Title: RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.
Report Title: Renewable Energy
Description: Broadens the definition of renewable energy. (HB1751 HD2)
Companion:
Package: None
Current Referral: CPH
Introducer(s): CULLEN, AQUINO, EVANS, ING, KAWAKAMI, C. LEE, LOWEN, LUKE, NISHIMOTO, POUHA, SAIKI, TOKIOKA, YAMANE



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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Statement of
LUIS P. SALAVERIA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Tuesday, March 29, 2016
9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

in consideration of
HB 1751, HD2
RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) offers comments on HB1751, HD2, which broadens the definition of renewable energy to include “other self-replenishing non-fossil fuel resources”. HD2 eliminated language in the renewable energy definition that would “include but not [be] limited to” the list of renewable sources.

DBEDT is supportive of broadening the definition of renewable energy resources in order to account for technological innovations that would allow our state to take advantage of renewable energy resources that would not already be covered in current definition. Our support of this measure is predicated on the assumption that the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission would be the ultimate arbitrator of whether or not new resources would qualify under the broadened renewable energy definition.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments on HB 1751, HD2.

TESTIMONY OF RANDY IWASE
CHAIR, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

March 29, 2016
9:00 AM

MEASURE: H.B. No. 1751, H.D. 2
TITLE: RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

DESCRIPTION:

This measure greatly expands the definition of “renewable energy” for the purposes of the Part VI of Chapter 269, Hawaii Revised Statutes regarding the State’s Renewable Portfolio Standards (“RPS”) by introducing a broad new “catch-all” to the list of technologies that are eligible to be counted as part of the RPS.

POSITION:

The Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) offers the following comments for the Committee’s consideration.

COMMENTS:

The Commission has concerns that this measure introduces unnecessary ambiguity to the existing definition of “renewable energy”. The language proposed by this measure greatly expands the current definition of “renewable energy” by introducing a broad new “catch-all” to the list of technologies that are eligible to be counted as part of the RPS. The language of the “catch-all” is subject to interpretation which may lead to unintended consequences with respect to the State’s ability to hold electric utilities accountable for driving towards the State’s RPS and clean energy goals. To avoid such unintended consequences, the Commission recommends that any amendments to expand this definition explicitly name emerging renewable energy technologies. The Commission is unaware of any safe, viable, and commercially available renewable energy technologies

that do not fit under the current definition of “renewable energy”, so no such amendments are necessary at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

**TESTIMONY OF THE HAWAII SOLAR ENERGY ASSOCIATION
IN REGARD TO HB 1751 HD2, RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY
BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND
HEALTH
ON
TUESDAY MARCH 29, 2016**

Chair Baker, Vice-Chair Kidani and members of the committee, my name is Will Giese and, I represent the Hawaii Solar Energy Association, Inc. (HSEA)

HSEA supports the intent of HB 1751 HD 2. This measure amends the definition of “renewable energy” within §269-91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to include other renewable resources that may not be covered under the previous statute as written.

Establishing a solid definition for renewable energy is important in order to realize Hawaii’s mandated 100% renewable portfolio standard. In addition, containing language including cutting-edge or untapped sources of renewable energy adds flexibility to the statutes.

However, it should be noted that the language as written may be too ambiguous or non-specific. HSEA understands and acknowledges that this is a forward looking bill. Its intention is to include new renewable energy sources that may not currently exist, or that may not exist now as a scalable technology. With that in mind, caution should be extended as to what types of energy may be included within this definition in the future. For instance, there is significant debate as to whether nuclear breeder reactors or nuclear fission reactors would indeed constitute a renewable source of energy.¹ In fact, the Arizona State Legislature has attempted to pass several bills defining certain types of nuclear energy as renewable.²

This is not to imply that HSEA is necessarily for or against nuclear energy, only that the current draft of HB 1751 could be interpreted as such. Careful consideration should be given to the wording of this bill if its intent is to cover future fuel sources. Alternatively, a bill could be drafted allowing an open-ended “evaluation” of potential non-fossil fuel renewable resources as those resources are developed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

¹ See <http://www.un-documents.net/ocf-07.htm>, A UN white paper on defining certain nuclear energy as renewable

² <http://cleantechnica.com/2015/02/06/nuclear-power-counts-renewable-arizona-senate-committee-says/>



COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

HAWAII ENERGY POLICY FORUM

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT MĀNOA

Hawaii Energy Policy Forum

Jeanne Schultz Afuvai, Hawaii Inst. for Public Affairs
Karlle Asato, Hawaii Government Employees Assn
Joseph Boivin, Hawaii Gas
Warren Bollmeier, Hawaii Renewable Energy Alliance
Michael Brittain, IBEW, Local Union 1260
Albert Chee, Chevron
Elizabeth Cole, The Kohala Center
Kyle Datta, Ulu pono Initiative
Mitch Ewan, UH Hawaii Natural Energy Institute
Jay Fidell, ThinkTech Hawaii
Carl Freedman, Haiku Design & Analysis
Matthias Fripp, REIS at University of Hawaii
Ford Fuchigami, Hawaii Dept of Transportation
Mark Glick, Hawaii State Energy Office, DBEDT
Justin Gruenstein, City & County of Honolulu
Dale Hahn, Ofc of US Senator Brian Schatz
Michael Hamnett, SSRI at University of Hawaii
Senator Lorraine Inouye, Hawaii State Legislature
Randy Iwase, Public Utilities Commission
Ashley Kaono, Ofc of US Representative Tulsi Gabbard
Jim Kelly, Kauai Island Utility Cooperative
Darren Kimura, Energy Industries
Kelly King, Sustainable Biodiesel Alliance
Kal Kobayashi, Maui County Energy Office
Representative Chris Lee, Hawaii State Legislature
Gladys Marrone, Building Industry Assn of Hawaii
Stephen Meder, UH Facilities and Planning
Hermina Morita, Energy Dynamics
Sharon Moriawaki, UH Public Policy Center
Tim O'Connell, US Dept of Agriculture
Jeffrey Ono, Division of Consumer Advocacy, DCCA
Stan Osserman, HCATT
Darren Pai, Hawaiian Electric Companies
Melissa Pavlicek, Hawaii Public Policy Advocates
Randy Perreira, Hawaii Government Employees Assn
Rick Reed, Hawaii Solar Energy Assn
Cynthia Rezentes, Ofc of US Representative Mark Takai
Rick Rocheleau, UH Hawaii Natural Energy Institute
Will Rolston, Hawaii County, Research & Development
Riley Saito, SunPower Systems
Scott Seu, Hawaiian Electric Companies
Joelle Simonpietri, US Pacific Command Energy Ofc
H. Ray Starling, Hawaii Energy
Ben Sullivan, Kauai County
Lance Tanaka, Par Hawaii, Inc.
Maria Tome, Public Utilities Commission
Alan Yamamoto, Ofc of US Senator Mazie Hirono

Testimony of the Hawaii Energy Policy Forum Before the

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Tuesday, March 29, 2016 at 9:00am in Conference Room 229

Comments on HB 1751 HD2, Relating to Renewable Energy

Chair Baker, Vice-Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Energy Policy Forum ("HEPF"), created in 2002, is comprised of over 40 representatives from Hawaii's electric utilities, oil and natural gas suppliers, environmental and community groups, renewable energy industry, and federal, state and local government, including representatives from the neighbor islands. Our vision, mission and comprehensive "10 Point Action Plan" guide us in moving Hawaii toward its preferred energy goals and our comments on this bill.

While House Draft 2 is an improvement over the original language of House Bill 1751, the Hawaii Energy Policy Forum still has concerns. Lacking a purpose clause and absent a definition for "self-replenishing non-fossil fuel resources" it is difficult to ascertain what types of resources are being contemplated that are not already included in the existing definition.

As pointed out by previous testifiers, this lack of clarity may lead to unintended consequences with respect to the State's ability to achieve its clean energy goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

This testimony reflects the position of the Forum as a whole and not necessarily of the individual Forum members or their companies.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, & HEALTH
Tuesday, March 29, 2016 — 9:00 a.m. — Room 229

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports HB 1751 HD 2, Relating to Renewable Energy

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kyle Datta and I am General Partner of the Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally produced food; increase affordable, clean, renewable energy; and reduce waste. We believe that self-sufficiency is essential to our future prosperity and will help shape a future where economic progress and mission-focused impact can work hand in hand.

Ulupono strongly supports HB 1751 HD 2, which expands the definition of renewables to include all technologies that possess renewable characteristics.

Ulupono supports the clarification of the definition because we do not believe it was the policy intent to limit the renewable technologies solely to those that were available at the time of that the law was enacted. This modest modification would allow inclusion of technologies that might be available in the future to meet our 100% renewable goals.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Kyle Datta
General Partner

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

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Timothy P. Donovan

Chief Executive Officer



March 28, 2016

Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Hawaii State Senate
Senate Chair Rosalyn Baker

State Capital Conference Room 229
Time: 9:00 AM Hearing

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT
HB1751 HD2 – Relating to Renewable Energy

Dear Chair Baker and Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health:

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony in support of HB175, a bill that enhances Section 269-91 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes. This measure, when approved, positions Hawaii to welcome all approved technologies that can assist the State in becoming energy independent. This can only be positive for the State, our economy and the generations of our families to come.

Hawaii is now in the global spotlight to be a model citizen as it relates to renewable energy. The leadership position adopted by Hawaii through reducing and ultimately eliminating the dependence on fossil fuels is now widely recognized. However, 90% of energy is derived from the importation oil today the State must chart a new course of action to reach that ambitious goal.

HB1751 opens another window of opportunity that can allow our State to be driven not by fossil fuels but by the hope of becoming self-sustainable related to energy.

I humbly urge this committee to vote in favor of this measure and thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T.P. Donovan'.

Timothy P. Donovan
Chief Executive Officer



March 27, 2016

Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Hawaii State Senate
State Capital Conference Room 229
Time: 9:00 AM Hearing

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT
HB1751 HD2 – Relating to Renewable Energy

Dear Chair Baker and Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health:

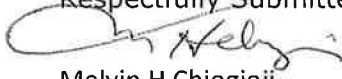
I am submitting my testimony in Support for HB1751 HD2.

This bill establishes the foundation our State needs to move towards energy sustainability. Especially since Hawaii has set a goal of energy independence by the year 2045. Although we have made significant strides towards this goal we are far short of where we need to be in order to stay on track.

One key pathway would be to welcome all technological advances that can increase our energy security and make Hawaii a global demonstration model. HB1751 HD2 provides a significant platform to accomplish this and provides opportunities to further strengthen our economy as a benefit.

Thank you for your consideration and affirmative votes in this matter.

Respectfully Submitted,



Melvin H Chiogioji
President
MELE Associates, Inc.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: skaye@runbox.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1751 on Mar 29, 2016 09:00AM
Date: Monday, March 28, 2016 10:04:37 AM

HB1751

Submitted on: 3/28/2016

Testimony for CPH on Mar 29, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sally kaye	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: This is ridiculous. This non-existent problem could be readily solved by inserting the language, "including but not limited to..." which would accommodate unknown, future sources of renewable energy as appropriate.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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