

TESTIMONY OF RANDY IWASE
CHAIR, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

February 4, 2016
8:00 AM

MEASURE: H.B. No. 2570

TITLE: RELATING TO ENERGY MODERNIZATION

Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

DESCRIPTION:

This measure defines the term “microgrid” and exempts persons who own, control, operate, or manage microgrids from regulation as a public utility under section 269-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes. This measure also would prohibit any political subdivision of the State from requiring that a building that is served by a microgrid be connected to another source of electrical power.

POSITION:

The Commission offers the following comments for the Committee’s consideration.

COMMENTS:

The Commission supports the development of microgrids as an option to meet the energy needs of customers as has been articulated in the Commission’s white paper entitled, *Commission’s Inclinations on the Future of Hawaii’s Electric Utilities*. However, the Commission is concerned that the language in this legislation may not maximize the benefits of microgrids to the public in the long term. It is unclear whether oversight or consumer protection issues may arise for persons served by a microgrid as well as for persons who are not served by a microgrid but may be affected by its operations. For example, it is unclear how interconnection standards or reliability standards for microgrids should be established, both of which protect wide-spread public interests, especially if the microgrid were interconnected with a public utility’s electrical system.

Ultimately, the definitions and requirements of this measure may encourage the development of microgrids that would operate as stand-alone grids. This outcome would preclude many of the benefits that microgrids can provide.

The Commission would ask that the legislature introduce guiding principles or standards for the Commission to follow in the review of any microgrid projects that come before the Commission in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

February 4, 2016
(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2570

Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

The Alliance for Solar Choice (TASC) appreciates the opportunity to support HB 2570, relating to energy modernization. TASC respectfully supports this measure.

TASC advocates for maintaining successful distributed solar energy policies and markets throughout the United States. Collectively, TASC members serve a significant portion of solar customers in Hawaii.

This measure wisely notes the opportunity to create more resilient, lower cost, and customer empowering sources of power through the use of microgrids. Microgrids have been characterized as the “building blocks” necessary for the development of a true, smart grid.

This measure helps clear some of the regulatory hurdles to allow customers to explore the development of microgrids, and ensures Hawaii continues to be on the forefront of clean energy development.

Thank you for considering our comments.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 8:59 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: carl@votecampagna.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2570 on Feb 4, 2016 08:00AM*

HB2570

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for EEP on Feb 4, 2016 08:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carl Campagna	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 8:05 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: dylanarm@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2570 on Feb 4, 2016 08:00AM*

HB2570

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for EEP on Feb 4, 2016 08:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 4:26 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: starmer@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2570 on Feb 4, 2016 08:00AM*

HB2570

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for EEP on Feb 4, 2016 08:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaelan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov