

SB 404

**Testimony before the
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment**

**Tuesday, February 3, 2015, 2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 225**

S.B. No. 404 – Relating to Energy

**By Carlos Perez Loriga
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Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Green and Members of the Committee:

My name is Carlos Perez Loriga. I am Manager of Customer Solutions Department at the Hawaiian Electric Company. I am testifying on behalf of Hawaiian Electric Company and its subsidiary utilities, Maui Electric Company and Hawaii Electric Light Company (collectively “Companies”).

Senate Bill No. 404 (“SB 404”) proposes to expand the types of energy generation and distribution devices that could make certain electric utility customers eligible for net energy metering (“NEM”).

The Companies strongly oppose SB 404 as the proposed definition of “renewable energy generation and distribution device” is extremely broad and non-specific in nature and does not ensure that such devices would generate “renewable energy” as defined in Hawaii’s Renewable Portfolio Standards (“RPS”), HRS Chapter 269, Part V. Therefore, such generation would potentially not count towards meeting Hawaii’s RPS goals.

Furthermore, expanding the definition of “Eligible customer-generator” could have the unintended consequence of allowing experimental or unproven technologies onto the grid which could adversely impact circuit or system reliability and safety. This is contrary to the intent of the NEM program which was to accelerate the integration of proven technologies such as solar, wind turbine, biomass and hydroelectric generation.

The Companies also respectfully assert that this issue should be studied and evaluated in a comprehensive fashion by the Public Utilities Commission as part of Docket No. 2014-0192 (Instituting a Proceeding to Investigate Distributed Energy Resource Policies) giving full consideration to the technical, economic, and regulatory policy issues associated with renewable energy programs available to customers.

We respectfully request that this bill be held.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.