Hawaii Energy Policy Forum

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Testimony of Lance Tanaka Chair, Fuels Working Group Hawaii Energy Policy Forum



To the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 4, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. in Conference Room 211

SUPPORTING THE INTENT OF HOUSE BILL 1986, SENATE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee,

I am Lance Tanaka, Chair of the Fuels Working Group of the Hawaii Energy Policy Forum (Forum). The Forum, 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 and mission, and comprehensive "10 Point Action Plan" serves as a guide to move Hawaii toward its preferred energy goals.

HB 1986, HD 2, SD 1 establishes a carbon offset program under the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, in partnership with the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

The Forum supports the intent of this bill, but has concerns that DBEDT may not have the necessary resources up front to properly execute a carbon offset program.

The Forum believes that an initiative of this magnitude and complexity can ill-afford a "false-start."

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