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**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Thursday, January 23, 2020
9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**On the following measure:
H.B. 1242, RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Chair Lowen and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dean Nishina, and I am the Executive Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Division of Consumer Advocacy. The Department appreciates the intent of and offers comments on this bill.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) require gas utility companies to establish renewable energy portfolio standards (RPS) for gas; (2) provide means for gas utility companies to recover incurred costs to achieve the RPS for gas; and (3) require the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) to conduct a study of the RPS.

The proposed RPS for regulated gas utilities could, among other things, significantly increase the cost of customers' bills. Since the technology used to create renewable gas is less developed than the technologies used to generate renewable electricity (e.g., the Honouliuli biogas facility has only recently begun operations), and since the renewable gas market does not enjoy the same support as renewable electricity (e.g., there is a lack of significant tax credits for renewable gas technologies),

adopting RPS language for the electric industry, including the interim goals, may cause the regulated gas utility to incur significant costs, which gas utility ratepayers would ultimately bear.

On prior similar measures, the Department testified that any RPS imposed on a gas utility should likewise be imposed on regulated and unregulated sales; this will prevent utility gas customers from obtaining unregulated gas sources to avoid cost increases. The Department appreciates that this bill will be imposed on regulated gas sales, as well as sales by the gas utility's parent, parent subsidiary entities, partners, joint ventures, and affiliate entities. This will reduce the regulated utility's incentive to adopt a model that uses unregulated operations to serve customers' needs. In addition, this holistic approach should better align the proposed statutory mechanism with the stated goals to reduce Hawaii's contribution to carbon production and greenhouse gases.

The proposed language in Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) section 269-B(c) allows a regulated gas company to recover "the gas company's revenue requirement resulting from . . . the renewable portfolios of the gas utility company and its gas utility affiliates." This language might be interpreted to mean that any and all costs, even unreasonable costs, are recoverable per se. This may also saddle gas utility ratepayers with significant infrastructure costs for both regulated and unregulated operations, which could require utility consumers to subsidize unregulated customers and allow the unregulated affiliate to use this to its advantage in the unregulated gas market. Therefore, the Department recommends including language that makes clear that only reasonable costs attributable to regulated gas operations can be recovered from gas utility customers and that the Commission and Consumer Advocate may access the records of the unregulated operations of the gas utility affiliates. This will ensure that only reasonable costs incurred by unregulated operations are attributable to renewable utility gas and recovered from customers of the regulated gas utility.

Proposed HRS section 269-95(1) requires the Commission to implement a ratemaking structure that encourages Hawaii's electric utility companies to meet the RPS. It may be appropriate to modify that language to apply to both regulated electric

and gas companies. In addition, proposed HRS section 269-95(3) references Hawaii's electric utility companies, but it may be appropriate to include both the regulated electric and gas utility companies.

Lastly, the Department notes that this bill does not address unregulated gas competitors, such as Oahu Gas. As these unregulated competitors will be able to continue selling gas that is not from a renewable source, the Department respectfully suggests that the Legislature require a study to examine Hawaii's regulated and unregulated gas industries to determine the market's ability to adhere to an RPS in a cost-effective manner. This study would help inform reasonable "stretch" goals that can be established for Hawaii's gas industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented to the
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 9:00am

By

Richard Rocheleau, Director
Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute
And

Michael Bruno, PhD
Vice Chancellor for Research
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

LATE

HB 1242 – RELATING TO REWEWABLE ENERGY

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger and members of the committee:

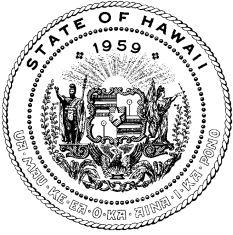
The Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute (HNEI) supports the intent of this bill and provides the following comments.

HB 1242 would require gas utility companies to meet the same renewable portfolio standards as electric utilities, starting with the benchmark of twenty-five percent of its sales by 2025.

HNEI is currently conducting assessments of the potential for producing renewable natural gas (RNG) in the state. These assessments will include an inventory of existing and potential feedstocks, conversion technologies, a review of incentives in other locations, and greenhouse gas emissions impacts of RNG production.

While the bill's initial requirement that 25% of gas utility sales be met with RNG by 2025 could potentially be achieved with in-state production, the cost and timing necessary for acquiring the feedstock and production plant capabilities are highly uncertain. To better understand the range of impacts associated with such a requirement, it would be reasonable to require that the gas utility provide a plan for its transition to RNG, before a renewable portfolio standard for gas utilities is adopted.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 1242.



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SCOTT J. GLENN
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

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Testimony of
SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Thursday, January 23, 2020
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In SUPPORT of
HB 1242
RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the Committee, the Hawaii State Energy Office supports, with amendments, HB 1242, which proposes a renewable portfolio standard (RPS) for Hawaii's regulated utility gas service provider. We defer to the Public Utilities Commission on implementation, and on the legal aspects of including non-regulated entities in the requirement.

We agree that the creation of an RPS for utility gas service is consistent with Hawaii's goals to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and to transition to energy sources that produce fewer greenhouse gases. This bill would establish the objective in statute, empower the Public Utilities Commission to evaluate progress toward the objective, provide for feasibility studies regarding the targets, and provide a public process for providing penalties, waivers, or incentives. These are effective mechanisms for rapid progress towards the goal of reduced fossil-fuel dependency in a realistic and cost-effective manner.

We would like to propose that the bill be modified to start with a study, and that the results of that study be used to establish specific percentages and timing. This would be similar to the process used to develop the original RPS for the electricity sector, where resource assessments were performed by the State Energy Office (then, a Division within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism), as part of the Hawaii Energy Strategy. The initial RPS law, Act 272 of 2001, established the original electricity RPS of 7% by the end of 2003, 8% by the end of 2005, and 9% by the end of 2010. In 2004, Act 95 increased the electricity RPS to 20% by the end of 2020. These initial levels were based on assessments of available resources, technology, and cost. A similar approach would be appropriate for setting the level for regulated gas services.

Also, although there are many similarities between electricity and gas utilities, there are some substantial differences between the electricity and gas sectors. To allow for effective discussion and management of the differences, we recommend that the renewable portfolio standard sections of the statute be separated for electricity and gas services; that the respective studies be conducted separately; and that the first study for Hawaii's gas utilities begin in 2020, with completion at the soonest feasible date, which could be by the end of 2022. The study should include a consideration of the impact on, or by, the non-regulated gas providers on the objectives of the legislation. It would assist the researchers if, in that section of the statute, the Legislature were to provide a clear statement of the objective of the legislation (i.e. "reduce the use of fossil fuels by Hawaii's economy," "reduce overall production of greenhouse gases," or "maintain services for current customers while transitioning to higher proportions of renewable gas, including hydrogen, in the system," for example).

Finally, we would like to note that a variety of entities, not only subsidiaries of the gas utility company, provide fuels (for example, methane, propane, butane, and hydrogen) for use in gas and propane appliances, equipment, vehicles, and generators; not all are regulated by the Public Utilities Commission, and many are not affiliates of the regulated gas service provider.

We look forward to working with the Committee on this topic.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

TESTIMONY OF
JAMES P. GRIFFIN, Ph.D.
CHAIR, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
STATE OF HAWAII

TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

January 23, 2020
9:00 a.m.

Chair Lowen and Members of the Committee:

MEASURE: H.B. No. 1242

TITLE: RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.

DESCRIPTION: Require gas utility companies to establish renewable energy portfolio standards for gas. Provides means for gas utility companies to achieve the renewable energy portfolio standards for gas. Requires the public utilities commission to conduct a study of the renewable portfolio standards.

POSITION:

The Public Utilities Commission offers the following comments for consideration.

COMMENTS:

The Commission supports development of cost-effective renewable gas sources as an important component of meeting state energy and climate goals. In recent years, the Commission approved Hawaii Gas' proposed Honouliuli Wastewater Treatment Plant ("HWTP") biogas project with the City and County of Honolulu (see Docket No. 2016-0340) and rate relief for the costs of processing HWTP biogas (see Docket No. 2017-0105).

If the Legislature establishes an RPS for gas utilities, the Commission respectfully recommends that the Legislature consider the early years of the electricity RPS in setting specific RPS goals. The electricity RPS started with relatively modest targets in the early years, which were increased over time as studies of the economic and technical feasibility of more aggressive targets were completed. This approach provided a strong incentive

for the utilities to move forward while enabling all stakeholders to gain confidence and experience as the market for renewable technologies developed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 9:00 A.M.
Conference Room 325, State Capitol**

RE: HB 1242, RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and Members of the Committee:

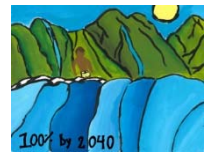
The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **opposes and provides the following comments** on HB 1242, which requires gas utility companies to establish renewable energy portfolio standards for gas. This bill also requires the public utilities commission to conduct a study of the renewable portfolio standards.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

The Chamber supports the benefits of clean energy and having a more sustainable future; however, we are concerned with the effects such legislation could have of imposing renewable portfolio standards for the gas utility that are identical to those imposed on the electric utility. Given our state's unique nature, we need to consider this and other factors when establishing industry standards to prevent consumers and businesses from having to absorb higher costs.

The Chamber respectfully asks that the legislature defer this measure, and instead consider passage of HB 2009, which would require a study regarding renewable gas to help determine the economic and technical feasibility of the use of renewable gas by gas utility companies. Through this study, the legislature would be able review and use the information collected to help ensure that any proposed renewable energy standards on the gas utility are sensible, achievable, and within the budget of consumers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

January 23, 2020, 9:00 A.M.

Room 325

(Testimony is 7 pages long)

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1242

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the Committee:

Blue Planet Foundation **strongly supports HB 1242**, a measure to expand the benefits of the renewable portfolio standard to natural gas utility companies. This measure is critical if we hope to achieve our state's clean energy and climate goals—particularly meeting the commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement (Act 32 of 2017) and target of net carbon neutral by 2045 (Act 15 of 2018). **Simultaneously, the measure will fix the current unfairness in the energy market**, which requires electric utilities, but not gas utilities, to comply with a renewable portfolio standard. Without a policy for gas, Hawaii could remain dependent on fossil fuels for decades and fail to achieve its critical climate goals.

House Bill 1242 is important for three key reasons:

1. Natural gas has significant climate impacts;
2. Despite efforts, gas utility renewable progress is severely lagging in the absence of standards; and
3. Opportunities abound for sustainable alternatives.

Natural gas has significant climate impacts

Despite marketing, the myth that natural gas is somehow a “clean energy” resource has been scientifically debunked. “Natural” gas is comprised primarily of methane (CH₄). Methane is a potent greenhouse gas – more potent than CO₂. According to the U.S. EPA, “methane emissions released to the atmosphere (without burning) are about 21 times more powerful than CO₂ in terms of their warming effect on the atmosphere.”¹ This is critical, because natural gas production is known to release large quantities of methane into the atmosphere, long before the natural gas reaches the power plant or engine to be burned. For example, on January 3, 2013, the highly respected scientific journal *Nature* reported on findings presented by NOAA scientists who measured methane leakage rates from natural gas wells. The title of that report is

¹ See <http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-resources/refs.html>

“Methane leaks erode green credentials of natural gas.”² Among other things, the report notes that the NOAA scientists measured methane leakage from natural gas wells in Utah equating to 9% of well production. This is approximately three times higher than “the 3.2% threshold beyond which gas becomes worse for the climate than coal.”³ Studies of other well fields and natural gas systems have similarly reported methane leakage exceeding the 3.2% threshold.⁴

While the “smokestack” greenhouse gas emissions from burning natural gas (in a powerplant, gas range, vehicle, etc.) are lower than emissions from burning coal per unit of energy, the overall lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions may be much higher.

An increasing number of cities across the country are banning natural gas for new buildings because of its threat to climate and health. Berkeley, California, was the first, followed in the state by San Jose, Mountain View, Santa Rosa and Brisbane. On the East Coast, Brookline, Massachusetts, last November became the first city in the state to ban new gas hookups. Dozens of other cities, from Cambridge and Newton in Massachusetts to Seattle, are considering similar bans.

On the mainland, natural gas is responsible for more climate-heating emissions than coal is. Globally, gas is the fastest-growing source of climate change emissions, according to study published in Environmental Research Letters last month.⁵

Fossil fuel natural gas is simply not part of Hawaii’s clean energy future, and its continued use jeopardizes the achievement of our critical climate goals.

Despite efforts, gas utility renewable progress is severely lagging in the absence of renewable standards

Blue Planet applauds Hawaii Gas for its recent efforts to integrate small amounts of renewable natural gas (RNG) into its supply. In December 2018, Hawaii Gas launched its operations at the first renewable natural gas facility in the islands, capturing and processing biogas created during

² See Tollefson, Methane Leaks Erode Green Credentials of Natural Gas, NATURE (January 3, 2013) (reporting “alarmingly high” leaks of 9% of well production).

³ See Alvarez et al., Greater focus needed on methane leakage from natural gas infrastructure, PROC. NAT’L ACAD. SCI. (April 24, 2012).

⁴ See, e.g., Pétron et al., Hydrocarbon emissions characterization in the Colorado Front Range: A pilot study, J. GEOPHYS. RES. 117; (2012); Howarth et al., Methane Emissions from Natural Gas Systems, Background Paper Prepared for the National Climate Assessment, Ref. no. 2011-0003, available at <http://www.eeb.cornell.edu/howarth/Howarth%20et%20al.%20--%20National%20Climate%20Assessment.pdf>

⁵ R B Jackson, et al. 2019. Environmental Research Letters. 14, 121001.

the process of treating wastewater at the Honouliuli Wastewater Treatment Plant on Oahu.⁶ The plant is expected to produce 800,000 therms energy per year, which is equivalent to about 15,000 barrels of oil. Previously, this gas was flared (i.e. burned) at the plant.

With this project, the City and County of Honolulu will now derive revenue by selling the gas, rather than wasting it, and bring RNG on O‘ahu to roughly 5% of the total gas supply. This is a remarkable win-win solution. Blue Planet Foundation strongly supports these efforts to transition to renewable gas.

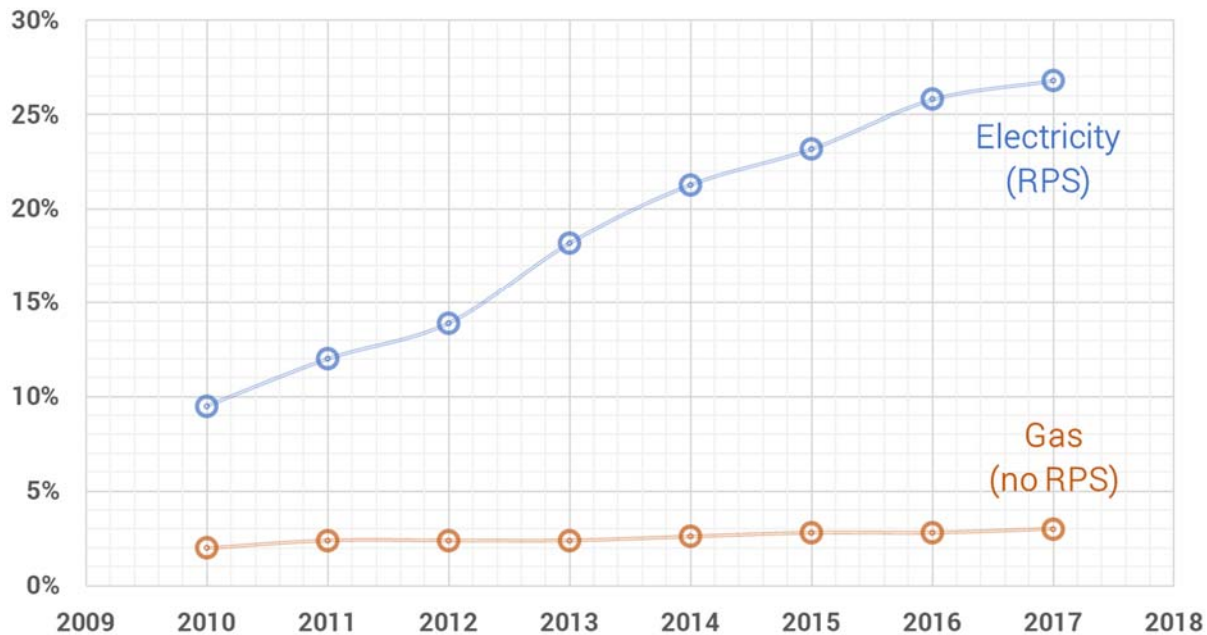
Scaling this will require the development of additional renewable natural gas sources—particularly identifying new win-win solutions for local private and public entities, such as that developed with Honouliuli. These might include: wastewater treatment facilities, landfills, other waste sources, local crops, or renewable hydrogen. Suppliers in other locations may also become an option. In the continental U.S., Clean Energy Fuels Corp. is currently marketing a renewable natural gas product called “Redeem.” This is collected from various waste sources, such as landfills and farms, and then distributed across the country via a natural gas pipeline system. It is presently used to fuel thousands of vehicles each day.

It is clear, however, that renewable standards are required to ensure that Hawaii Gas continue to increase the amount of renewable gas in their system. Despite promises over the past decade about increasing the use of renewable gas, the actual use of RNG has remained nearly flat. The chart below, using data from the statutorily required renewable energy annual reports⁷, compares the renewable progress made by the electric utility versus the gas utility. The electric utility has steadily increasing renewable goals set for by the RPS.

⁶ See <https://www.bizjournals.com/pacific/news/2018/12/20/hawaii-gas-completes-first-renewable-gas-facility.html>.

⁷ Renewable Energy Annual Reports filed with the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission, available at <http://puc.hawaii.gov/reports/energy-reports/>

Effectiveness of RPS on renewable energy trend



Hawaii Gas previously stated that they plan to “diversify our feed stock to include gas from renewable resources such as landfill gas and bio-methane, and other renewable sources, including animal fat and plant oils that are locally produced.”⁸ The attached *Honolulu Advertiser* article from November 22, 2009 (with emphasis added) discusses the Gas Company’s plans and their belief that integrating high amounts of local feedstock is a good business decision for the company and for customers. In 2009 testimony to the legislature on HB 1464, The Gas Company stated: “We are actively taking the necessary steps to increase the renewable content of our gas to 50 percent for the entire state within five years.”⁹ These statements likely gave some comfort to lawmakers at the time that binding renewable energy targets for natural gas weren’t necessary. Unfortunately, we are seeing the effect of those decisions ten years later.

A renewable portfolio standard for gas is necessary to ensure that Hawaii actually stays on track to achieve its critical clean energy and climate goals.

⁸ The Gas Company Testimony in Support of HB 1464 HD2, Relating to Energy Resources (Feb. 26, 2009), available at http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2009/testimony/HB1464_HD2_TESTIMONY_FIN_02-27-09_4_.pdf

⁹ *Id.*

Opportunities abound for sustainable alternatives

Beyond using waste gas from sewage treatment and landfills, the gas utility has raised concerns about the viability, cost, and available volume of locally produced feedstock for renewable gas. While this may present real challenges, renewable natural gas is not the only option for the incumbent gas utility. Renewably produced hydrogen presents a perfect opportunity as a sustainable fuel—one with tremendous growth potential. Hydrogen—the most common element in the universe—will likely play a key role in our clean energy future, particularly in the transportation sector. Hydrogen can be used as a storage fuel, where hydrogen is created from geothermal, wind, or solar energy and stored (in pure gas, compressed, some chemical state, or through another medium) and used later in combustion or fuel cell applications.

Progressive gas companies around the globe are exploring the use of renewable hydrogen as a replacement for their natural gas sales. In Australia, Evoenergy and Canberra Institute of Technology are testing the direct conversion of natural gas infrastructure and pipelines to hydrogen.¹⁰ In the United Kingdom, three natural gas distributors have detailed plans to convert the UK's residential gas system to a hydrogen delivery system. UK firms Northern Gas Networks and Cadent, as well as Norwegian gas firm Equinor, suggested an initial roll-out of the program to 3.7 million homes and 400,000 businesses in Northern England could commence as soon as 2028.¹¹

Establishing an RPS for gas in Hawaii will help foster the transition to low-carbon replacements for natural gas, and could help unlock a transformation to a hydrogen-based clean energy system for the state.

In the interest of achieving our state's critical clean energy and climate goals, robust state energy policy, fairness, and unlocking innovation, Blue Planet Foundation strongly supports establishing a gas RPS via HB 1242.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

¹⁰ Canberra Institute of Technology, "Nation's first hydrogen test station at CIT Fyshwick," December 4, 2018 (https://cit.edu.au/news/hydrogen_test_station/).

¹¹ <https://arstechnica.com/science/2018/11/natural-gas-distributors-outline-proposal-to-convert-home-heating-to-hydrogen/>

Honolulu Advertiser

NOVEMBER 22, 2009

GAS COMPANY SETS PLANS TO TURN FAT INTO FUEL

By Greg Wiles

Hawai'i's sole producer of synthetic natural gas is turning to the barnyard as it looks to go greener with renewable fuel sources.

The Gas Company is eyeing animal fats — some of it being tossed into landfills now — as a means to produce half of its synthetic natural gas by the year 2015.

It's drawn up plans to turn fats such as beef tallow, poultry fat and choice white grease from pigs into biomethane, a gas that's chemically identical to natural gas. Currently the company uses petroleum byproducts from local refineries for its feedstock.

"We hope to in five years be about 50 percent renewables in our system," said Jeffrey Kissel, president and chief executive officer of the Honolulu-based company.

"As we ramp up, I hope we create demand for local production so we can buy the majority of our material from local resources."

Already, 5 percent of the company's production at its Campbell Industrial Park plant is from agricultural feedstocks, with Kissel setting a goal of boosting it to 15 percent by the end of March.

By the end of the year, he wants 1 million gallons of the 20 million to 25 million gallons of feedstock used annually to be from renewable resources.

The effort is in keeping with goals by the state of weaning itself off petroleum for economic and security reasons. Oil accounts for almost 90 percent of all energy consumed in Hawai'i, making the state more dependent on imported petroleum than anywhere in the country. Three-quarters of the state's electricity is generated using oil as a fuel.

The problems with this addiction were apparent last year when crude oil spiked to \$147 a barrel in July 2008, sending Hawai'i's nation-leading gasoline and electricity prices to record highs. The oil shock drove home an already stated goal by Gov. Linda Lingle of converting Hawai'i into a renewable energy model for others to emulate. Lingle set a target of having 70 percent of the state's energy come from renewables by 2030. Hawai'i's electric utilities have signed on to the effort, while there's been a jump in interest in solar photovoltaics, wind energy and geothermal endeavors. Not-so-well-known alternate energy technologies such as wave power and ocean thermal energy conversion are also receiving serious consideration.

"We need to create an energy system that will survive," said Ted Peck, state energy administrator.

"It makes sense from an energy security standpoint. At \$75 a barrel it makes sense from a business standpoint."

RENEWED INTEREST

The Gas Company isn't subject to renewable portfolio standards as are the state's utilities. But Kissel said the company and its parent, Macquarie Infrastructure Co., decided it made good business sense in that it would produce sustained returns on a long-term basis.

The project uses technology that's been around for years. But there's been renewed interest of late in using animal and other fats to produce fuels. Pacific Gas & Electric on the Mainland is looking at a pilot project, and in Louisiana, Tyson Foods and Syntroleum Corp. formed a company to produce biodiesel and jet fuels from chicken fat and other animal oils.

In Hawai'i, Hawaiian Electric Co. will do testing of its new \$137 million generator using biodiesel from Renewable Energy Group, an Iowa-based company that will provide fuel made from animal fats.

While Hawai'i's use of natural gas is lowest of any state, it still has a good market among hotels and restaurants that use the gas on O'ahu as a more efficient alternative for heating water and cooking compared to electricity. The Gas Co., formed in 1904, maintains 1,100 miles of pipelines that deliver synthetic natural gas to 28,000 customers.

Kissel said the company has the only operating SNG plant in the U.S. and provides an advantage for the renewable venture since The Gas Co. won't have to invest millions into building a plant. Instead, he said existing equipment will be converted to accommodate the new feedstock at a cost of less than \$10 million that will be funded out of the company's operations.

The company has formed a joint venture with energy and power industry contractor Primoris Services Co. of Lake Forest, Calif., to work out processes for the renewable project. Hawai'i's SNG customers pay the highest rates in the country, with local prices quoted by the U.S. Energy Information Administration being more than two times the next closest state's average.

Kissel said the project may actually lower prices for The Gas Co. customers depending on what it has to pay for the animal fat. The utility does not make a profit on feedstock prices, which are passed directly through to customers.

"We will not be raising rates as a result of this," Kissel said. He noted the price cuts will depend on what's paid for feedstock, with animal fats ranging between 5 percent and 20 percent less expensive than the current feedstock.

ISLES WOULD BENEFIT

Moreover, the venture could provide a catalyst for more cattle ranching or agriculture operations in the state. It also could take methane gas produced by landfills or use algae as a feedstock, Kissel said.

"If we provide a market for local commodities we'll be generating more jobs here and making Hawai'i more sustainable from a food-producing standpoint," he said.

Then there are the environmental benefits of reducing the state's carbon footprint by switching from oil. It won't process used restaurant oil that's currently refined by Pacific Biodiesel Inc. on Maui and O'ahu for transportation fuel. The initial concentration will be on use of animal and fish fats.

"If the Gas Company has found a local supply, we would look favorably on that," said Henry Curtis, executive director of Life of the Land, a nonprofit environmental group following the state's energy issues.

"It's important to reuse this material."

The renewable process will also produce propane that can eventually be sold to the company's customers on the Neighbor Islands, as well as hydrogen. Kissel said the surplus hydrogen is being investigated for possible uses as a transportation fuel or fuel cells.

"What the Gas Company is doing is just tremendously exciting," said Peck, the state's energy czar. "They're really moving and we're thrilled."

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/21/2020 9:23:50 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Regina Gregory	EcoTipping Points Project	Support	No

Comments:



**Hawaiian
Electric**

**TESTIMONY BEFORE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

H.B. 1242

Relating to Renewable Energy

Thursday, January 23, 2020
9:00am, Agenda Item #1
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Chris Lau
Manager, Corporate Energy Planning
Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Chris Lau and I am testifying on behalf of Hawaiian Electric Company in support of H.B. 1242, Relating to Renewable Energy.

H.B. 1242 establishes a Renewable Portfolio Standard, commonly known as “RPS”, for the gas utilities of 100% of total sales by 2045 with interim goals of 25% by 2025, 40% by 2030, and 70% by 2040 to align with the State’s policy to transition away from fossil fuels and toward renewable energy. The bill references total sales to include the sale of all gas in the State by a gas utility, its corporate parent, by its corporate parent’s subsidiaries, partners, joint ventures and affiliates to ensure that the RPS captures the sale of gas by regulated and unregulated entities.

The Hawaiian Electric Company supports this bill to create parity between the electric and gas utilities as the State transitions toward a renewable energy future and offer the following comments for consideration:

- By including both regulated and unregulated gas entities, the RPS accounts for all gas use in the State similar to how the electric utility RPS accounts for all sources of electrical energy generation including customer

sited, grid connected sources. Interim goals to meet the 100% RPS in 2045 mirror similar goals required of the Companies. This definition of a gas RPS would treat the RPS requirements of the gas and electric utilities in a fair and even manner.

- Although there may be limited availability of local renewable gas today, it is a resource that can be developed in the State. The gas utility has demonstrated that it can capably produce renewable gas through its partnership with the City and County of Honolulu, Department of Environmental Services at the Honouliuli Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- If the committees wish to provide some additional time to develop renewable gas resources, we suggest that at least the 2030 40% RPS requirement be the starting point for compliance. If necessary, renewable gas could be imported to augment that which is produced locally.
- The establishment of a gas RPS would reduce the Company's risk of non-compliance with its own RPS as customers who choose to invest in fossil fueled customer-owned generation would eventually become renewable over a similar timeline as Hawaiian Electric and not deter future achievement on renewable goals.

Accordingly, the Hawaiian Electric Company supports H.B. 1242. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



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JAMES “KIMO” LAROYA JR.
Trustee

WALTER FOX III
Trustee

Testimony to the House Committee on Energy, and Environmental Protection

Thursday, January 23, 2020, 9 a.m.
Conference Room 325, State Capitol

RE: HB 1242– Relating to Renewable Energy

LATE

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and Members of the House Committee on Energy, and Environmental Protection.

The Hawaii Teamsters and Allied Workers, Local 996 stands **OPPOSED** to HB 1242 with these comments.

We do not support putting Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) on the gas utility at this time. Studies show that states who have implemented RPS on electric utilities have increased utility and non-utility costs for consumers. We fear this implementing RPS without carefully examining its feasibility could consequentially have a negative effect on our members, gas consumers and Hawai'i residents. Furthermore, no other state nationwide has implemented RPS on gas utilities, and is solely regulated by the PUC.

For generations, gas-based technologies have been an affordable, reliable, and resilient energy and plays a very small but vital role in Hawai'i. Gas utility provides less than 2% of energy in the state, and its facilities account for 3/10th of 1% of greenhouse emissions in Hawaii. The gas utility has shown efforts of procuring new sources of clean renewable energy with the use of methane from Honouliuli wastewater treatment plant, and conversion of naphta (a waste product of petroleum) from the gas refinery and converts these by-products into clean gas. If a study is to be considered, we ask the focus would be solely on the complexities of the gas utility with consideration that the resources for procurement is limited in our state, and we seek to avoid increased costs for our members and other consumers of the regulated, and unregulated gas industry.



HAWAII TEAMSTERS & ALLIED WORKERS LOCAL 996

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Lastly, If a study is not done, the utility should not be forced into any mandate which ignores the industry's complexity that would come with hefty costs, and lacking benefits to Hawai'i residents at a time where majority of local households face financial uncertainty. In all fairness, We ask that State to use the same process that was followed when RPS was proposed for the electric utility.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1242

Sincerely,

Cody Sula

Government Affairs Liaison

Hawaii Teamsters and Allied Workers, Local 996



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183 Pinana St., Kailua, HI 96734 • 808-262-1285 • info@350Hawaii.org

To: The House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
From: Brodie Lockard, Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Thursday, January 23, 2020, 9:00 am

In strong support of HB 1242

LATE

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members:

350Hawaii strongly supports HB 1242.

As part of the 2015 compromise to pass the law for a 2045 clean energy goal, Hawaii gas utilities were exempted from setting or meeting any renewable energy portfolio standard (RPS). This exemption gave them an unfair advantage in the energy market, and it's long past time to correct it.

If gas utilities cannot meet the same RPS as other utilities, the legislature needs to know that immediately, so it can reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in some other way. The study proposed in HB 1242 would decide this. The Climate Crisis gives no one a free pass.

Gas utilities need to contribute to Hawaii's zero-emission goals as much as other Hawaii power utilities do. They need to meet the same RPS.

The Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and other gas that Hawaii gas utilities use need to be regulated just as much as coal and oil. Hawaii's imported LNG includes gas produced by fracking, which contributes to all manner of calamities from breast cancer to flammable tap water to earthquakes [1]. It is 84 times as potent a GHG as CO₂ over a 20-year period [2].

And LNG doesn't just produce carbon when it's used (almost half as much as coal [3]). It also leaks: at drilling sites, along pipelines, at compression stations, at storage facilities and throughout the networks of piping that carry it to homes [4]. Washington, D.C. alone has 5,893 natural gas leaks [5]. Transporting LNG to Hawaii also burns fuel, producing additional GHGs.

350Hawaii urges you to pass HB 1242. Don't let gas utilities skate while Hawaii suffers.

Brodie Lockard
Founder, 350Hawaii.org

- [1] <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/science/earthquakes-triggered-by-fracking>
- [2] <https://www.edf.org/methane-other-important-greenhouse-gas>
- [3] <https://www.americangeosciences.org/critical-issues/faq/how-much-carbon-dioxide-produced-when-different-fuels-are-burned>
- [4] <https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/methane-is-leaking-all-over-the-place/>
- [5] <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/full/10.1021/es404474x>

LATE



P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96837-0158
Phone: 927-0709 henry.lifeoftheland@gmail.com

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair

Rep. Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, January 23, 2020

TIME: 9:00 AM

PLACE: Conference Room 325

HB 1242 RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and Members of the Committees

Life of the Land is Hawai'i's own energy, environmental and community action group advocating for the people and `aina for 49 years. Our mission is to preserve and protect the life of the land through sound energy and land use policies and to promote open government through research, education, advocacy and, when necessary, litigation.

Life of the Land is unable to attend this hearing as the Hawai'i Supreme Court is holding oral arguments right now on Life of the Land's appeal of the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission decision and order regarding the Gas Company rate case. We are appealing in part on the issue of climate change.

Life of the Land strongly supports this bill

Mahalo

Henry Curtis
Executive Director

January 23, 2020

LATE

**TESTIMONY PROVIDING COMMENTS ON
HOUSE BILL 1242, RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY**

House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
The Honorable Nicole Lowen, Chair
The Honorable Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair

Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Chairs Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger and members of the Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony commenting on House Bill 1242, Relating to Renewable Energy. My name is Lance Tanaka, director of government and public affairs for Par Hawaii. Par Hawaii, LLC and Par Hawaii Refining, LLC are subsidiaries of Texas-based Par Pacific Holdings, Inc. Par Hawaii is the state's only producer of petroleum products and transportation fuels.

HB 1242 requires gas utility companies to establish renewable energy portfolio standards for gas; provides the means for gas utility companies to achieve the renewable energy portfolio standards for gas; and requires the public utilities commission to conduct a study of renewable portfolio standards.

Par Hawaii supports Hawaii's clean energy goals. We also support the idea of ordering a study prior to enacting RPS legislation for gas so as to avoid any unintended consequences that could be detrimental to consumers.

Par Hawaii would appreciate being included in reviewing findings from studies conducted by the Hawaii Natural Energy Institute of the University of Hawaii, especially in the areas of the following provisions being proposed in §269-95 Renewable portfolio standards study, (3)(A) of the bill:

- (i) The impact on consumer rates;
- (v) Effects on the economy;
- (ix) Cost of fossil fuel volatility; and
- (x) Other factors deemed appropriate by the commission

Thank you for allowing Par Hawaii the opportunity to present these comments for the Committee's consideration.



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

January 23, 2020 9:00 AM Room 325

In **SUPPORT** of **HB1242**: Relating to Renewable Energy

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **supports HB1242**, which would implement renewable portfolio standard (RPS) targets for gas utilities that align with Hawai'i's existing RPS for electric utilities. We believe all utilities should be held to the same standards and commitments to effectively transition to 100% renewable energy by 2045.

We appreciate there is a mechanism for the public utilities commission to hold the gas utility company accountable if they fail to meet the RPS. To ensure the gas company transitions to renewable energy sources entirely, we ask the committee **considers removing item (8) in subsection (d)**, which would enable the gas company to receive a waiver from applicable penalties if the transition to renewable gas sources is not cost-effective compared to fossil fuels:

(d) Events or circumstances that are beyond a gas utility company's reasonable control may include, to the extent the event or circumstance could not be reasonably foreseen and ameliorated:

~~(8) Inability to acquire sufficient renewable gas to meet the renewable portfolio standard goals for 2040 and for years beyond in a manner that is cost-effective or beneficial to Hawai'i's economy in relation to comparable fossil fuel resources;~~

Although Hawai'i gas is making strides towards renewable natural gas by capturing biogas from the Honouliuli wastewater treatment plant on O'ahu, this language could disincentivize the gas utility company to pursue additional innovation and development in renewable fuels if it is not cost comparative to natural gas prices. Natural gas companies receive billions per year in direct U.S. subsidies to keep the price of gas down.¹ This language could allow the gas utility company to continue to use fossil-fuels for up to 60% of their sales once they achieve the 2030

¹ Environmental and Energy Study Institute, July 2019:

<https://www.eesi.org/papers/view/fact-sheet-fossil-fuel-subsidies-a-closer-look-at-tax-breaks-and-societal-costs>

renewable energy target. Removal of this language helps to eliminate this potential gap in the RPS for gas and ensures that 100% means 100%.

We also acknowledge that this bill aims to address the total sales from ALL gas sold in the state by a gas utility, and not just regulated gas sales such as gas sold for grid-connected electricity generation. This helps to eliminate another potential loophole in the gas RPS by disallowing the unregulated gas market to not also complete the transition to renewable fuel by 2045.

Lastly, we support funding a study to evaluate Hawai'i's renewable portfolio standards.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB1242**.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jodi Malinoski".

Jodi Malinoski, Policy Advocate



Testimony to the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Thursday, January 23, 2020

9:00 AM

Conference Room 325, Hawaii State Capitol

House Bill 1242

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the committee,

Hawaii Gas provides these comments on HB 1242.

Hawaii Gas shares your commitment to renewable energy and the reduction of greenhouse gases while also strengthening our state's economy, environment, and security.

We are committed to using as much renewable gas in our pipelines as possible, and we continue to do our part to meet Hawaii's 2045 carbon neutrality goal, together, in an affordable, resilient, and sustainable way for our ratepayers and Hawaii's communities.

We also believe that the transition to renewable fuel sources must be carefully studied and understood before meaningful changes can be made towards an affordable, resilient and sustainable future.

As such, Hawaii Gas provides these comments on HB 1242, which proposes to establish a renewable portfolio standard on the gas utility to mirror that already established for the electric utility.

In its wisdom, the legislature rightfully required a thorough and complete study of available technology, costs, production capacity, economic impact on ratepayers, and economic impact on the community at large, among other factors, before any standards were established for the electric utility, ((HRS §269-95) Renewable portfolio standards study). That endeavor established the blueprint from which meaningful, science-driven, attainable, and sustainable changes could be made by the electric utility and its partners.

Hawaii Gas has been committed to the people and communities of Hawaii for over 115 years. While we represent less than 2% of the state's energy demand and less than 1% of its carbon emissions, we take very seriously our critical role in the state's environment and resiliency in the event of natural disasters, and we understand all too well that our residential and commercial customers depend on us to provide this service at a cost they can afford.



The complexity of utilizing renewable gas in the gas utility rightly deserves to be carefully studied and understood before such measures can be meaningfully considered and enacted. The gas utility and the electric utility utilize different technologies, different distribution systems, and rely on completely different science to produce renewable energy. Just as you wouldn't go to an eye doctor for your hip replacement surgery, you can't simply overlay one utility's standard on the other one and expect to yield a favorable result. It is short-sighted. It is ill-informed, and it is potentially catastrophic.

We urge the committee to consider, for example, the state of Oregon's precedent on this matter, commissioning a study of renewable gas interests in 2017 and then returning in 2018 to create sound and sustainable public policy based on those findings.

We all know that Hawaii is unique. As an island state, we are isolated from the rest of the country, creating transportation and economic challenges that have a direct impact on our energy sources and costs. Likewise, our geography, land availability, and competing needs require careful planning for maximum and best use of our limited resources.

We also know that Hawaii residents are facing dire economic struggles. A family of four must earn \$80,000 annually to simply make ends meet. More and more of our friends and family struggle to find affordable housing, forcing many of them to leave Hawaii entirely, depriving us of their talents, skills, and kinship. It's impossible to ignore the ALICE report's troubling finding that 37% — over one third of our state's population — face severe financial hardship, and most of our residents face income inequality and the difficulties created by insufficient quality child care, education, and housing.

As the legislature works this session to address many of these root problems, we cannot afford to make energy decisions in a vacuum without first assessing the sound science, economic impact, ratepayer impact, viability, and stability of these decisions. Clean energy is vitally important to Hawaii's future. We cannot afford to get this wrong.

Hawaii Gas supports an appropriate, objective, and science and technology driven study to explore the feasibility of renewable standards for the gas utility. Such a study cannot be undertaken, however, if the study's outcome has been pre-determined by arbitrary standards established before the due diligence supporting those standards has even been conducted. It's a shot in the dark, a guessing-game that yields chaos and uncertainty, not sound science and sustainability.

We support a study that meaningfully addresses the many issues raised by the utilization of renewable gas in the utility pipeline, including



- The potential quantity and cost of renewable gas that could reasonably be produced and sold to customers in Hawaii, and if necessary, could be produced out-of-state and delivered to Hawaii and sold to customers
- The identification and inventory of feedstock and acreage for renewable gas production within the state
- Commercial conversion technologies for renewable gas production and the economic scalability of such technologies, particularly in a market of this size and location
- Incentives that are available to develop these resources as well as incentives that might be made available from the study of similar efforts in other parts of the country
- The reality of what real carbon reduction would be achieved in establishing such standards
- The technical, market, policy, and regulatory barriers to developing and utilizing renewable gas in Hawaii and the possible solutions to such barriers
- The feasibility of offering incentives made available to other renewable energy projects, such as gas utility company incentives, investment and production tax credits, land and water policy incentives to encourage use of state and private lands, and so forth
- The financial impact of consumers and ratepayers
- The availability and reliability of a renewable gas supply

These studied findings, compiled and debated by energy utility experts from the Public Utilities Commission, the Hawaii Natural Energy Institute, the American Gas Association, and the Gas Technology Institute, among others, would address the many questions that must be answered before regulatory or policy decisions can be made with informed science and reality-driven information.

As a clean energy company with the singular focus of providing clean, reliable, and affordable gas to the people of Hawaii, we know the critical impact of climate change on our fragile island home, and we stand committed to do our part to meet that challenge with innovation, technology, and science-based solutions.



We believe that renewable portfolio standards for the gas utility can only be considered when their feasibility and impact on our island home is thoroughly vetted and understood. We recommend that the committee move towards this thorough and complete study first — just as it did for the electric utility — so that we can answer these critical questions and move ahead with clear-eyed answers, options, and a viable path forward.

Thank you for reviewing our comments, and we request that you review HB 2009, introduced this week, which we prefer since it creates a study that can answer these and other vital questions and lay the groundwork for policy standards.

Thank you.

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 10:52:42 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexandra Kahn	Surfrider Oahu	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 1:43:14 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Colin Hashiro	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/21/2020 6:17:45 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Russell Winkelman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the committee,

I am submitting this testimony in opposition to SB 1242, a proposal to establish a renewable portfolio standard on the gas utility.

I do support clean energy and I also support the state's efforts to transition Hawaii to a more renewable energy future. What I would like to see is a more comprehensive plan that incorporates the most cost-effective methods and that utilizes the best technologies available. It doesn't make sense to try and force the gas utilities to meet standards that have not been vetted as viable, realistic or cost effective.

I choose gas because it is the most cost effective and reliable way to heat water and to cook. When we have our island-wide electricity outages I can still cook, have hot water and run my generator. We have seen what natural disasters due to islands like Kauai and Puerto Rico when electricity is out for months.

I would request that you please take this opportunity to obtain more information on the viability of renewable gas sources before you saddle the gas utility and rate payers with a structure that is not realistic and that will most assuredly raise the cost of living in Hawaii.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Aloha,

Russ Winkelman

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/21/2020 7:56:16 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mustafa Demirbag	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the committee,

I am submitting this testimony in opposition to HB 1242, a proposal to establish a renewable standard on the gas utility. I support clean energy and the state's efforts to transition the state in the right direction. But we have to do it the right way. We have to gather all the information and study how it would impact Hawaii before we implement standards like this. We need to take our time and do it right. Standards like this will hurt Hawaii residents. As it is, Hawaii is the most expensive state in the country and we can't force any more mandates that leave people like me paying for it. We need to know what the financial impact on Hawaii residents. Yes, the renewable energy is a growing industry but we need to fully understand the technology to make sure it is sustainable and reliable. Please allow people to study what this looks like before we set standards like this. We are not even sure if this is feasible. Finally, gas represents 2% of the state's energy demand and less than 1% of its carbon emissions. Gas is an affordable and reliable option for Hawaii.

Thank you for considering my testimony

Mustafa Demirbag

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/21/2020 8:15:59 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
CK Lee	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the committee,

I am submitting this testimony in opposition to SB 1242, a proposal to establish a renewable portfolio standard on the gas utility.

Like everyone in Hawaii, I support clean energy and the state's efforts to transition the state in the right direction. But we have to get it right. We need to gather all the information and best technology and study how it would impact Hawaii before we implement standards. If we don't slow down and do it right, these standards are only going to hurt Hawaii residents and not move us in the right direction.

Gas represents less than 2% of the state's energy demand and less than 1% of its carbon emissions, while providing an essential option for residents and businesses across the state. What's the rush? Let's not declare a big victory and then go figure out if we can even do it.

Let's do our homework first and then put a meaningful plan in place.

Sincerely,

Dr. Coreen Lee

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 7:02:09 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jason Lau	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the committee,

I am submitting this testimony in opposition to HB 1242, a proposal to establish a renewable portfolio standard on the gas utility.

Like everyone in Hawaii, I support clean energy and the state's efforts to transition the state in the right direction. But we have to get it right. We need to gather all the information and best technology and study how it would impact Hawaii before we implement standards. If we don't slow down and do it right, these standards are only going to hurt Hawaii residents and not move us in the right direction.

We all know that before we allow our keiki to get behind the wheel of our car, they have to first to learn to drive. They have to understand the rules of the road and understand how to operate that car safely. That same principle is true here. Setting arbitrary standards just because that's what works for the electric utility is like hoping your keiki can drive the car because they've been watching you do it all these years. It's a recipe for disaster.

I greatly appreciate your time for reading this testimony.

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/21/2020 9:04:28 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Nishimura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The obvious intent of this bill is to encourage the transition to more renewable energy in Hawaii, however, the current language fails to take into account a few very important considerations. First, it over simplifies the transition of gas energy to renewable sources. Unlike electricity, where solar and wind energy is abundant, access to renewable resources that can be used to produce renewable gas is relatively scarce. In addition, the technology to facilitate production is not nearly as developed as that for electricity. Solar and wind electricity generation has benefit from decades of research and development, a large market demand, and government subsidy, which dwarfs the research and investment in developing renewable gas production technology. Therefore the availability of both the resource and the technology in Hawaii can support a more aggressive transition to renewable electric generation. Renewable gas generation simply does not have that luxury. A very important point to ponder is the CURRENT contribution to greenhouse gas emissions that is attributable to electric generation versus gas. The entire utility gas market in Hawaii accounts for LESS THAN 1 PERCENT of all greenhouse gas emissions for the State. That said, there are bigger fish to fry. We need to look at the larger sources of greenhouse gas emissions and focus our energy, our time, and our effort in moving the needle where it can move the most. If we are going to fight the cancer, let's go after the largest tumors.

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 7:45:36 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeff	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the committee,

I am submitting this testimony in opposition to HB 1242, a proposal to establish a renewable portfolio standard on the gas utility.

Like everyone in Hawaii, I support clean energy and the state's efforts to transition the state in the right direction. But we have to get it right. We need to gather all the information and best technology and study how it would impact Hawaii before we implement standards. If we don't slow down and do it right, these standards are only going to hurt Hawaii residents and not move us in the right direction.

- Hawaii is already the most expensive state in the country, and we can't afford any more legislative mandates that leave taxpayers footing the bill. People like me choose gas because it's reliable and affordable, and forcing the gas company to implement different technologies without knowing the financial impact on people like me just isn't acceptable.
- We all know that before we allow our keiki to get behind the wheel of our car, they have to first learn to drive. They have to understand the rules of the road and understand how to operate that car safely. That same principle is true here. Setting arbitrary standards just because that's what works for the electric utility is like hoping your keiki can drive the car because they've been watching you do it all these years. It's a recipe for disaster.

- Renewable energy is a new and growing industry, and we can't afford to dive into these commitments without fully understanding the technology, the repercussions, the down stream impacts, and the sustainability and reliability of the technology we invest in. Let's do our homework first and really study what's out there before we sent arbitrary standards when we don't yet even know if they are feasible.
- People like me choose gas for various reasons — heating hot water, cooking, even as our failsafe in the case of an emergency or natural disaster. When you set standards like this without doing your homework, you are potentially forcing higher costs on me and limiting my ability to choose gas as part of my home's utility supply.
- Gas represents less than 2% of the state's energy demand and less than 1% of its carbon emissions, while providing an essential option for residents and businesses across the state. What's the rush? Let's not declare a big victory and then go figure out if we can even do it. Let's do our homework first and then put a meaningful plan in place.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Aloha,

Jeff Keiderling


Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the committee,

I am submitting this testimony in opposition to HB 1242, a proposal to establish a renewable portfolio standard on the gas utility.

Like everyone in Hawaii, I support clean energy and the state's efforts to transition the state in the right direction. But we have to get it right. We need to gather all the information and best technology and study how it would impact Hawaii before we implement standards. If we don't slow down and do it right, these standards are only going to hurt Hawaii residents and not move us in the right direction.

- Hawaii is already the most expensive state in the country, and we can't afford any more legislative mandates that leave taxpayers footing the bill. People like me choose gas because it's reliable and affordable, and forcing the gas company to implement different technologies without knowing the financial impact on people like me just isn't acceptable.
- We all know that before we allow our keiki to get behind the wheel of our car, they have to first learn to drive. They have to understand the rules of the road and understand how to operate that car safely. That same principle is true here. Setting arbitrary standards just because that's what works for the electric utility is like hoping your keiki can drive the car because they've been watching you do it all these years. It's a recipe for disaster.
- Renewable energy is a new and growing industry, and we can't afford to dive into these commitments without fully understanding the technology, the repercussions, the downstream impacts, and the sustainability and reliability of the technology we invest in. Let's do our homework first and really study what's out there before we set arbitrary standards when we don't yet even know if they are feasible.
- People like me choose gas for various reasons — heating hot water, cooking, even as our failsafe in the case of an emergency or natural disaster. When you set standards like this without doing your homework, you are potentially forcing higher costs on me and limiting my ability to choose gas as part of my home's utility supply.
- Gas represents less than 2% of the state's energy demand and less than 1% of its carbon emissions, while providing an essential option for residents and businesses across the state. What's the rush? Let's not declare a big victory and then go figure out if we can even do it. Let's do our homework first and then put a meaningful plan in place.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Aloha,

Glenn S. Yamada

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/21/2020 11:28:07 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
D Gomez	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Committee Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and committee members,

I am writing in opposition to HB 1242, a proposal to establish a renewable portfolio standard on the gas utility.

As a lifetime resident of Hawaii, I support a clean energy future. But we must be smart about how to achieve that future.

Renewable energy is a new and growing industry, and we can't afford to dive into these commitments without fully understanding the technology, the repercussions, the impacts, and the sustainability and reliability of the technology. Let's understand the feasibility before we set arbitrary standards.

Gas represents less than 2% of the state's energy demand and less than 1% of its carbon emissions, while providing an essential and affordable option for residents and businesses across the state. Let's do the smart thing by doing our homework first and then put a meaningful plan in place.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Aloha,

Debra Gomez

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 9:53:28 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Glenn Matsunaga	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the committee,

I am submitting this testimony in opposition to HB1242, a proposal to establish a renewable portfolio standard on the gas utility.

I support clean energy and the state's efforts to transition the state in the right direction. But we have to get it right. We need to gather all the information and best technology and study how it would impact Hawaii before we implement standards. If we don't slow down and do it right, these standards are only going to hurt Hawaii residents and not move us in the right direction.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Glenn Matsunaga

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the committee,

I am submitting this testimony in opposition to HB 1242, a proposal to establish a renewable portfolio standard on the gas utility.

Like everyone in Hawaii, I support clean energy and the state's efforts to transition the state in the right direction. But we have to get it right. We need to gather all the information and best technology and study how it would impact Hawaii before we implement standards. If we don't slow down and do it right, these standards are only going to hurt Hawaii residents and not move us in the right direction.

- Hawaii is already the most expensive state in the country, and we can't afford any more legislative mandates that leave taxpayers footing the bill. People like me choose gas because it's reliable and affordable, and forcing the gas company to implement different technologies without knowing the financial impact on people like me just isn't acceptable.
- We all know that before we allow our keiki to get behind the wheel of our car, they have to first learn to drive. They have to understand the rules of the road and understand how to operate that car safely. That same principle is true here. Setting arbitrary standards just because that's what works for the electric utility is like hoping your keiki can drive the car because they've been watching you do it all these years. It's a recipe for disaster.
- Renewable energy is a new and growing industry, and we can't afford to dive into these commitments without fully understanding the technology, the repercussions, the downstream impacts, and the sustainability and reliability of the technology we invest in. Let's do our homework first and really study what's out there before we set arbitrary standards when we don't yet even know if they are feasible.
- People like me choose gas for various reasons — heating hot water, cooking, even as our failsafe in the case of an emergency or natural disaster. When you set standards like this without doing your homework, you are potentially forcing higher costs on me and limiting my ability to choose gas as part of my home's utility supply.
- Gas represents less than 2% of the state's energy demand and less than 1% of its carbon emissions, while providing an essential option for residents and businesses across the state. What's the rush? Let's not declare a big victory and then go figure out if we can even do it. Let's do our homework first and then put a meaningful plan in place.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Aloha,

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 9:41:38 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Loren Pabila	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the committee,

I am submitting this testimony in **opposition** to HB 1242, a proposal to establish a renewable portfolio standard on the gas utility.

Like everyone in Hawaii, I support clean energy and the state's efforts to transition the state in the right direction. But we have to get it right. We need to gather all the information and best technology and study how it would impact Hawaii before we implement standards. If we don't do it right in the first place, these standards are only going to hurt Hawaii residents and not move us in the right direction, which seems to be the MO of many elected officials (i.e., the RAIL, mileage tax, etc.etc.). Plus you run the risk of putting yet another storied Hawaii company out of business.

- Hawaii is already the most expensive state in the country, and we can't afford any more legislative mandates that leave taxpayers footing the bill, unless your intent is to have all the locals leave and keep the transient, well-heeled population. People like me choose gas because it's reliable and affordable, and forcing the gas company to implement different technologies without knowing the financial impact on people like me just isn't acceptable. We need to do our due diligence.
- We all know that before we allow our keiki to get behind the wheel of our car, they have to first to learn to drive. They have to understand the rules of the road and understand how to operate that car safely. That same principle is true here. Setting arbitrary standards just because that's what works for the electric utility is like hoping your keiki can drive the car because they've been watching you do it all these years. It's a recipe for disaster.
- Renewable energy is a new and growing industry, and we can't afford to dive into these commitments without fully understanding the technology, the repercussions, the down stream impacts, and the sustainability and reliability of the technology we invest in. Let's do our homework first and really study what's out there before we sent arbitrary standards when we don't yet even know if they are feasible.

- People like me choose gas for various reasons — heating hot water, cooking, even as our failsafe in the case of an emergency or natural disaster. When you set standards like this without doing your homework, you are potentially forcing **higher costs** on me and limiting my ability to choose gas as part of my home's utility supply. I already pay more than enough to live here, and yet I still drive on severely dilapidated streets, dodging mutant potholes. Adding to my cost of living is unacceptable.
- Lastly, gas represents less than 2% of the state's energy demand and less than 1% of its carbon emissions, while providing an essential option for residents and businesses across the state. What's the rush? Let's not declare a big victory and then go figure out if we can even do it. Let's do our homework first and then put a meaningful plan in place. Don't put the cart before the horse.

Thank you for taking my testimony into consideration.

Sincerely,

Loren Pabila

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 5:51:38 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Derick Kekona	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I believe this would have a negative impact on the state as it is already very hard to make ends meet. Imposing this kind of mandates would only make our utility prices increase. I believe before these types of decisions are made more understanding and research is needed. Like the gas cap before our legislature did not do their homework and instead caused the opposite effect to the price of gas.

Gas represents around 2% of the state's energy demand and less than 1% of its carbon emissions while provideing an alternate option for reisidents and businesses around our state.

Please do your homework and make an educated decision so we do not negatively impact our communities like we have done in the past.

Aloha

Derick Kekona

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the committee,

I am submitting this testimony in opposition to SB 1242, a proposal to establish a renewable portfolio standard on the gas utility.

Like everyone in Hawaii, I support clean energy and the state's efforts to transition the state in the right direction. But we have to get it right. We need to gather all the information and best technology and study how it would impact Hawaii before we implement standards. If we don't slow down and do it right, these standards are only going to hurt Hawaii residents and not move us in the right direction.

- Hawaii is already the most expensive state in the country, and we can't afford any more legislative mandates that leave taxpayers footing the bill. People like me choose gas because it's reliable and affordable, and forcing the gas company to implement different technologies without knowing the financial impact on people like me just isn't acceptable.
- We all know that before we allow our keiki to get behind the wheel of our car, they have to first learn to drive. They have to understand the rules of the road and understand how to operate that car safely. That same principle is true here. Setting arbitrary standards just because that's what works for the electric utility is like hoping your keiki can drive the car because they've been watching you do it all these years. It's a recipe for disaster.
- Renewable energy is a new and growing industry, and we can't afford to dive into these commitments without fully understanding the technology, the repercussions, the downstream impacts, and the sustainability and reliability of the technology we invest in. Let's do our homework first and really study what's out there before we set arbitrary standards when we don't yet even know if they are feasible.
- People like me choose gas for various reasons — heating hot water, cooking, even as our failsafe in the case of an emergency or natural disaster. When you set standards like this without doing your homework, you are potentially forcing higher costs on me and limiting my ability to choose gas as part of my home's utility supply.
- Gas represents less than 2% of the state's energy demand and less than 1% of its carbon emissions, while providing an essential option for residents and businesses across the state. What's the rush? Let's not declare a big victory and then go figure out if we can even do it. Let's do our homework first and then put a meaningful plan in place.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Aloha,
Anthony Hoang

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 7:49:45 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dana Curnan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the committee,

I am submitting this testimony in opposition to HB 1242, a proposal to establish a renewable portfolio standard on the gas utility.

Like everyone in Hawaii, I support clean energy and the state's efforts to transition the state in the right direction. But we have to get it right. We need to gather all the information and best technology and study how it would impact Hawaii before we implement standards. If we don't slow down and do it right, these standards are only going to hurt Hawaii residents and not move us in the right direction.

- Hawaii is already the most expensive state in the country, and we can't afford any more legislative mandates that leave taxpayers footing the bill. People like me choose gas because it's reliable and affordable, and forcing the gas company to implement different technologies without knowing the financial impact on people like me just isn't acceptable.
- People like me choose gas for various reasons — heating hot water, cooking, even as our failsafe in the case of an emergency or natural disaster. When you set standards like this without doing your homework, you are potentially forcing higher costs on me and limiting my ability to choose gas as part of my home's utility supply.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Aloha,

Dana Curnan

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 8:21:58 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Zoe Williams	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am submitting this testimony in opposition to SB 1242, a proposal to establish a renewable portfolio standard on the gas utility.

Like everyone in Hawaii, I support clean energy and the state's efforts to transition the state in the right direction. But we have to get it right. We need to gather all the information and best technology and study how it would impact Hawaii before we implement standards. If we don't slow down and do it right, these standards are only going to hurt Hawaii residents and not move us in the right direction. **GO SLOW TO GO FAST, TAKE THE TIME TO DO IT RIGHT.**

The gas industry is working on renewables but the technology is newer than for electricity; we need to give it time to develop. If we take gas out of the picture now, it will not be available as an energy source when the technology is there. Gas is used for emergency generators, cooking food, heating water, BBQ grills, fire department training, tiki torches...the list goes on. If we saddle the Gas industry with unrealistic renewable goals, what will replace it? **Our tourist industry runs on Gas. Hawaii Residents want Gas.**

HECO claims they will make their aggressive renewable goals. I have friends who work for HECO and they have told me that it is not realistic. The aggressive pursuit of this unrealistic goal is taking a toll on the existing infrastructure that we need to carry us forward. 50 – 75 year old steam boilers are not designed to ramp up and ramp down with the wind and the sun. We need firm energy to support our renewables; why are we burning dirty petroleum when we could be burning clean Gas? **We should be investing in state of the art gas turbine / cogen energy production that burns Natural Gas or Propane, the cleanest burning fossil fuels;** Gas is the fuel we should be relying on as a bridge to our clean energy / renewable future.

The other piece of this puzzle, beyond energy production, is maritime fuel. Diesel Fuel Marine is the dirtiest fuel in the world. The cargo ships upon which we rely for sustenance pollute our world as much as coal generating power plants. **The maritime industry is moving to clean burning LNG as the preferred fuel; if we don't move forward with providing supply for these LNG ships, someday soon we will only be able to accept dirty, oil burning ships.** How hypocritical would that be?

What is the downstream impact of renewables? The first wave of solar panels and battery banks will be dying in 10 – 15 years. What will we do with them? Landfill them? Use dirty maritime fuel to ship them...where? China's not buying anymore. We don't have land for acres and acres of solar farms and residents don't want wind farms in their neighborhoods.

Natural Gas and Propane are a fabulous, clean energy option, with little to no downstream waste concerns. Please don't take this option away from the State and its residents. Please vote NO on HB1242.

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 8:55:56 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leah Kerr-Michaels	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the committee,

I am submitting this testimony in opposition to HB 1242, a proposal to establish a renewable portfolio standard on the gas utility.

I support clean energy and the state's efforts to transition the state in the right direction. However, I do not believe all the facts are present here and I don't believe a full and complete study has been conducted on how the renewable standards listed in HB 1242 would impact Hawaii. Implementing such standards without such a study will have an effect on Hawaii residents, and furthermore, it does not move us in the right direction.

Hawaii is already the most expensive state in the country, and we can't afford any more legislative mandates that leave taxpayers footing the bill. People like me choose gas because it's reliable and affordable, and forcing the gas company to implement different technologies without knowing the financial impact on people like me just isn't acceptable.

Renewable energy is a new and growing industry, and we can't afford to dive into these commitments without fully understanding the technology, the repercussions, the downstream impacts, and the sustainability and reliability of the technology we invest in.

Lastly, gas represents less than 2% of the state's energy demand and less than 1% of its carbon emissions, while providing an essential option for residents and businesses across the state.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Aloha,

Leah Kerr-Michaels

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 9:45:27 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Remigio Dela Cruz	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the committee,

I am submitting this testimony in opposition to HB 1242, a proposal to establish a renewable portfolio standard on the gas utility.

Like everyone in Hawaii, I support clean energy and the state's efforts to transition the state in the right direction. But we have to get it right. We need to gather all the information and best technology and study how it would impact Hawaii before we implement standards. If we don't slow down and do it right, these standards are only going to hurt Hawaii residents and not move us in the right direction.

Renewable energy is a new and growing industry, and we can't afford to dive into these commitments without fully understanding the technology, the repercussions, the down stream impacts, and the sustainability and reliability of the technology we invest in. Let's do our homework first and really study what's out there before we sent arbitrary standards when we don't yet even know if they are feasible.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Remigio Dela Cruz

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 9:47:51 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robby	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 10:29:38 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lawrence	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the committee,

I am submitting this testimony in opposition to HB 1242, a proposal to establish a renewable portfolio standard on the gas utility.

Like everyone in Hawaii, I support clean energy and the state's efforts to transition the state in the right direction. But we have to get it right. We need to gather all the information and best technology and study how it would impact Hawaii before we implement standards. If we don't slow down and do it right, these standards are only going to hurt Hawaii residents and not move us in the right direction.

- Hawaii is already the most expensive state in the country, and we can't afford any more legislative mandates that leave taxpayers footing the bill. People like me choose gas because it's reliable and affordable, and forcing the gas company to implement different technologies without knowing the financial impact on people like me just isn't acceptable.
- We all know that before we allow our keiki to get behind the wheel of our car, they have to first learn to drive. They have to understand the rules of the road and understand how to operate that car safely. That same principle is true here. Setting arbitrary standards just because that's what works for the electric utility is like hoping your keiki can drive the car because they've been watching you do it all these years. It's a recipe for disaster.

- Renewable energy is a new and growing industry, and we can't afford to dive into these commitments without fully understanding the technology, the repercussions, the down stream impacts, and the sustainability and reliability of the technology we invest in. Let's do our homework first and really study what's out there before we set arbitrary standards when we don't yet even know if they are feasible.
- People like me choose gas for various reasons — heating hot water, cooking, even as our failsafe in the case of an emergency or natural disaster. When you set standards like this without doing your homework, you are potentially forcing higher costs on me and limiting my ability to choose gas as part of my home's utility supply.
- Gas represents less than 2% of the state's energy demand and less than 1% of its carbon emissions, while providing an essential option for residents and businesses across the state. What's the rush? Let's not declare a big victory and then go figure out if we can even do it. Let's do our homework first and then put a meaningful plan in place.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Lawrence

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 10:26:34 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Yee	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I Oppose HB1242.

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 10:43:46 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tay Soares	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

I am sure you have heard every reason, for or against the bill. I won't bother you with details you may have heard or seen before. Peoples lives are being affected right now regarding this bill. Personal friends have insvested their lives into building or renovating new homes for their families who were Gas users. They were expecting to go back to using Gas.

The requirement to have Solar, instead of Gas has got them stumped. In short, if they have to invest in a Solar System, at their dismay there is no choice but have to Electric and PV. I am sure when your commitee came up with this, while you may have been sitting in a Restaurant, or a meeting room... you ordered your meals from a Restaurant that uses Gas. Residential customers who use Gas, will always want gas. Personally, I used Electric my whole life up until 12 years ago, I could never imagine being without it now. Why aren't you after the Hotels, Restaurants, Fast Food Chains. Residential customers are only a fraction of what is used. What we use in a month, they use in a week.

The next time you drive your kids thru McDonalds, take you Husband, Wife, children out to a Restaurant to celebrate an occasion, what would life be withtout GAS. Think about what you are going ask for now with this bill and how & what might affect our future... our families. Renewable energy, yes we have the Sun, Wind Farms etc. What you are really saying to some is Gas is not viable CHOICE. Don't piece meal this. If you take away from one, take away from all.... at one time. I am willing to bet you can't.

See how our lives really change if you could.

Thank you for hopefully taking time to read this.

Aloha

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 10:50:56 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Hall	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the committee,

I am submitting this testimony in opposition to SB 1242. While the intent may be good natured, the unintended consequences of passing such a bill needs to be studied before rushing in.

While I support clean energy and Hawaii's efforts to transition to 100% renewable, renewable energy is a new and growing industry and we can't afford to dive in head first into these commitments without fully understanding the technology, the repercussions, the down stream impacts, and the sustainability and reliability of the technology we invest in. We need to gather all this information and study how it would impact Hawaii before we implement such standards.

Additionally, gas represents < 1% of its carbon emissions, while providing an essential option for residents and businesses across the state. Why are we wasting so much time and money going after the little fish that don't do nearly as much harm to the environment as the big fish. If you want to make a change that actually positively impacts the environment, you don't target an entity with < 1% of the carbon emissions.

This bill seems rushed, full of unintended consequences, and heads down a slippery slope. My recommendation would be to put more effort into studying all the effects this bill may have and include all key stakeholders. Only then can the right decision for Hawaii be made.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Aloha,

Chris

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the committee,

I am submitting this testimony in opposition to SB 1242, a proposal to establish a renewable portfolio standard on the gas utility.

Like everyone in Hawaii, I support clean energy and the state's efforts to transition the state in the right direction. But we have to get it right. We need to gather all the information and best technology and study how it would impact Hawaii before we implement standards. If we don't slow down and do it right, these standards are only going to hurt Hawaii residents and not move us in the right direction.

- Hawaii is already the most expensive state in the country, and we can't afford any more legislative mandates that leave taxpayers footing the bill. People like me choose gas because it's reliable and affordable, and forcing the gas company to implement different technologies without knowing the financial impact on people like me just isn't acceptable.
- We all know that before we allow our keiki to get behind the wheel of our car, they have to first learn to drive. They have to understand the rules of the road and understand how to operate that car safely. That same principle is true here. Setting arbitrary standards just because that's what works for the electric utility is like hoping your keiki can drive the car because they've been watching you do it all these years. It's a recipe for disaster.
- Renewable energy is a new and growing industry, and we can't afford to dive into these commitments without fully understanding the technology, the repercussions, the downstream impacts, and the sustainability and reliability of the technology we invest in. Let's do our homework first and really study what's out there before we set arbitrary standards when we don't yet even know if they are feasible.
- People like me choose gas for various reasons — heating hot water, cooking, even as our failsafe in the case of an emergency or natural disaster. When you set standards like this without doing your homework, you are potentially forcing higher costs on me and limiting my ability to choose gas as part of my home's utility supply.
- Gas represents less than 2% of the state's energy demand and less than 1% of its carbon emissions, while providing an essential option for residents and businesses across the state. What's the rush? Let's not declare a big victory and then go figure out if we can even do it. Let's do our homework first and then put a meaningful plan in place.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Aloha,
Ryan Day

January 22, 2020

HB 1242 – RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Hearing Date/Time: January 23, 2020 at 9:00 am

Room: 325

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the committee,

I am submitting this testimony in **opposition** to **SB 1242**, that will require gas utility companies to establish renewable energy portfolio standards for gas.

This bill is premature not to mention unnecessary. Why hasn't the legislature invested more time to be better informed before drafting and putting out this measure?

As it reads now, this bill is ill-advised and may cause more harm than good and undermines all the efforts put forth by the leaders at Hawai'i Gas, who have always been operating in the best interest of their customers from the start. Hawai'i Gas has been proactive and innovative in taking the initiative to move toward renewable energy as technology advances, therefore, does not need to have unrealistic and harsh government mandates imposed upon them.

As a taxpayer and consumer of both gas and electricity, I can tell you that gas has, by far, been more beneficial to me and my generations of 'ohana, who are from here, and, hands down, more affordable compared to electricity. Whenever a new law is passed without it being thoroughly vetted, we, the people, end up literally paying for it in the long run.

I hope that you realize the short- and long-term consequence this bill will have and if passed, ultimately, it will not be in the best interest and will have a far reaching negative impact on Hawai'i. So now let me ask you, do you think that's fair without taking a closer look at this? Please don't allow this to be another reason that we're priced out of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 11:31:30 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Junathan Ragudos	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am submitting this testimony in opposition to SB 1242, a proposal to establish a renewable portfolio standard on the gas utility.

Like everyone in Hawaii, I support clean energy and the state's efforts to transition the state in the right direction. But we have to get it right. We need to gather all the information and best technology and study how it would impact Hawaii before we implement standards. If we don't slow down and do it right, these standards are only going to hurt Hawaii residents and not move us in the right direction.

Hawaii is already the most expensive state in the country, and we can't afford any more legislative mandates that leave taxpayers footing the bill. People like me choose gas because it's reliable and affordable, and forcing the gas company to implement different technologies without knowing the financial impact on people like me just isn't acceptable.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Aloha,

Junathan Ragudos

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 11:45:51 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Luke M Bailey	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Wildberger, and members of the committee,

I am submitting this testimony in opposition to HB 1242, a proposal to establish a renewable portfolio standard on the gas utility.

I support clean energy and the State of Hawai'i's efforts to transition the state in the right direction to reduce carbon emissions to net-zero by 2045.

However, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) is a clean-burning fuel, according to the United States Department of Energy (Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy) (2020), "liquefied petroleum gas or propane autogas, propane is a clean-burning alternative fuel." Furthermore, LPG is considered an alternative fuel under the [Energy Policy Act of 1992](#).

By employing LPG as a bridge fuel between the fossil fuels of yesterday and the renewables of tomorrow, the citizens of the great State of Hawai'i can achieve our dream of reducing the environmental impacts of employing oil to fuel Hawai'i's energy needs and get us closer to net carbon zero by our intended goal. For that reason, we need to view LPG is a clean-burning fuel that is a low carbon substitute to oil, gas and diesel; since LPG emits virtually no black carbon and does cause adverse environmental impact if it is discharged why are we not embracing LPG as a valued energy resource.

As a military veteran returning home, the cost of living in Hawai'i is more expensive than it was when I left 23-years ago to serve my country. However, it was important for my spouse and me to return home where we can raise our children so that they can carry forth the values of family, culture, and community that are instilled in us here in Hawai'i. However, we must have access to an array of energy solutions to help afford the opportunity to live back home. For us in our home, we rely on solar, photovoltaic, and LPG, a diverse range of energy solutions, which allow us to focus our financial resources on other important necessities to grow and educate our children and support our family and community.

Before we approve a bill like HB 1242, we must be diligent in researching a sound way forward and study the impact that approving this legislation has on the citizens of

Hawai'i. Instead of approving this legislation, the time and money should be invested in creating partnerships and research and development relationships with Hawai'i's LPG and SNG providers so that we can use those fuel sources as the bridge to reach our goal of net carbon zero by 2045.

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 12:18:04 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas-Jay Shigemoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the committee,

I am submitting this testimony in opposition to HB 1242, a proposal to establish a renewable portfolio standard on the gas utility.

Like everyone in Hawaii, I support clean energy and the state's efforts to transition the state in the right direction. But we have to get it right. We need to gather all the information and best technology and study how it would impact Hawaii before we implement standards. If we don't slow down and do it right, these standards are only going to hurt Hawaii residents and not move us in the right direction.

- Hawaii is already the most expensive state in the country, and we can't afford any more legislative mandates that leave taxpayers footing the bill. People like me choose gas because it's reliable and affordable, and forcing the gas company to implement different technologies without knowing the financial impact on people like me just isn't acceptable.
- Being an employee of Hawaii Gas and also of an employee of Zippy's, my livelihood will be impacted tremendously if this bill passes. All of my income comes from heavily relying on gas and propane. Already, living in the most expensive state in the country, this will be detrimental for my family and I.
- Having spent most of my years in the food and beverage industry, all of the restaurants I worked at relies heavily on propane because it is faster, more economical and more efficient than cooking with electric. Passing this bill will not

only hurt our already struggling restaurants but also make it more expensive and take longer to get your food.

- Renewable energy is a new and growing industry, and we can't afford to dive into these commitments without fully understanding the technology, the repercussions, the down stream impacts, and the sustainability and reliability of the technology we invest in. Let's do our homework first and really study what's out there before we set arbitrary standards when we don't yet even know if they are feasible.
- People like me choose gas for various reasons — heating hot water, cooking, even as our failsafe in the case of an emergency or natural disaster. When you set standards like this without doing your homework, you are potentially forcing higher costs on me and limiting my ability to choose gas as part of my home's utility supply.
- Gas represents less than 2% of the state's energy demand and less than 1% of its carbon emissions, while providing an essential option for residents and businesses across the state. What's the rush? Let's not declare a big victory and then go figure out if we can even do it. Let's do our homework first and then put a meaningful plan in place.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Aloha,

Thomas-Jay Shigemoto

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 12:28:59 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jenny Yahiro	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 12:37:09 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aaron Decoite	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

- We all know that before we allow our keiki to get behind the wheel of our car, they have to first to learn to drive. They have to understand the rules of the road and understand how to operate that car safely. That same principle is true here. Setting arbitrary standards just because that's what works for the electric utility is like hoping your keiki can drive the car because they've been watching you do it all these years. It's a recipe for disaster.

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 1:13:33 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle Makii	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the committee,

I am submitting this testimony in opposition to HB 1242, a proposal to establish a renewable portfolio standard on the gas utility.

Like everyone in Hawaii, I support clean energy and the state's efforts to transition the state in the right direction. But we have to get it right. We need to gather all the information and best technology and study how it would impact Hawaii before we implement standards. If we don't slow down and do it right, these standards are only going to hurt Hawaii residents and not move us in the right direction.

Renewable energy is a new and growing industry, and we can't afford to dive into these commitments without fully understanding the technology, the repercussions, the downstream impacts, and the sustainability and reliability of the technology we invest in. Let's do our homework first and really study what's out there before we sent arbitrary standards when we don't yet even know if they are feasible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Michelle Spencer

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the committee,

I am submitting this testimony in opposition to HB 1242, a proposal to establish a renewable portfolio standard on the gas utility.

While I support the clean energy efforts that the State of Hawaii has adopted, this bill is impractical and will lead to higher costs for the residents of Hawaii and create an energy imbalance where the results will have a negative consequence for all Hawaii citizens and visitors.

- Everyone in Hawaii knows that the cost of living in Hawaii is the highest of all states in the US. We see the impacts of this by the growing homeless population segment. The Governor has made reducing the cost of living his platform of focus for 2020. This bill goes against the efforts of reducing the basic living needs for the people of Hawaii. Residents opt for gas because it's reliable and affordable.
- Attempting to put the gas industry into a renewable portfolio standard with electricity is fiscally not comparable. Do you believe that rooftop photovoltaic and hybrid/electric vehicles would penetrate the market without the tax credits and subsidies? I know that number of rooftop photovoltaic installations and hybrid/electric vehicles would be a fraction of what they are without the tax credits and subsidies. I have spoken to many people regarding this as I, personally, was evaluating the financial benefit of both technologies. No business or resident would consider these technologies due to the poor financial payback without the tax credits. Thus, there are no tax credits for renewable gas technologies for any local business or resident to consider for purchase. The playing field should be level before forcing any company to implement different technologies without knowing the financial impact on people like me. This is not acceptable.
- Renewable energy is a new and growing industry that will mature in the coming years. While we would like to be on the forefront and setting the standard, this requires everyone in Hawaii to understand that initially, we would be paying a premium to get new technologies developed and scaled to a commercial phase. We cannot afford to bear this cost. Further, when we put "all of our eggs" into one technology like renewable electricity, we have seen the negative impacts when the renewable sources are unavailable. There has not been much media coverage of the blackouts that occurred in Kauai due to the lack of photovoltaic electricity production in 2019. I was on the island during that time and I was impacted by blackouts. I lost productivity during the blackout periods. I paid significant money to fly and rent a vehicle to conduct business but was cut short due to the blackout. There is so much more work that needs to be accomplished before imposing poorly thought out standards.
- Gas accounts for less than 2% of the state's energy demand and less than 1% of the carbon emissions, while meeting a critical need for residents, businesses, and visitors in our state. Why are we focused on the "extremely high hanging fruit"? Aren't we supposed to go after the low hanging fruit or the issues that create the largest impact? I

am appalled with the “spin” from the environmentalists by not stating facts behind their campaign. If we are targeting fossil fuel, why aren’t we targeting the largest segment, transportation fuels? Why isn’t there a standard set on the airline and shipping industry? Where is the common sense in this picture? We do all this work for addressing the gas industry and we reduce 1% of the carbon emissions? We could probably do minimal work in the transportation industry in reduce carbon emissions many times over what we can reduce from the gas industry.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Aloha,
Craig Furuta

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 1:36:55 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Zachary Tokushima	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the committee,

I am submitting this testimony in opposition to HB 1242, a proposal to establish a renewable portfolio standard on the gas utility. Like everyone in Hawaii, I support clean energy and the state's efforts to transition the state in the right direction. But we have to get it right. We need to gather all the information and best technology and study how it would impact Hawaii before we implement standards. If we don't slow down and do it right, these standards are only going to hurt Hawaii residents and not move us in the right direction. People like me choose gas for various reasons — heating hot water, cooking, even as our fail safe in the case of an emergency or natural disaster. When you set standards like this without doing your homework, you are potentially forcing higher costs on me and limiting my ability to choose gas as part of my home's utility supply. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Aloha,

Zachary Tokushima

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 1:44:34 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nikolai	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the committee,

I am submitting this testimony in opposition to HB 1242, a proposal to establish a renewable portfolio standard on the gas utility.

Like everyone in Hawaii, I support clean energy and the state's efforts to transition the state in the right direction. But we have to get it right. We need to gather all the information and best technology and study how it would impact Hawaii before we implement standards. If we don't slow down and do it right, these standards are only going to hurt Hawaii residents and not move us in the right direction. Hawaii is already the most expensive state in the country, and we can't afford any more legislative mandates that leave taxpayers footing the bill. People like me choose gas because it's reliable and affordable, and forcing the gas company to implement different technologies without knowing the financial impact on people like me just isn't acceptable.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Aloha,

Nikolai Jones

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 3:14:58 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alinna Figueroa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the committee,

I am submitting this testimony in opposition to HB 1242, a proposal to establish a renewable portfolio standard on the gas utility.

Like everyone in Hawaii, I support clean energy and the state's efforts to transition the state in the right direction. But we have to do it the right way. We should first gather more information on the best technologies available and study how they would impact Hawaii before we implement standards. If we don't slow down and do it right, these standards will serve to only hurt Hawaii's residents.

Hawaii is already the most expensive state in the country, and we can't afford any more legislative mandates that leave taxpayers footing the bill. People like me choose gas because it's reliable and affordable, and forcing the gas utility to implement different technologies without knowing the financial impact on people like me just isn't acceptable.

In addition, renewable energy is a new and growing industry, and we can't afford to dive into these commitments without fully understanding the technology, the repercussions, the downstream impacts, and the sustainability and reliability of the technology in which we invest. Let us first do our homework and really study what's realistic and available before we set arbitrary standards that may not even be feasible.

Gas represents less than 2% of the state's energy demand and less than 1% of its carbon emissions, while providing an essential and reliable option for residents and businesses across the state. I implore you not to rush this process before we know if it's economically feasible utilizing existing technology. Let's do our homework first and then put a meaningful plan into place.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Alinna Figueroa

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 3:32:46 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John K. Kamei	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the committee,

I am submitting this testimony in opposition to HB 1242, a proposal to establish a renewable portfolio standard on the gas utility.

Like everyone in Hawaii, I support clean energy and the state's efforts to transition the state in the right direction. But we have to get it right. We need to gather all the information and best technology and study how it would impact Hawaii before we implement standards. If we don't slow down and do it right, these standards are only going to hurt Hawaii residents and not move us in the right direction.

- Hawaii is already the most expensive state in the country, and we can't afford any more legislative mandates that leave taxpayers footing the bill. People like me choose gas because it's reliable and affordable, and forcing the gas company to implement different technologies without knowing the financial impact on people like me just isn't acceptable.
- We all know that before we allow our keiki to get behind the wheel of our car, they have to first learn to drive. They have to understand the rules of the road and understand how to operate that car safely. That same principle is true here. Setting arbitrary standards just because that's what works for the electric utility is like hoping your keiki can drive the car because they've been watching you do it all these years. It's a recipe for disaster.

- Renewable energy is a new and growing industry, and we can't afford to dive into these commitments without fully understanding the technology, the repercussions, the down stream impacts, and the sustainability and reliability of the technology we invest in. Let's do our homework first and really study what's out there before we set arbitrary standards when we don't yet even know if they are feasible.
- People like me choose gas for various reasons — heating hot water, cooking, even as our failsafe in the case of an emergency or natural disaster. When you set standards like this without doing your homework, you are potentially forcing higher costs on me and limiting my ability to choose gas as part of my home's utility supply.
- Gas represents less than 2% of the state's energy demand and less than 1% of its carbon emissions, while providing an essential option for residents and businesses across the state. What's the rush? Let's not declare a big victory and then go figure out if we can even do it. Let's do our homework first and then put a meaningful plan in place.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Aloha,

John

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 3:37:40 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Di Cenzo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha

While I support the State's measure to move Hawaii toward clean and renewable energy resources, I am opposed to the steps currently being taken and feel that more research is needed to ensure that those movements are not putting additional financial strain on Hawaii families.

Implementing the proposed changes as they are does not seem to consider already struggling families. What additional costs do these changes come with? What impact will they have on families like mine that depend on propane? What is the contingency plan?

These questions need and deserve answers, real answers, and it's difficult for me to imagine that the State has those answers as this measure seems to have been expedited without adequate public input and limited research.

While I agree that this is a move in the right direction, I think it is being rushed and it is of great concern to me. We need and deserve for this issue to be thoroughly fleshed out before imposing new measures that could put more financial strain on already struggling Hawaii families.

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 4:07:09 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Okouchi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

- We all know that before we allow our keiki to get behind the wheel of our car, they have to first to learn to drive. They have to understand the rules of the road and understand how to operate that car safely. That same principle is true here. Setting arbitrary standards just because that's what works for the electric utility is like hoping your keiki can drive the car because they've been watching you do it all these years. It's a recipe for disaster.

LATE

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 5:05:27 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members:

I strongly support HB 1242.

The exemption of Hawaii gas utilities from setting or meeting any renewable energy portfolio standard (RPS) gives them an unfair advantage in the energy market.

Gas utilities should be in line with other Hawaii power utilities, enforcing their contribution to Hawaii's zero-emission goals. Requiring an RPS for them is the simplest and fairest way to accomplish this.

The Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and other types of gas used by Hawaii gas utilities need to be regulated as much as coal and oil. At least some LNG that Hawaii imports is produced by the toxic, hazardous practice of fracking. No matter where it is mined, LNG hurts the environment right here by worsening climate change. It is 90% methane [1], a global warming gas 84 times as potent as CO2 over a 20-year period [2]. It leaks at drilling sites, along pipelines, at compression stations, at storage facilities and throughout the networks of piping that carry it to homes [3]. Washington, D.C. alone has 5,893 natural gas leaks [4]. Transporting LNG to Hawaii also burns fuel, producing even more greenhouse gases. And of course using it produces more, almost half as much as coal [5].

The Climate Crisis is not waiting for Hawaii. The legislature should know as soon as possible whether gas utilities can meet the same RPS as other utilities. The study proposed in HRS 269-95 would clarify this. If they cannot meet the same standards, the legislature must take other measures as soon as possible to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

I urge your support for HB 1242. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Nanea Lo

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 5:07:52 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roxanne Hu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the committee,

I am submitting this testimony in opposition to HB 1242, a proposal to establish a renewable portfolio standard on the gas utility.

Like everyone in Hawaii, I support clean energy and the state's efforts to transition the state in the right direction. But we have to get it right. We need to gather all the information and best technology and study how it would impact Hawaii before we implement standards. If we don't slow down and do it right, these standards are only going to hurt Hawaii residents and not move us in the right direction.

- Hawaii is already the most expensive state in the country, and we can't afford any more legislative mandates that leave taxpayers footing the bill. People like me choose gas because it's reliable and affordable, and forcing the gas company to implement different technologies without knowing the financial impact on people like me just isn't acceptable.
- We all know that before we allow our keiki to get behind the wheel of our car, they have to first learn to drive. They have to understand the rules of the road and understand how to operate that car safely. That same principle is true here. Setting arbitrary standards just because that's what works for the electric utility is like hoping your keiki can drive the car because they've been watching you do it all these years. It's a recipe for disaster.

- Renewable energy is a new and growing industry, and we can't afford to dive into these commitments without fully understanding the technology, the repercussions, the down stream impacts, and the sustainability and reliability of the technology we invest in. Let's do our homework first and really study what's out there before we sent arbitrary standards when we don't yet even know if they are feasible.
- People like me choose gas for various reasons — heating hot water, cooking, even as our failsafe in the case of an emergency or natural disaster. When you set standards like this without doing your homework, you are potentially forcing higher costs on me and limiting my ability to choose gas as part of my home's utility supply.
- Gas represents less than 2% of the state's energy demand and less than 1% of its carbon emissions, while providing an essential option for residents and businesses across the state. What's the rush? Let's not declare a big victory and then go figure out if we can even do it. Let's do our homework first and then put a meaningful plan in place.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,
R. Hu

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 5:11:17 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonathan Boyne	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members:

I strongly support HB 1242.

The exemption of Hawaii gas utilities from setting or meeting any renewable energy portfolio standard (RPS) gives them an unfair advantage in the energy market.

Gas utilities should be in line with other Hawaii power utilities, enforcing their contribution to Hawaii's zero-emission goals. Requiring an RPS for them is the simplest and fairest way to accomplish this.

The Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and other types of gas used by Hawaii gas utilities need to be regulated as much as coal and oil. At least some LNG that Hawaii imports is produced by the toxic, hazardous practice of fracking. No matter where it is mined, LNG hurts the environment right here by worsening climate change. It is 90% methane [1], a global warming gas 84 times as potent as CO₂ over a 20-year period [2]. It leaks at drilling sites, along pipelines, at compression stations, at storage facilities and throughout the networks of piping that carry it to homes [3]. Washington, D.C. alone has 5,893 natural gas leaks [4]. Transporting LNG to Hawaii also burns fuel, producing even more greenhouse gases. And of course using it produces more, almost half as much as coal [5].

The Climate Crisis is not waiting for Hawaii. The legislature should know as soon as possible whether gas utilities can meet the same RPS as other utilities. The study proposed in HRS 269-95 would clarify this. If they cannot meet the same standards, the legislature must take other measures as soon as possible to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

I urge your support for HB 1242. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 5:41:37 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please put gas companies on a level playing field with other utilities by requiring them to establish renewable energy portfolio standards for gas. Provides means for gas utility companies to achieve the renewable energy portfolio standards for gas. Please support this bill!

LATE

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 6:01:43 PM
Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryan Yoshida	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the committee,

I oppose SB 1242 as written.

I agree with the State's push to diversify Hawaii's energy, which will lead to greater energy competition, and better lives for residents. I also believe that Hawaii is a great location to implement renewable electricity, encouraging that end with government money. However, it appears that the premise of this bill is to level the playing field for utilities. I don't believe leveling can be accomplished simply by requiring the same timeline for gas utilities as are in place for electric utilities. If I'm not mistaken, the passage of electric RPS was preceded by years of State and Federal subsidies, and extensive R&D. To that extent, renewable electricity is a mature technology. To level the utility field, I believe the State, together with utilities, and energy experts, must first investigate the available and anticipated technologies to evaluate the impact to consumers. Armed with this information, I believe the State and industry can make the best decision for a gas RPS.

In addition, the latest version of the bill appears to single out the gas utility company's non-utility business by mandating renewable requirements for it, but not other tanked gas companies. This seems to create a situation in which disadvantages the gas utility on all fronts. I believe this bill goes far beyond an attempt to level the utility field.

In summary, I believe the current bill language must be changed to achieve the legislature's stated intent.

Thank you very much for considering my testimony.

Ryan Yoshida

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 6:18:46 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margaret Russo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members:

I strongly support HB 1242.

Although I have been a customer of Hawai'i Gas for over 17 years, to power my on-demand water heater, I am alarmed that gas utilities have been able to avoid thus far setting or meeting any renewable energy portfolio standards. Gas utilities have lied about the product they sell, falsely calling it "clean energy." A recent letter from Hawai'i Gas's CEO to customers in late 2019 reiterated that lie and called on customers to write their legislators to advocate for "choice" so solar-water heaters would not be mandatory in new homes. This letter left me disgusted with their obfuscation and refusal to support renewable energy.

Human civilization and life are in grave danger due to anthropogenic climate chaos, caused predominantly by burning fossil fuels. We must move to 100% renewable energy rapidly to avoid the worst—rising seas, ocean acidification, severe storms, flooding, and drought that will disrupt agriculture, lead to mass migration, and conflict over resources—and the 6th extinction.

As individual and family member, I have invested in roof-top solar and battery storage that reduced my family's HELCO bill in 2019 to under \$27.00 per month and exported 2374 Kwh to the grid. Recently I purchased an electric vehicle to use the surplus power we generate. Our next step is to replace our propane water heater with a solar water heater. (Yes, Hawai'i Gas, then we will no longer be your "loyal" customer.)

The writing is on the wall. Renewable energy is the wave of the future. The future is here. Companies that put short-term profits over the health of people and planet, lying about their supposedly "clean" energy, need to adapt. I call on Honolulu legislators to help them—and us—ride the new wave by passing HB-1242!

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 6:22:55 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jared Pasalo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the committee,

I am submitting this testimony in opposition to SB 1242. I support clean energy and the state's efforts to transition the state in the right direction but we need to gather all the information and best technology and study how it would impact Hawaii before we implement standards. If we don't do it right, these standards are only going to hurt Hawaii residents and not move us in the right direction.

People like me choose gas because it's reliable and affordable, and forcing the gas company to implement different technologies without knowing the financial impact on people like me just isn't acceptable. Hawaii is already the most expensive state in the country and we can't afford any more legislative mandates that leave taxpayers footing the bill.

Renewable energy is a new and growing industry, and we can't afford to dive into these commitments without fully understanding the technology, the repercussions, the downstream impacts, and the sustainability and reliability of the technology we invest in. Let's do our homework first and really study what's out there before we sent arbitrary standards when we don't yet even know if they are feasible. Also, gas represents less than 2% of the state's energy demand and less than 1% of its carbon emissions, while providing an essential option for residents and businesses across the state.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Thanks,

Jared Pasalo

January 22, 2020

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members:

I write in my strong support of HB 1242 to require the Gas Company to establish renewable energy portfolio standards. Gas utilities should be in line with other Hawaii power utilities, enforcing their contribution to Hawaii's zero-emission goals. Requiring an RPS for them is the simplest and fairest way to accomplish this.

Liquefied Natural Gas produces methane, a green house gas that contributes to global warming at a higher rate than carbon dioxide. LNG hurts the climate, and that hurts all of us.

The state of Hawai'i has an opportunity to be leaders in climate solutions, and we should do everything possible to reduce greenhouse gases. The legislature should know as soon as possible whether gas utilities can meet the same RPS as other utilities. The study proposed in HRS 269-95 would clarify this. If they cannot meet the same standards, the legislature must take other measures as soon as possible to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

Sincerely,
Lynn Aaberg
808-381-6878

LATE

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 7:54:49 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Dinner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 7:58:02 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tea™sha Martines-Melim	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

LATE

LATE

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 8:26:08 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Micha'el Leventhal	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: The House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

From: Eric Micha'el Leventhal

Date: Thursday, January 23, 2020

In strong support of HB 1242

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members:

I strongly support HB 1242.

The exemption of Hawaii gas utilities from setting or meeting any renewable energy portfolio standard (RPS) gives them an unfair advantage in the energy market.

Gas utilities should be in line with other Hawaii power utilities, enforcing their contribution to Hawaii's zero-emission goals. Requiring an RPS for them is the simplest and fairest way to accomplish this.

The Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and other types of gas used by Hawaii gas utilities need to be regulated as much as coal and oil. At least some LNG that Hawaii imports is produced by the toxic, hazardous practice of fracking. No matter where it is mined, LNG hurts the environment right here by worsening climate change. It is 90% methane [1], a global warming gas 84 times as potent as CO2 over a 20-year period [2]. It leaks at drilling sites, along pipelines, at compression stations, at storage facilities and throughout the networks of piping that carry it to homes [3]. Washington, D.C. alone has 5,893 natural gas leaks [4]. Transporting LNG to Hawaii also burns fuel, producing even more greenhouse gases. And of course using it produces more, almost half as much as coal [5].

The Climate Crisis is not waiting for Hawaii. The legislature should know as soon as possible whether gas utilities can meet the same RPS as other utilities. The study proposed in HRS 269-95 would clarify this. If they cannot meet the same standards, the legislature must take other measures as soon as possible to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

I urge your support for HB 1242. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Eric Micha'el Leventhal

LATE

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 9:07:32 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rene Robertson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: The House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

From: René Robertson

Date: [Thursday, January 23, 2020, 9:00 am](#)

In strong support of HB 1242

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members:

I strongly support HB 1242.

The exemption of Hawaii gas utilities from setting or meeting any renewable energy portfolio standard (RPS) gives them an unfair advantage in the energy market.

Gas utilities should be in line with other Hawaii power utilities, enforcing their contribution to Hawaii's zero-emission goals. Requiring an RPS for them is the simplest and fairest way to accomplish this.

The Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and other types of gas used by Hawaii gas utilities need to be regulated as much as coal and oil. At least some LNG that Hawaii imports is produced by the toxic, hazardous practice of fracking. No matter where it is mined, LNG hurts the environment right here by worsening climate change. It is 90% methane, a global warming gas 84 times as potent as CO2 over a 20-year period. It leaks at drilling sites, along pipelines, at compression stations, at storage facilities and throughout the networks of piping that carry it to homes [3]. Washington, D.C. alone has 5,893 natural gas leaks. Transporting LNG to Hawaii also burns fuel, producing even more greenhouse gases. And of course using it produces more, almost half as much as coal.

The Climate Crisis is not waiting for Hawaii. The legislature should know as soon as possible whether gas utilities can meet the same RPS as other utilities. The study proposed in HRS 269-95 would clarify this. If they cannot meet the same standards, the legislature must take other measures as soon as possible to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

I urge your support for HB 1242. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

René Robertson

LATE

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 11:57:59 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: The House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

From: Sherry Pollack

Date: Thursday, January 23, 2020, 9:00 am

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members:

I strongly support HB 1242.

The exemption of Hawaii gas utilities from setting or meeting any renewable energy portfolio standard (RPS) gives them an unfair advantage in the energy market and works against Hawaii's efforts to transition to clean, renewable energy. Gas utilities should be in line with other Hawaii power utilities, enforcing their contribution to Hawaii's zero-emission goals. Requiring an RPS for them is the simplest and fairest way to accomplish this.

However, there are two important amendments needed to support the intent of this bill.

First, there is a flaw in the current RPS definition that needs to be addressed so that it is not transferred to the gas utility. The current RPS calculation allows a company to achieve a RPS of 110% while still buying and selling fossil fuel. This existing loophole can be fixed by changing the RPS calculation from energy 'sales' to energy 'generation.'

Second, the UN IPCC report makes clear we have 10 years to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions to avoid Climate Hell. Therefore, HB1242 should be further amended to accelerate the target to achieve 100% renewable energy **by 2030**, as is already being proposed nationally in the Green New Deal. 2045 is woefully too late.

This bill with these amendments is in the best interests of the people of Hawaii. The UN IPCC report spells out why we must limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, and that to do this, it requires a **major and immediate transformation** across all sectors to achieve the needed emissions reductions.

To continue to expand our use of fossil fuels, which Hawaii Gas is pushing for us to do, makes no sense. Hawaii Gas uses natural gas, which is 90% methane, a global

warming gas 84 times as potent as CO₂. Continuing to use natural gas, let alone pushing to increase its use, is literally suicide.

The gas utility has known for a very long time that the lifecycle emissions associated with liquefied natural gas (LNG) are destroying our planet. Rather than voluntarily focusing their full efforts into transforming their company into one that provides non-climate destroying energy, they have instead chosen to expand their use of LNG and work against legislative efforts that would help us move away from natural gas.

Hawaii Gas has cited *concern* for ratepayers who are struggling to make ends meet and that if a RPS is imposed on the gas utility they warn it might have *significant potential consequences* as a result. Yet they fail to mention renewable energy is now cheaper than any other source of power in most parts of the United States. Accelerating clean energy adoption will only help save Hawaii residents money.

Further, if we are to discuss concern about economic costs to the people of Hawaii, we need to discuss the estimated \$19 billion from loss of land and flooded structures due to sea level rise, according to the data from the Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report. This is the price tag resulting when Hawaii suffers the more than three-foot sea-level rise that scientists say we are in store for by mid-century **as a result of the greenhouse gases already emitted**. And it must be remembered that \$19 billion is only a partial cost, and does not factor in the many other devastating economic impacts climate change is and will have on our islands. Any discussion about economic costs should include the full picture and what is at stake for Hawaii as a whole.

We need HB1242. The science is clear. The window for action is closing. We must move away **now** from our use of natural gas and its climate destroying emissions.

Greta Thunberg, a 17-year-old climate activist, who has been calling on world leaders to do more, once stated “You say you love your children above all else and yet you are stealing their future in front of their very eyes. Until you start focusing on what needs to be done rather than what is politically possible, there is no hope.”

Climate change is an existential threat and the most important issue of all. Let Hawaii set an example for others around the globe and show what true climate leadership means. Let us act boldly and step up to do what is necessary. Our grandchildren and great-grandchildren will judge us by how well we meet the challenge.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this very important bill.

Sherry Pollack

HB-1242

Submitted on: 1/23/2020 7:28:51 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aya Kimura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Natural gas is a fossil fuel. Please take action to curb it. Giving natural gas an exemption distorts the market and slows Hawaii's progress to tackle climate change.

Thank you for your wisdom in protecting our kids and the environment!

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Submitted on: 1/23/2020 8:38:47 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/23/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jenny Webster	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear committe members,

It is imperative that we require the gas company to begin building a renewable energy portfolio. They must begin to divest. Natural gas is one of the big sources of methane emissions on the planet and methane has 25 times the heat-trapping power for CO2 (epa.gov). This heat that we are trapping in the atmosphere is already going to cause the water to rise, the crops to fail, and the hurricanes to come. They are coming. What's worse, however, is that if we don't stop emitting these gasses, the next generation, your children and grandchildren, won't have a chance to live well on this planet and they will look to us and demand and answer. What will we say to them?

I already teach an English class at Windward CC where I find myself introducing the topic of climate change to many of my students. Almost half of them have never taken a good look at what's happening. Teachers shy away from talking about it because it's terrifying. I've had studets weep in class. They are riddled with anxiety, anger and fear when I review the last IPC report. And every semester, students drop because they cannot bear to look this problem in the face and consider what might be coming. Honestly, at th end of each semester, I can barely do it again, but I know I must. This is the challenge of our lifetimes and we will rise to meet this challenge because we must.

According to the EPA, "Methane is emitted to the atmosphere during the production, processing, storage, transmission, and distribution of natural gas." In other words, there is no safe way to manage natural gas. If we could end the production and use of natural gas right now, we should. But because we live in a world with a powerful fossil fuel industry and because we have built our lives to be utterly dependent on these resources, we take baby steps to do what's right. Indeed, with what we know about the damage that fossil fuels do to our environment and the threat they pose to everyone on the planet and the next generations, these are baby steps and we will have to answer for not being braver and not acting sooner.

Still, today, we must act. You have the power to make the gas industry begin to divest. I beg you to act with bravery and certainty because you are the only ones who can.

Thank you for taking steps to ensure that our children will have a future. Be brave. We must end our dependence on fossil fuels now. We should have done this decades ago.

With aloha,

Jenny Webster, English teacher, Windward Community College