

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

TO THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

January 29, 2019  
8:30 a.m.

Chair Lowen and Members of the Committee:

**MEASURE:** H.B. No. 298

**TITLE:** RELATING TO INTRA-GOVERNMENTAL WHEELING.

**DESCRIPTION:** Authorizes any government agency to engage in the wheeling of electricity that is produced at its own facilities from renewable energy resources, subject to disallowance by the Public Utilities Commission.

**POSITION:**

The Public Utilities Commission offers the following comments for consideration.

**COMMENTS:**

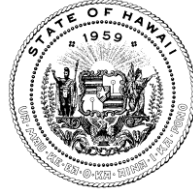
The Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") opened a proceeding on June 29, 2007 to investigate intra-governmental wheeling (see Docket No. 2007-0176). Over an approximately eighteen-month period, the Parties to that docket, including the State's electric utilities, government agencies, and other interested stakeholders, conducted several technical discussions and workshops on the complex issues related to intra-governmental wheeling.

The Commission suspended the docket proceedings in December 2008 at the request of the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, to enable stakeholders to conserve limited resources and focus on other activities to increase renewable energy in Hawaii, including a number of policy matters associated with the newly-established Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative. Subsequently, the Parties identified the efforts of the Reliability Standards Working Group (see Docket No. 2011-0206) as interdependent with the issues related to intra-governmental wheeling. In the reliability

standards docket, the working group made substantial progress and was able to complete much of its work, but was not able to resolve several technical matters including certain issues related to interconnection policies, reliability standards, and planning criteria for the Hawaiian Electric Companies. Some of these issues continue to be investigated as part of the distributed energy resources policy investigation (see Docket No. 2014-0192) and the Hawaiian Electric Companies' ongoing planning efforts (see Docket Nos. 2014-0183 and 2018-0165). As such, the Commission has prioritized dockets including distributed energy resources, power system planning, community-based renewable energy, the demand response portfolio, performance-based regulation, review of power purchase agreements for new renewable energy projects, and other critical initiatives to continue progress towards the State's clean energy goals.

The Commission notes that Section 2 of this bill requires the Commission to adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 to implement intra-governmental wheeling. Should the Legislature pass this measure, the Commission respectfully recommends the Commission be permitted the flexibility to implement this measure by rule or order.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN  
LT. GOVERNOR

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

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CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN  
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs**

**Before the  
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection  
Tuesday, January 29, 2019  
8:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**On the following measure:  
H.B. 298, RELATING TO INTRA-GOVERNMENTAL WHEELING.**

Chair Lowen and Members of the Committee:

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

The purpose of this bill is to authorize any government agency to engage in the wheeling of electricity that is produced at its own facilities from renewable energy resources, subject to disallowance by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). For purposes of this bill, "wheeling" would involve the transfer of energy, generated at one government location, to another location, by using the utilities' transmission and distribution system.

As acknowledged by the Legislature in the preamble to the bill, wheeling has been discussed or the subject in multiple dockets before the PUC. In Docket No. 03-0371, the issue of wheeling came up in the context of the investigation of distributed generation in Hawaii. In Docket No. 2007-0176, Instituting Proceedings to

Investigate the Implementation of Intragovernmental Wheeling of Electricity, the PUC opened the proceeding, in part to address the issues raised in Docket No. 03-0371 and in response to SCR 180; however, the docket remains open. In Docket No. 2014-0192, Instituting a Proceeding to Investigate Distributed Energy Resource Policies, the Consumer Advocate has raised the need to revisit issues related to properly unbundling costs and establishing clear pricing signals to facilitate distributed generation, including facilitating wheeling. Also, the PUC recently initiated a Proceeding to Investigate Establishment of a Microgrid Services Tariff by issuing Order No. 35566 on July 10, 2018, which may address issues of whether a micro grid will rely on the electric utility's transmission and distribution facilities to transmit energy and will involve wheeling.

Wheeling raises a number of challenging issues to ensure that terms and conditions, including the prices associated with using utility facilities, are fairly set. The Consumer Advocate supports careful examination of a fair tariff for use of utilities' transmission and distribution systems. However, adequate care must be exercised to ensure that this tariff does not result in the following possible scenarios:

(1) under-compensating the utility for costs associated with the transmission/distribution infrastructure used to wheel the energy, because such under-compensation would shift costs to other customers; (2) over-charging the government agency and thereby creating a disincentive for distributed generation; and (3) creating certain rules or provisions that may be discriminatory, such as allowing only certain customers to use or rely on a particular service.

While the ongoing dockets may not be actively addressing wheeling at this time, the Consumer Advocate respectfully suggests that the Legislature allow the PUC to:

(1) carefully consider issues associated with designing and implementing tariffs that will be foundational to the new energy industry, which will include wheeling; and (2) complete its ongoing proceedings before requiring wheeling rules. The Consumer Advocate and the PUC have limited resources and are actively engaged in a number of other complex and time-consuming proceedings, such as the Performance

Based Regulation proceeding. Seeking to have tariffs established by December 31, 2020, would strain existing resources.

If the Legislature wishes to express its preferences on the subject or to require a reporting on the progress of tariff adoption, then the Consumer Advocate humbly suggests that a substantive resolution may be more appropriate. If, in the alternative, the Legislature seeks to pass this measure, the Consumer Advocate requests adding language to make clear that other customers will not be required to subsidize a customer who is relying on wheeling services.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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KIRK CALDWELL  
MAYOR



LORI M.K. KAHIKINA, P.E.  
DIRECTOR

TIMOTHY A. HOUGHTON  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

ROSS S. TANIMOTO, P.E.  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
WAS 19-33

January 28, 2019

The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair  
The Honorable Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection  
House of Representatives, Room 325  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection:

SUBJECT: HB298 Relating to Intergovernmental Wheeling

The Department of Environmental Services of the City and County of Honolulu **supports** HB 298, which encourages the production and distribution of renewable energy by allowing government agencies to "wheel" renewable energy from the generating agency to other governmental agencies.

The City's H-POWER waste-to-energy facility converts Oahu's municipal solid waste and other wastes into 90 megawatts of reliable, renewable power for Oahu, reducing Hawaii's dependence on imported oil and advancing the State's commitment to a 100% renewable energy by 2045.

HB 298 will promote the production and use of renewable energy generated by H-POWER and other agencies by effectively increasing the benefit to agencies for generating energy through these renewable sources.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony in support of this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Lori M.K. Kahikina", is written over a circular stamp. The stamp contains the text "Lori M.K. Kahikina, P.E." and "Director".

Lori M.K. Kahikina, P.E.  
Director



TESTIMONY OF TAWHIRI POWER LLC  
ON HB 298  
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2019 AT 8:30 a.m.

TO THE HONORABLE CHAIR LOWEN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

Tawhiri Power LLC ("TPL")<sup>1</sup> strongly supports HB298 because it will be a major step forward in helping the State reach its goal of obtaining 100% of its energy needs from renewable sources.

Moreover, the passage of HB298 will allow government agencies to wheel excess renewable energy to other government agencies, thus lowering energy costs for the State and maximizing the utilization of renewable energy being generated by the State.

Currently, if a State agency has renewable energy generation located on its facilities, any excess generation that does not get used on-site is just wasted. HB298 would allow the State agency having excess generation capability to wheel (share) this excess energy with other government agencies. This will help alleviate the need for other government agencies to get its energy from a non-renewable source or having to incur the expense of developing its own renewable resource.

Thus, if the Committee is truly committed for having Hawaii obtain its goals of being 100% renewable by 2045, we urge the Committee to pass this bill out.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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<sup>1</sup> TPL is an Independent Power Producer ("IPP") that owns and operates Pakini Nui Wind Farm located in the South Point Area on the Island of Hawaii.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**H.B. No. 298**

**Relating to Intra-Governmental Wheeling**

Tuesday, January 29, 2019

8:30 am

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Kevin M. Katsura  
Director, Regulatory Non-Rate Proceedings  
Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.

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

My name is Kevin Katsura and I am testifying in **opposition** to HB 298 on behalf of Hawaiian Electric Company and its subsidiary utilities Maui Electric Company and Hawai'i Electric Light Company.

Governmental agencies are our systems' largest customers. Intra-governmental wheeling would allow our largest customers to strike their own deals with independent power producers, and use the utility electric system, which is paid for by all customers and meant to serve all customers, for their own purposes. This would be unfair to the broader public without appropriate protections and fees charged to the wheeling parties, and complicates our ability to achieve the State's 100% renewable energy future. In order for the State to attain its ambitious 100% RPS with equity, i.e., not burdening those customers who can least afford to find alternative forms of energy, ALL customers and customer groups should work together rather than pursue mechanisms to gain special advantages over others.

Additionally, this bill presumes that Intra-governmental wheeling should be implemented immediately before addressing the critical issues that wheeling raises.

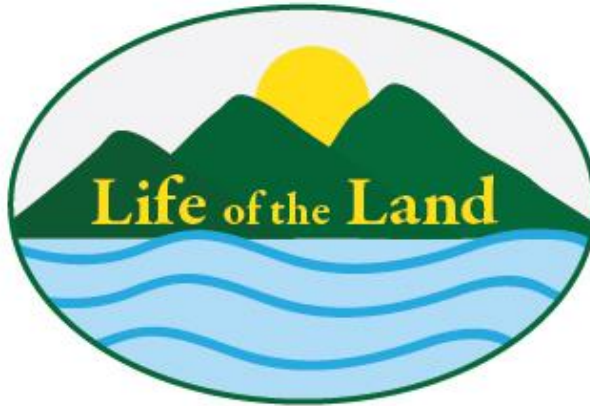


Although the Intra-governmental Wheeling docket has indeed been delayed as foundational technical and regulatory issues have been worked through including establishing long range plans to reach 100% renewable energy, we believe it was prudent to do so and the critical issues of wheeling should now be considered in proper context. Some of these critical issues are: (1) Considering the financial costs and impacts of intra- governmental wheeling on non-wheeling customers of a utility, including other governmental customers; (2) Identifying what impact intragovernmental wheeling will have on existing independent power producers already providing energy under contract to Hawaii's electric utilities, who might see their ability to produce energy curtailed; (3) Identifying any power back-up issues; (4) Addressing how rates for intra-governmental wheeling would be set; and (5) Identifying the costs to the utilities of implementing intra-governmental wheeling.

In Hawai'i, there's no extension cord to the mainland. Unlike California and many other places we're compared to, we can't plug into the mainland grid, either to buy or sell electricity to neighboring utilities and for reliability. The loss of large customers will impair the sustainability of fair cost allocations to all customers which will impair economic development and the attainment of our state renewable policies and goals. We must address the State's energy future as a whole and not with techniques that sound reasonable as stand-alone concepts, especially those used in larger grids in the mainland with large manufacturing and commercial loads. We can all reach Hawaii's renewable future if we are all in it together.

Accordingly, the Hawaiian Electric Companies oppose H.B. 298.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



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

#### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair

Rep. Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, January 29, 2019

TIME: 8:30 AM

PLACE: Conference Room 325

HB 298 Intragovernmental Wheeling

#### **COMMENTS**

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

Life of the Land is Hawai'i's own energy, environmental and community action group advocating for the people and `aina for 47 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 has two active climate change appeals before the Hawai'i Supreme Court. The court heard oral arguments on the first one in October 2018. We also have a climate change complaint before the Public Utilities Commission.

In October 2003, the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission instituted a proceeding to examine the potential benefits and impacts of distributed generation on Hawaii's electric distribution systems and market. One of the issues raised in the Distributed Generation Docket was the concept of intra-governmental wheeling. However, due to the nature of the docket, the commission was unable to fully address the issues relevant to intra-governmental wheeling in the course of that docket.

On April 30, 2004, the Legislature adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 180. Among other things, S.C.R. No. 180 recognized the State's dependence on imported oil to meet its energy needs and the necessity for the State to emphasize renewable energy production programs. The Legislature requested that the commission explore ways to implement intra-governmental wheeling to facilitate government wheeling of electricity, and other regulatory measures to support the development of renewable energy systems by federal, state, and county agencies.

Wheeling is defined as "the process of transmitting electric power from a seller's point of generation across a third-party-owned transmission and distribution system to the seller's retail customer."<sup>^</sup> The Legislature found that the production of renewable energy could be encouraged if government agencies, as sellers of renewable energy, are allowed to transmit electricity to other governmental facilities over existing transmission lines of an electric public utility, i.e., intra-governmental wheeling.

According to S.C.R. No. 180, government agencies can include any federal, state, or county department, commission, board, bureau, office or other government establishment, or any quasi-public institution that is supported in whole or in part by government funds establishment, or any quasi-public institution that is supported in whole or in part by government funds.

In addition, by letter to the commission dated December 21, 2006, the State of Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) requested information from the commission on ways to facilitate the purchase of renewable energy by State agencies. According to DBEDT, as a major user of electricity, the State should "lead by example" in the use of electricity and by purchasing electricity from renewable sources. Specifically, the State and other government agencies such as the counties, could acquire renewable energy by purchasing it from a renewable energy project developer, which would then be transmitted across utility lines owned and maintained by an existing electric utility, to the government agency or another government agency. As such, DBEDT requested information from the commission as to how proceed with these types of projects, including whether there would be a cost associated with transmitting electricity and whether the State is exempt from utility regulation associated with these types of projects.

The public utilities commission opened docket number 2007-0176 to address intra-governmental wheeling.

The public utilities commission determined the parties and granted intermission to all who sought to participate. The entities were the U.S. Department of Defense, Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc., Hawaii Electric Light Company, Inc., Maui Electric Company, Limited, Kauai Island Utility Cooperative, Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, Division of Consumer Advocacy, City and County of Honolulu, County of Hawaii, County of Maui, Hawaii Renewable Energy Alliance, Lanai Sustainability Research, LLC, Life of the Land, Puna Geothermal Venture, Castle & Cooke Resorts, LLC, and Realgreen Power, L.L.C.

DBEDT requested on November 12, 2008 that the commission temporarily suspend the wheeling proceeding for a period of twelve months for the purpose of conserving limited resources while reviewing the necessity of this proceeding in light of the numerous commitments made in the October 2008 Energy Agreement, particularly with respect to feed-in tariffs and decoupling. Sun Edison, Hawaii Renewable Energy Alliance, Life of the Land, Puna Geothermal Venture, and RealGreen Power objected while the County of Maui, Castle and Cooke Resorts/ Lanai Sustainability Research, and Kauai Island Utility Cooperative did not object.

The public utilities commission concurred with DBEDT, suspending the proceeding for one year on December 8, 2008 and for another year on December 3, 2009. The Commission reinstated the docket on November 12, 2010, “based on the continued level of interest in intra-governmental wheeling as an available mechanism to further the development of renewable energy resources, the commission declines to terminate this proceeding at this time.” The public utilities commission also agreed with other parties that the actual steps in the proceeding should be deferred until the Feed-In Tariff was established, the Reliability Standards Working Group and Technical Support Group finished their work, and the Reliability Standards Working Group effort was completed.

The public utilities commission requested that the parties develop a time-line, which the parties followed up on, and the time-line was approved by the commission on January 5, 2011.

All of the public utilities commission imposed pre-steps before the wheeling issue could be undertaken were wrapped up by 2013. The public utilities commission has not filed

any orders in the intra-govenmental wheeling proceeding for five years. The docket remains opened but stalled.

The public utilities commission should advance or dispose of this 12-year-old docket.

The public utilities commission shall complete its intra-governmental wheeling proceeding by December 2020.

Mahalo

Henry Curtis  
Executive Director



To: The House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection  
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org  
Date: Tuesday, 1/29/19

**In strong support of HB 298**

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and Committee members,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org strongly supports **HB298**.

Wheeling allows utility areas with too much supply to transmit excess power to other utilities with too much demand. The ultimate goal is to move the least-cost power to where it is needed, maximizing efficiencies. If wheeling is an option, a utility can determine if it is cheaper to build a new electric generation facility or buy power from another service area. This bill allows one government entity to develop renewable, indigenous resources, such as wind or hydro, in remote areas that do not need the power, and send it to areas with higher demand. It may reduce the wasteful curtailing of energy production, e.g., at Maui's wind farms.

HB 298 would increase flexibility in both generating and using power, providing more options for Hawaii to move power produced anywhere to the places of greatest need. This flexibility should make it easier to reach our zero-emissions goals ahead of schedule.

Please support HB 298 and broaden Hawaii's ability to reach a zero-emissions future.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of this very important bill.

Sherry Pollack  
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org



To: The House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection  
From: Brodie Lockard, Hawaii State Climate Lead, Organizing for Action  
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2019, 8:30 am

**In strong support of HB 298**

Dear EEP Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger and Committee Members—

Organizing for Action strongly supports HB 298.

"Wheeling," in which electric power is transmitted from one agency's point of generation to the facilities of other governmental agencies over the existing transmission lines, adds important flexibility to Hawaii's fragmented electrical grid.

HB 298 would provide more options for Hawaii to move power produced in one place to wherever it's most needed. Since we still have no interisland power cables, the ability to transfer power between places is an important tool for balancing energy needs on each island. This tool will decrease inefficiencies within each grid, and add to the flexibility we need to reach a zero-emissions economy. Because it can move the cheapest power to where it is needed, it will save the State considerable money.

This bill allows one government entity to develop renewable, indigenous resources, such as wind or hydro, in remote areas that do not need the power, and send it to areas that do. It may reduce the wasteful curtailing of energy production, e.g., at Maui's wind farms.

Please support HB 298 and broaden Hawaii's ability to reach a zero-emissions future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Brodie Lockard  
Hawaii State Climate Lead, Organizing for Action

[1] <http://www.iepa.com/wheeling.asp>





## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

January 29, 2019, 8:30 A.M.

Room 325

(Testimony is 2 pages long)

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 298

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

Blue Planet Foundation **supports** HB 298, a measure that would allow government agencies to “wheel,” or use the utility’s transmission infrastructure to transmit electricity, for renewable energy generated by government agencies. The bill directs the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to develop rules for this wheeling. We offer an amendment to expand the scope of the policy to include full retail wheeling of electricity.

We note that governmental wheeling has been under consideration by the PUC for a number of years. On June 29, 2007, the PUC initiated an investigation to examine the feasibility of implementing intra-governmental wheeling of electricity in Hawai‘i. This was partially the result of Senate Concurrent Resolution 180 adopted on April 30, 2004. This docket was suspended by the PUC until December 2010 to allow for the other regulatory dockets (such as feed-in tariffs and decoupling) to be resolved. The governmental wheeling docket remains open before the PUC. Blue Planet believes that further direction to the PUC to examine full retail wheeling in a broadest sense—where power generated by an independent power producer could be sold directly to a customer—is warranted.

Blue Planet Foundation’s mission is to clear the path for 100% clean energy and to make Hawai‘i a role model for a just and sustainable transition to our low-carbon future. To that end, we believe that the role of electric utilities in Hawai‘i will shift from a centralized producer-distributor model to a mostly decentralized, distribution manager model—the utility will control and manage the wires of the new intelligent grid but much of the power will come from independent, clean energy sources.

For example, currently, electricity flows in one direction: from the power plant to your home or business. This is much like television in the 1960s. When you turned on the TV, you watched whatever one of the three networks was broadcasting. You couldn’t store the broadcast and you couldn’t contribute your own content. That’s roughly how our power grid operates today. Our future power grid will resemble today’s Internet—where distributed servers both send and receive packets of information—and less like yesterday’s commercial television. The role of the

utility will be similar to an Internet provider, moving the electrons in the most efficient and effective manner.

Retail wheeling is a step toward that new model for the utility, where independent power producers can enter into agreements with end users and effectively “rent” the transmission and distribution capability from the utility. Such an arrangement would open the doors to innovation and encourage more to invest in clean energy development.

For example, some renewable energy projects in Hawai‘i are restricted from selling their power at certain times of the day due to oversupply or the inability of the utility to reduce the generation from a fossil fuel power plant. If retail wheeling were allowed, the renewable energy project could find a potential customer for their excess energy—perhaps at a much-discounted rate. Perhaps a large resort might be interested in purchasing lower cost electricity so they could do ice storage for air conditioning. Or someone may wish to sell lower-cost renewable energy to an electric vehicle (EV) charger aggregator to charge EVs. This would have multiple benefits for the grid, clean energy power producers, and customers.

### **SUGGESTED AMENDMENT**

Blue Planet Foundation respectfully requests that this Committee amend HB 298 to give direction to the PUC to enable full retail wheeling—not just wheeling of electricity within the government. We believe that expanding retail wheeling of clean energy to encompass all potential producers and consumers will greatly spur innovation in the electricity market and hasten the transition to 100% clean energy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



## O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities (OCCLP)

### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair  
Rep. Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair

Rep. Sharon E. Har      Rep. Ryan I. Yamane  
Rep. David A. Tarnas    Rep. Cynthia Thielen  
Rep. Chris Todd

DATE:      Tuesday, January 29, 2019  
TIME:      8:30 AM  
PLACE:     Conference Room 325. State Capitol  
             415 South Beretania Street

### RE: HB 298 Relating to Intra-Governmental Wheeling

Aloha mai kakou Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection:

The O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities (OCCLP) of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i (DPH) hereby submits its testimony in **SUPPORT of HB 298 relating Intra-Governmental Wheeling.**

HB 298 would authorize any government agency to engage in the wheeling of electricity that is produced at its own facilities from renewable energy resources, subject to disallowance by the Public Utilities Commission.

DPH seeks to achieve energy sustainability based on renewable energy sources.

DPH supports energy independence, self-sufficiency, affordability and reliability for Hawai'i through the development of renewable alternative energy sources. Specifically, DPH needs to support policies that foster the development of energy production methods that de-emphasize carbon-based fuels and promote renewable sources such as wind, solar, wave, geothermal and Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC).

Electricity rates in Hawai'i are among the highest in the Nation even though we enjoy an abundance of sunshine year-round. Electric utility companies and cooperatives must open the

grid to alternative power sources including solar panels and geothermal energy. DPH supports the effort of our government officials to require utilities to provide for the maximum, comprehensive, integrated use of renewable energy and associated technologies such as storage and smart grid technologies.

DPH is committed to getting 100 percent of our electricity from clean energy sources within a decade. DPH encourages cutting energy waste in homes, schools, hospitals, and offices through energy efficient improvements; modernize our electric grid; and make manufacturing the cleanest and most efficient in the world. These efforts will create hundreds of new jobs and save families and businesses money on their monthly energy bills.

DPH will work to expand access to cost-saving renewable energy by low-income households, create good-paying jobs in communities that struggled with energy poverty, and oppose efforts by utilities to limit consumer choice or slow clean energy deployment. DPH will work to streamline State permitting to accelerate the construction of new transmission lines to get low-cost renewable energy to market, and incentivize wind, solar, and other renewable energy. *Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform (2018), pp. 17, ln. 43-48, p.18, ln. 1-34.*

**For these reasons, the OCCLP supports and urges the passage of HB 298 out of committee on Energy and Environmental Protection.**

Mahalo nui loa  
Me ka `oia`i`o

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja

Chair, O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i

Ph. (808) 258-8889

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com

**HB-298**

Submitted on: 1/27/2019 11:45:07 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/29/2019 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Janet Pappas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-298**

Submitted on: 1/27/2019 7:49:34 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/29/2019 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Noel Morin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-298**

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 8:03:48 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/29/2019 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in strong support of this bill.

Thank you,

Nanea Lo

**HB-298**

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 7:26:20 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/29/2019 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**LATE**