

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

542

Honolulu, Hawaii

, 2023

FEB 16

RE: H.B. No. 348

H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2023
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, to which was referred H.B. No. 348, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to allow the counties to establish, by ordinance, an opt-in program that allows an annual payment in lieu of real property taxes on the land or improvements thereon that are actively used to produce or store renewable energy that is sold to an electric utility.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawaii State Energy Office, Department of Budget and Fiscal Services of the City and County of Honolulu, one member of the Honolulu City Council, Hawaiian Electric, Clearway Energy Group, Hawaii Solar Energy Association, Ulupono Initiative, Longroad Energy, and two individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Tax Foundation of Hawaii.

Your Committee finds that Act 97, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, established a one hundred percent renewable portfolio standard, which requires that all net electricity sales be from renewable energy sources. Your Committee further finds that several renewable energy projects have faced drastic property tax increases, which have impacted the financial viability of those



projects and created uncertainty for future renewable energy projects. This measure will provide more certainty for developers of renewable energy projects by allowing counties to establish opt-in programs for in-lieu payments.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 348, H.D. 1, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Consumer
Protection & Commerce,


MARK M. NAKASHIMA, Chair



Record of Votes of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Bill/Resolution No.: <i>HB 348 HD1</i>	Committee Referral: <i>EEP, CPC, FIN</i>	Date: <i>2-9-23</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
CPC Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. NAKASHIMA, Mark M. (C)	/			
2. SAYAMA, Jackson D. (VC)	/			
3. AMATO, Terez	/			
4. BELATTI, Della Au	/			
5. HASHEM, Mark J.	/			
6. HUSSEY-BURDICK, Natalia	/			
7. GATES, Cedric Asuega	/			
8. LOWEN, Nicole E.	/			
9. ONISHI, Richard H.K.	/			
10. TAM, Adrian K.	/			
11. PIERICK, Elijah	/			
TOTAL (11)	11			
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <div style="text-align:center; font-size: small;">committee acronym(s)</div>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: <i>John Szymanski</i>				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				