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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Tuesday, March 12, 2024
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

Providing Comments on
SB 3010, SD1

RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on SB 3010, SD1, that requires the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to direct the Hawai'i State Energy Office, and work with utility companies and other renewable energy developers, on all applicable planning, leasing, and permitting processes to expedite the development of renewable energy resources.

HSEO appreciates the intent of the measure to broaden the title of section 196-41 from "renewable portfolio standards," which pertains to electricity generation, to a broader scope, that of "renewable energy projects and renewable portfolio standards," in other words, fuel production.

However, the section on page 2, lines 9-13, pertaining to DBEDT directing HSEO to work with utility companies and other renewable energy developers is unnecessary, as such activities are authorized by the Legislature directly to the Hawai'i State Energy Office and Chief Energy Officer in Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Sections 196-71 and 196-72 (emphasis in "bold" added):

Section 196-71, subsection (a), states, "The purpose of the Hawaii state energy office shall be to promote energy efficiency, **renewable energy**, and clean transportation to help achieve a resilient clean energy economy."

Section 196-71, subsection (b), states, "The Hawaii state energy office shall... Provide analysis and planning to actively develop ... **renewable energy** ... with the legislature, public utilities commission, **state agencies, and other relevant stakeholders... Provide renewable energy... project deployment facilitation** to assist private sector project completion ... **Engage the private sector ... to achieve renewable energy ... goals...**"

Finally, section 196-72, subsection (d), states that the chief energy officer shall "Facilitate the **efficient, expedited permitting** of energy efficiency, **renewable energy**, clean transportation, and energy resiliency projects by coordinating and aligning state and county departments and agencies to support, expedite, and remove barriers to deployment of energy initiatives and projects."

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

TESTIMONY OF
LEODOLOFF R. ASUNCION, JR.
CHAIR, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
STATE OF HAWAII

TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Tuesday, March 12, 2024
9:00 a.m.

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

MEASURE: S.B. No. 3010 SD1
TITLE: RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.

DESCRIPTION: Requires the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to direct the Hawaii State Energy Office, and work with utility companies and other renewable energy developers, on all applicable planning, leasing, and permitting processes to expedite the development of renewable energy resources. (SD1)

POSITION:

The Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) offers the following comments for consideration.

COMMENTS:

The Commission appreciates the intent of this measure to direct the Hawaii State Energy Office to help facilitate development of renewable energy resources to achieve the State’s efforts to achieve its renewable energy goals. The Commission recognizes that more streamlined processes for planning, leasing, and permitting would promote the production of clean electricity and understands that generators of renewable energy play an important role in the State’s transition to renewable energy. Additional support on these issues could attract new and more developers to the state, which would lead to a more robust market and better outcomes for Hawaii’s residents.

The Commission observes that there may be items to address to further develop the State’s renewable energy resources and achieve the intent of this measure to facilitate the private sector’s attainment of renewable portfolio standards. The Commission respectfully defers to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism and the Hawaii State Energy Office as to the implementation of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**Testimony to
The House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
March 12, 2024
9:00 AM
Conference Room 325 & VIA videoconference
Hawaii State Capitol**

SB 3010

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

Hawaii Gas **supports SB 3010**, which requires the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to direct the Hawaii State Energy Office, and work with utility companies and other renewable energy developers, on all applicable planning, leasing, and permitting processes to expedite the development of renewable energy resources.

Since 1904, Hawaii Gas has been a pioneer in the gas industry. Hawaii Gas is again at the leading edge of our industry given our integration of both renewable natural gas (RNG) and hydrogen into our fuel supply mix and distributing it through our utility pipeline system. Hawaii Gas plays a vital role in Hawaii's energy portfolio by providing clean, reliable, and cost-effective energy to over 70,000 customers on all islands, all of whom depend on the company for water heating, cooking, drying, and other commercial and industrial applications. Hawaii Gas continues to look towards new, innovative, and economic ways to incorporate renewable energy sources while also reducing our greenhouse gas emissions.

State support is critical in delivering renewable energy projects in the energy, transportation, and aviation sectors, which can help to achieve the state's decarbonization policy goals.

The facilitation to expeditiously develop renewable energy resources is urgently needed in the planning, leasing, and permitting processes to navigate redundant and delayed processes that often hinder the efficient delivery of renewable energy projects, which ultimately affects the ratepayers and consumers. This focused approach will not only help attract greater investment in clean energy infrastructure but also create jobs, stimulate economic growth, and bolster energy resilience statewide.

We urge you to support SB 3010, which will help accelerate Hawaii's journey towards a cleaner, more sustainable energy future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



To: The House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Tuesday, March 12, 2024, 9am

Comments for SB3010 SD1

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and Energy and Environmental Protection Committee members,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org offers **comments on SB3010 SD1** that requires the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to direct the Hawaii State Energy Office, and work with utility companies and other renewable energy developers, on all applicable planning, leasing, and permitting processes, to expedite the development of renewable energy resources.

350Hawaii greatly appreciates the intent of this measure. However, we are concerned that it could potentially exacerbate emissions problems in our state, emissions that are currently ignored due to the state's flawed definition of "renewable energy."

While it is essential that the state quickly transition off of dirty fossil fuels, it is also essential that what we transition *to* are truly clean energy sources, sources that do not contribute to climate breakdown or local air pollution. Before expediting the development of renewable energy resources, we must first correct the critical errors contained within the definition of "renewable energy."

Case in point, burning biomass (typically trees) and trash incineration are considered renewable, despite that fact that these energy sources emit more harmful greenhouse gases than coal.¹ In addition, "hydrogen fuels derived primarily from renewable energy" are considered "renewable" ---*primarily* meaning also derived from fossil fuels, and ignoring the fact that hydrogen is a leaky gas that has a warming potential around 37.3 times greater than emitted CO₂ over a 20-year time period.²

¹ <https://www.energyjustice.net/files/biomass/woodybiomass.pdf> and <https://www.energyjustice.net/incineration/worsethancoal>

² <https://www.nature.com/articles/s43247-023-00857-8>

Last year was the hottest year in human history, and this year is expected to be even hotter. Scientists have reported that, for the first time, global warming has exceeded the 1.5C warming “limit” across an entire year. In summary: **We are the first generation to feel the effect of climate change and the last generation who can do something about it.** If we don’ get our act together quickly, we will leave our children and future generations a world that is increasingly unhealthy and uninhabitable. Bottom line, we must stop putting carbon into the atmosphere. But that won’t happen with false climate solutions. Let’s clean up our definition of ‘renewable’ so we can truly take the actions required in a climate crisis, and move towards a safe climate and a better future for all. Our children are counting on us.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

SB-3010-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 8:51:54 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/12/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT. MAHALO!