



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism
Friday, March 13, 2020 at 2:45 p.m.

By

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And

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HB 2188 HD1 – RELATING TO WIND ENERGY FACILITIES

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and members of the committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **support** of HB 2118 HD1, which, among other features, requests that the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) conduct a study on the effects of noise production by wind energy facilities on the health of residents and students.

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders in JABSOM at the University of Hawai'i and administrative leadership in the John A. Burns School of Medicine fully support the proposed study to evaluate the risk of hearing loss and reported relevant health issues (e.g., noise annoyance, sleep disturbance, tinnitus) in an adequate sample of residents in multiple appropriately selected Hawai'i communities exposed to wind turbine noise. Findings based on analysis of data collected through the study will contribute importantly to evidence-based education of residents in communities potentially affected by wind farm development. Findings of the study will also provide guidance for planning purposes to the state of Hawai'i and its policymakers involved in decisions regarding proximity of wind turbines to homes and other occupied areas.

The three co-investigators in the proposed study, Drs. James W. Hall III, Samantha Kleindienst Robler, and Henry L. Lew, are faculty members in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. Each is available and prepared to participate in the study as described in the formal proposal pending approval of the requested funding of \$100,700.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support for HB 2188 HD1, provided that its passage does not impact the priorities in the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents' Approved Budget.