



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
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And
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SB 2483 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO ENERGY

Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

SB 2483 SD2 HD1 proposes that “The Hawaii natural energy institute shall evaluate the benefits and costs of dispatching renewable energy resources considering the context of ongoing state energy planning efforts”. No additional detail is provided

HNEI **supports the intent** but offers the following comments.

Each year, 20 days ahead of the legislative session, HNEI reports on its activities including those funded in whole or in part by the Energy Systems Development Special Fund. As summarized in our most recent report, “*The ESDSF is used to leverage funding from federal and private sources; to develop and deploy technologies to reduce Hawai'i's dependence on fossil fuels; and to conduct analysis (often in support of the PUC) that directly supports Hawai'i's transition to a clean energy economy.*”

Consistent with our statutory role, HNEI collaborates with and provides analysis and technical assistance to key energy stakeholders including the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission, the Hawai'i State Energy Office, and the Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) to address a range of issues. Included in these analysis are ongoing efforts to identify the costs and benefits of different renewable energy resources. In light of this, HNEI does not believe this legislation is necessary but if requested, HNEI would explicitly address the benefits and costs of dispatching renewable energy resources for inclusion in our annual report to the legislature.

HNEI has sufficient funds from its Barrel Tax allocation to include this effort in its portfolio of projects and does not need a separate appropriation at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony on SB 2483 SD2 HD1.