

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2009 12:47 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: businessmatters@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for SB868 on 4/6/2009 3:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 4/6/2009 3:00:00 PM SB868

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: comments only
Testifier will be present: No
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Submitted on: 4/6/2009

Comments:

To: The Committee on Finance & Other Legislators reviewing SB 868 Hearing : Mon.,
4/6/09 @ 3pm

From: Mike and Yu Yok Pearring

RE: SB 868; Relating to ENERGY RESOURCES:

Aloha Legislators and Staff, and thank you for your time and efforts in helping Hawaii's energy industry become more self sustaining. As long-time residents, we consider this overall effort to be a good thing. But we are concerned that in the rush to enact legislation regarding renewable resources, the bill as written would mean that the legislature and committee would enact inaccurate information by defining biomass as a "non-polluting" renewable energy. Many sources of scientific information attest to the known fact that biomass burning in fact does create not only pollution, but very dangerous chemical pollutants that may threaten the long term health of Hawaii residents.

The bill should clarify the difference between those renewable energies that are in fact "non-polluting", and those that emit dangerous chemicals into the air.

This does not necessitate taking biomass out of the bill, as it will still be desirable as a renewable energy source. Yet, if the senate and the committee are to put the state's public health as a priority in the midst of such known chemical pollutants, then biomass must be treated in an honest manner, and the appropriate precaution to mitigate the known danger noted in the legislation.

We urge the Committee on Finance to specify biomass as a polluting renewable energy, but one that may well benefit the state so long as the resulting pollution is mitigated in order to adequately safeguard the public health. We can offer the following recommendation to correct this language in the proposed bill:

Amending language proposed at SB 868 Page 4; Line 17:

As there are few places in the world so generously endowed with natural energy: geothermal, solar radiation, ocean temperature differential, wind, biomass, waves, and currents[---] which are all potential non-polluting power sources; and biomass which although a polluting energy source, may still benefit the state as long as the resulting pollution is properly mitigated in order to safeguard the public health;

,2) There is a real need for comprehensive strategic planning in the effort towards achieving ...

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 868, and much success and integrity in all