



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
and
Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy
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By
Donald O. Straney, Ph.D.
Chancellor, University of Hawai'i at Hilo

HB 848 HD2 – RELATING TO ENERGY MODERNIZATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Chairs Kahele and Inouye, Vice Chairs Kidani and Dela Cruz, and members of the committees:

My name is Donald Straney, Chancellor of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UHH). We support the intent of HB 848 HD2 to encourage and facilitate the development and use of micro grids and renewable energy across the University of Hawai'i System.

UH Hilo views the proposal as a means to achieve its strategic plan of demonstrating leadership in sustainable resource use. The use of renewable energy sources on our campus will help UH achieve its Net Zero Energy mandate by 2035 and the State of Hawai'i's goal of 100% clean energy by 2045.

At present UH Hilo is served mostly by a single utility grid with limited installed PV capacity of 630 kw. We would like to enhance this to become more like what is today thought of as a microgrid. We have examined the scope and financial feasibility of various renewable energy projects at different sites on the UH Hilo campus. We believe this bill will facilitate expansion of distributed renewable energy sources on our campus.

This bill will also facilitate collaboration for UH Hilo to learn with our local utility company how to integrate renewable energy sources into an existing grid and to prepare the next generation of energy managers to do the same. This is an important resource for education, teaching, and learning, and would be particularly useful for our new Energy Science certificate program.

We support HB 848 HD2 provided its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities in our BOR approved budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HD 848 HD2. Aloha.