



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

---

Testimony Presented Before the

SENATE COMMITTEES ON  
ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
and  
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HOUSING

March 21, 2006

By

Dr. Richard Rocheleau  
Director of the Hawaii Natural Energy Institute  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 3222 HD2 – RELATING TO ENERGY

Chair English, Chair Menor, and Members of the Committee:

I am Dr. Richard Rocheleau, Director of the Hawaii Natural Energy Institute of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. As described in Section 1 of this Bill, HNEI has been very successful in building a world-class "Renewables to Hydrogen" program over the past 20 years and working with government and industry partners we have attracted several major federally-funded projects that are important to the state of Hawaii in developing its indigenous energy systems.

HNEI supports the establishment of a Hawaii Renewable Hydrogen Program and a Hydrogen Investment Capital Special Fund. The support provided for in this bill is critical if Hawaii wishes to remain competitive and continue to attract the types of renewable and hydrogen development and deployment programs needed to move these technologies forward in this state. The federal government is committing significant funding for hydrogen technology development which has the potential of being leveraged up to five times by the funding proposed in this legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify