



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Submitted to Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, March 29, 2007
9:30 A.M.

Conference Room 211
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
by

Dr. Richard Rocheleau

Director of the Hawaii Natural Energy Institute of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB1003 HD3, SD1 Relating to Energy

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tsutsui, 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.

HNEI is pleased to be able to testify in support of the intent of this bill, provided its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents Approved Executive Biennium Budget.

HNEI strongly believes that implementation of the activities proposed in this legislation would accelerate the development and use of advanced renewable and energy efficiency technologies, leading to improved energy security and diversity of the State's energy system, and producing near-term direct benefits to state taxpayers and the State's economy in general.

By leveraging state, federal and private funding, this program would accelerate the commercialization of technologies most likely to impact Hawaii's energy system and would be expected to foster the growth of state-based energy industries.

Should this legislation be enacted, HNEI looks forward to working closely with DBEDT to establish a program that insures that these State funds will be expended in the most cost-effective manner while serving as a magnet to attract additional monies and businesses to the State to resolve our most critical energy and environmental issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this legislation.