



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at 9:30 A.M.
Conference Room 229, State Capitol**

RE: HOUSE BILL 623 HD2 SD1 RELATING TO RENEWABLE STANDARDS

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **offers comments regarding** HB 623 HD2 SD1, which increases renewable portfolio standards to thirty per cent by December 31, 2020, sixty per cent by December 31, 2030, seventy per cent by December 31, 2035, and one hundred per cent by December 31, 2045. Also adds the impact on renewable energy developer energy prices and the cost of fuel volatility to PUC study and reporting requirements.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

The Chamber supports the state's efforts to move Hawaii towards energy independence and we understand that the goals proposed in this bill are necessary to progress. However, we are concerned that this proposed plan could cause additional costs to ratepayers. While we support the goal of an energy independent Hawaii, we hope that the cost and reliability of meeting these high goals are taken into account in making these policy decisions. We would have concerns if these goals are accomplished without consideration to the cost to ratepayers and taxpayers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.