

SB 1295

RELATING TO THE NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII
AUTHORITY.

Allows the natural energy laboratory of Hawaii authority to enter into inter-agency agreements with the department of business, economic development, and tourism without a memorandum of agreement or memorandum of understanding. Specifies required terms for inter-agency agreements and provides enterprise zone incentives for qualified renewable energy technology business activity within the enterprise zone.



NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY

An Authority of the State of Hawaii attached to the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism

Statement of
Gregory P. Barbour
Executive Director

Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority
before the

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
and
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY
and
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Thursday, February 12, 2015
1:15 pm
State Capitol, Conference Room 414

in consideration of
HB 1295

RELATING TO THE NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY.

The Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority (NELHA) strongly supports S.B. 1295 that amends Chapter 209E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, by adding language that would make businesses operating within research and technology parks established by NELHA eligible for the State's enterprise zone program. This measure would assist NELHA in attracting new projects to our technology park.

This measure will broaden the scope of businesses eligible for EZ benefits within our technology park. We recently adopted a new Master Plan for the Hawaii Ocean Science and Technology Park. Much of the remaining lands available for lease are in zones designated for renewable energy and applied technology. Chapter 209E currently allows businesses engaged

in producing wind energy only to be qualified as eligible for EZ benefits. Many new businesses and projects that we are targeting may not qualify for EZ status given the current narrow definition.

We have been successful because the Legislature has given us the “tools” to allow us to succeed. This measure will add an additional tool to help us realize the goals of growing our economic development project and increasing the \$5M in annual State tax revenue that the park already generates.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.