



February 8, 2015

Via Email and Online Submission

LATE

Mike Gabbard
Senate Committee Chair on Water, Land and Agriculture
Senate District 20
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 201
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Testimony on Senate Bill 2906 and House Bill 2377

Dear Mr. Gabbard:

Sempra US Gas & Power recently became aware of Senate Bill 2906 and House Bill 2377 regarding removal of the sunset date on the use and execution of new safe harbor agreements (SHA), habitat conservation plans (HCP), and incidental take licenses (ITL). Without passage of the pending legislation, DOFAW's ability to issue ITLs through HCPs or SHAs will expire in 2017. Sempra is in support of SB2906 and HB2377 to remove the sunset date on use of SHAs, HCPs, and ITLs.

We recently completed the state HCP process when acquiring an ITL for the Auwahi Wind Farm on the island of Maui in 2012 and continue to work with agency staff in ensuring compliance with the HCP and ITL. Based on our experience with this process, we believe that having a permanent mechanism in Hawaii state law could provide for a more efficient HCP and ITL process. Program certainty could alleviate the high turnover of staff in the state HCP program and encourage the development of clarifying rules or guidelines for the HCP permitting and implementation process. Sempra is committed to assisting Hawaii in achieving its goal of 100% renewable energy generation by the year 2050. A permanent state approved SHA/HCP/ITL mechanism is essential in the planning process for future wind and potentially other renewable projects.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marilyn Teague".

Marilyn Teague
Sempra U.S. Gas & Power
Director-Environmental, Safety,
Compliance and Permitting