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TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2017

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2017  
9:30 A.M.

TESTIMONY OF DEAN NISHINA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF  
CONSUMER ADVOCACY, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER  
AFFAIRS, TO THE HONORABLE JILL N. TOKUDA, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 113, H.D. 1 CALLING ON THE FEDERAL  
GOVERNMENT AND STATES TO LOWER COSTS  
FOR CONSUMERS, CREATE MORE JOBS, AND REDUCE THE IMPACTS  
OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE ECONOMY BY REPLACING FOSSIL FUELS  
WITH RENEWABLE ENERGY

DESCRIPTION:

This resolution requests to call on the Federal Government and states to lower costs for consumers, create more jobs, and reduce the impacts of climate change on the economy by replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy. This resolution also encourages the Federal Government and all states to assist with retraining and meaningful support for workers in the fossil fuel sector to ensure their future as the energy market transitions to renewable energy.

POSITION:

The Division of Consumer Advocacy (“Consumer Advocate”) offers the following comments.

COMMENTS:

The Consumer Advocate shares the legislature's concerns with potential cost impacts that customers must face related to their energy rates and bills. The Consumer Advocate notes that Hawaii has already adopted renewable portfolio standards benchmarks that target 100% by the year 2045.

Thus, the proposed resolution appears to be generally consistent with Hawaii's renewable portfolio standards objectives by encouraging the replacement of fossil fuels with renewable energy. The Consumer Advocate believes it is important, however, to ensure that fossil fuels are replaced by cost-effective renewable energy. It should be made clear that Hawaii is not encouraging the adoption of renewable energy at any cost; otherwise, Hawaii and its residents could face energy bills that are unnecessarily high. If energy bills increase because of the adoption of cost-ineffective renewable energy, this will result in adverse impacts on Hawaii's residents and businesses and, ultimately, the state's economy. Modification of the proposed resolution to make clear that Hawaii seeks cost-effective renewable energy would be consistent with Hawaii Revised Statute 269-92, and so the Consumer advocate respectfully encourages the addition of the following underlined description to page 3, line 6, of House Concurrent Resolution No. 113, House Draft 1: "energy by replacing fossil fuels with cost-effective renewable energy; and."

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 19, 2017 4:44 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Cc:** mamaupin@hotmail.com  
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**HCR113**

Submitted on: 4/19/2017

Testimony for WAM on Apr 21, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Margaret Maupin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HCR113 on Apr 21, 2017 09:30AM\*

**HCR113**

Submitted on: 4/19/2017

Testimony for WAM on Apr 21, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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