



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

February 5, 2015, 8:30 A.M., Room 325

(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1104

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice-Chair Lowen, and members of the Committee:

The Blue Planet Foundation supports HB 1104 empowering the state to become an innovative leader in the use of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. Along with battery electric vehicles, hydrogen fuel cell vehicles can use fuel generated from local clean energy. Unlike fossil fuel vehicles, they create no dangerous emissions.

Hydrogen fuel cell vehicles currently face a chicken/egg problem. Without local infrastructure to generate the hydrogen and fuel vehicles, many residents and businesses are unlikely to adopt these vehicles; but without a demand from vehicles, it is difficult to justify the infrastructure. HB 1104 proposes a way to solve this problem by making the state a leader in the hydrogen movement.

Although we do not propose amendments at this time, we caution that state hydrogen vehicle policy should ensure that the hydrogen is obtained from clean energy resources (such as local curtailed electricity) and not from fossil fuels.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



Bill van den Hurk, President
Dave Rolf, Executive Director

HADA testimony in SUPPORT of
HB 1104
RELATING TO ENERGY

Presented to the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
at the public hearing to be held
8:30 Thursday, February 5, 2015
in Conference Room 325, Hawaii State Capitol

by the Members of the Hawaii Automobile Dealers Association
Hawaii's franchised new car dealers

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Lowen, and Members of the Committee:

I am David Rolf, representing the members of the Hawaii Automobile Dealers Association, Hawaii's franchised new car dealers, who have remained strong in their support of the transition to renewable energy for use in vehicles in Hawaii. The association supports the measured and considered transition to renewable fuel, hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles, proposed in House Bill 1104.

Establishing a fuel-using MARKET BASE for the build out of hydrogen fueling station infrastructure in Hawaii to serve these vehicles...is key. This market base for hydrogen vehicles could be established by the transition of some of the State of Hawaii's vehicle fleet, which, along with vehicles which could be added from the federal GSA fleet in Hawaii, and the addition of City and County of Honolulu vehicles which could be transitioned to HFCEV....would allow fueling infrastructure to be created simultaneously, as private HFCEV are introduced to Hawaii.

The chicken-and-the-egg question is always: Build fueling infrastructure first; or, get the vehicles?



Which comes first, the chicken or the egg?

Waiting for one or the other, however, at this time is paralyzing.

The White House has already established a focus on adoption of such vehicles in the GSA fleet.

EXECUTIVE ORDERS OR ACTS OF CONGRESS IMPACTING FEDERAL FLEETS

Presidential Memorandum--Federal Fleet Performance (May 2011)

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/05/24/presidential-memorandum-federal-fleet-performance>

Section 1. Vehicle Technologies. (a) **By December 31, 2015, all new light duty vehicles leased or purchased by agencies must be alternative fueled vehicles, such as hybrid or electric, compressed natural gas, or biofuel.** Moreover, agency alternative fueled vehicles must, as soon as practicable, be located in proximity to fueling stations with available alternative fuels, and be operated on the alternative fuel for which the vehicle is designed. **Where practicable, agencies should encourage development of commercial infrastructure for**

alternative fuel or provide flex fuel and alternative fuel pumps and charging stations at Federal fueling sites.

Hawaii is preparing to host the World Conservation Congress, September 1-10, 2016, and a story showing how the Federal, State and City and County governments work together to create hydrogen vehicle demand for hydrogen fueling stations is KEY at this time.

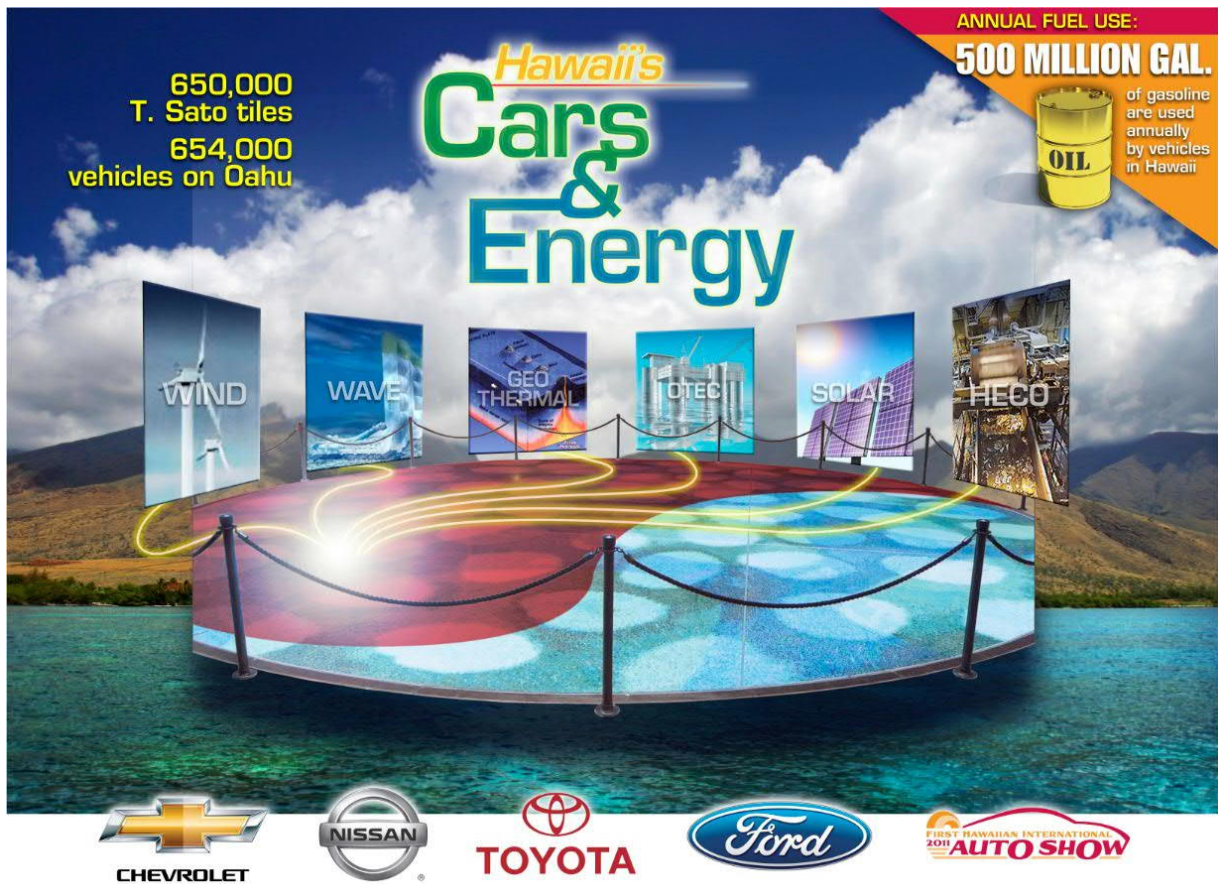
Certainly, Hawaii has been given much in the form of clean energy resources for the production of renewable fuels.

Hawaii, in fact, has been chosen by the U.S. Department of Energy for a focus on the development of hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles. The State of California and an East Coast corridor around Boston are the two others areas in the country which have been chosen.

There were nine different car commercials in the Super Bowl broadcast watched by 114 million Americans this past Sunday. It was the most-watched tv event in American history. One of those cars in the Super Bowl commercials was an electric car, by the way. Now, within the foreseeable future, we will likely see a commercial for a hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicle.

But it will be up to state, and local governments, auto dealers, private investors and the auto driving public in Hawaii to send a signal to the world's automobile manufacturers that Hawaii has prepared well for the transition to hydrogen.

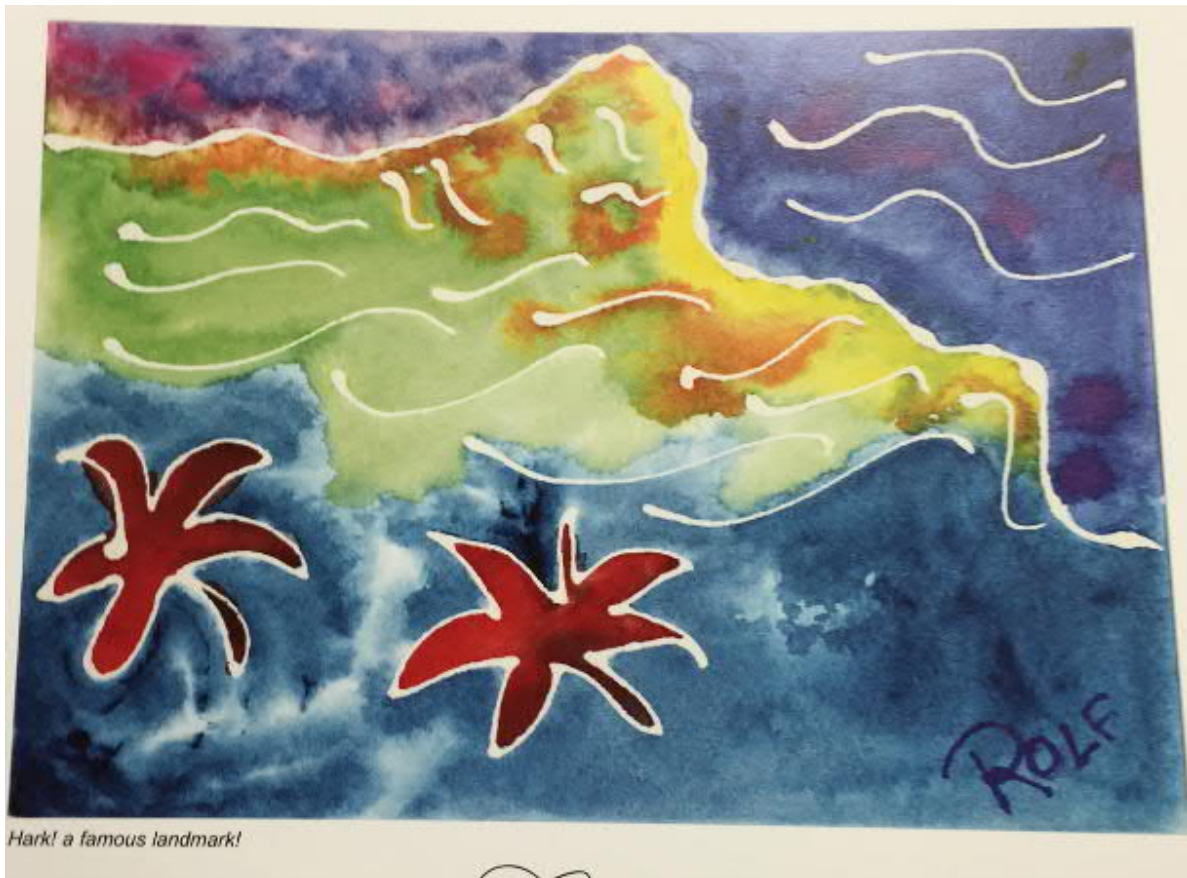
Our renewable energy resources are there for all to see. Here's the chart from the auto show:



Hawaii has abundant, some would even say, a “first in the world” level of resources for energy production from renewable sources-- wind, wave, sun, geothermal, ocean thermal, and even has significant capabilities for waste-to-energy production.

Once these resources are harnessed and used for productive purposes like propelling public and private transportation, then Hawaii’s 500-million-gallon annual consumption of gasoline— illustrated in the upper right hand corner of the graph—will, along with the reduction in consumption from efficiencies being produced for gasoline engines--reduce our Hawaii gasoline consumption by 70%, to 150 million gallons, the goal of the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative.

Hawaii is iconic for its pristine environment. Beautiful Diamond Head is one of the most recognizable landmarks in the world. Just ask those in China or any place in the world.



We thus have a unique opportunity to show the world what has been produced by the people in Hawaii working together.

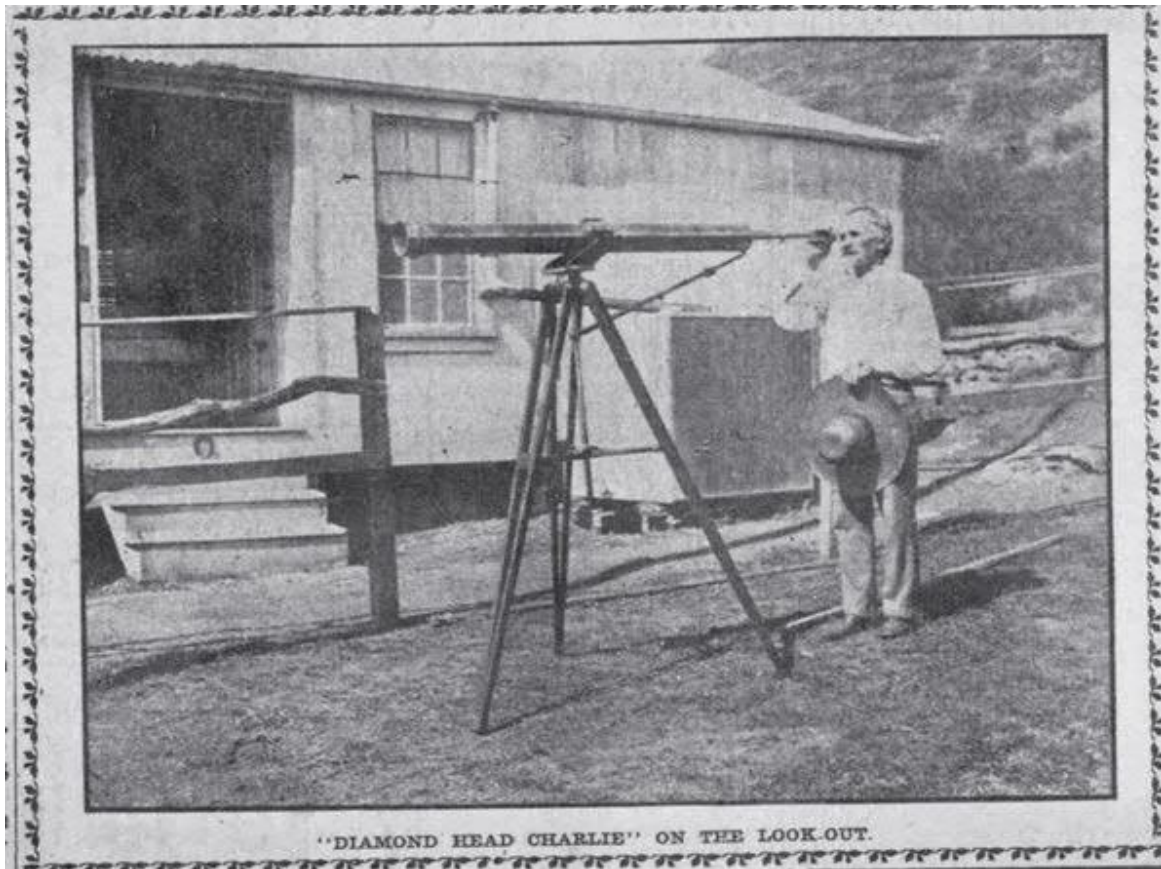
President Obama has helped secure the World Conservation Congress event for Hawaii—be held here, the first such event in America by the way, in the islands September 1-10, 2016.

NEWS STORY: The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Council has selected Hawaii, United States of America, as the host of the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress – the world’s largest conservation event.

We are working on the message Hawaii will have to tell these 2,000-plus world leaders in conservations.

This bill, HB 1104 is one of the “signal” bills.

It is important to send a signal.



“Diamond Head Charlie” as John Charles “Charlie” Peterson was known, signaled the approach of steam ships from his watch for arriving ships from Diamond Head from 1885 to 1907. The area he sent the message from was known as Telegraph Hill.

U.S. Department of Energy officials, who are considering encouraging a similar focus on hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles for their GSA fleet in Hawaii say they have been looking “for a signal” from Hawaii officials that the State of Hawaii is making similar plans.

HADA will soon meet with City and County of Honolulu and other county officials around the state to inquire about their plans for adopting use of some hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles—in busses, shuttle busses, and even rubbish trucks.

For the hydrogen fueling stations which are needed, to be financially self-supporting, there must be a base of hydrogen users—initially from federal, state and local government fleets, as the private vehicle adoption rate gets underway.

We think this bill will send a much needed signal.

We respectfully ask that you will pass HB 1104 for further consideration and input from stakeholders.

Respectfully submitted,
David Rolf
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