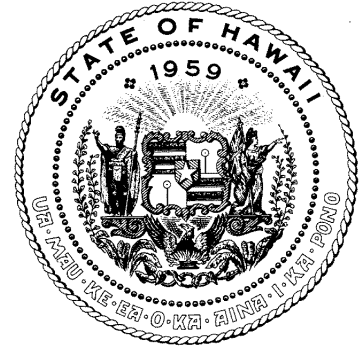


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**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## HISTORIC ENERGY REFORM BILLS ADVANCE IN STATE SENATE

Bills that promote energy reform in Hawai'i advanced today in a hearing of the Senate Energy, Environment and International Affairs (EIA) committee. The vote reflects the emergence of a bipartisan energy strategy that focuses on the best ideas in play from a variety of proposed measures. Amendments have been made to the energy bills to make their language consistent with the language of related measures, and some provisions have been moved from one bill to another.

"We are moving several proposed energy bills forward, from the Senate majority, the administration, and the Senate minority," Senator J. Kalani English (D-Hāna, East and Upcountry Maui, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaho'olawe) chair of the EIA committee, said today. "Part of our strategy is to harmonize the language among the different bills. We have placed the same language in different bills to ensure that the best ideas are heard. The steps taken today reflect bipartisan agreement on substantive issues.

"These bills represent an important step toward energy self-reliance for Hawai'i. The changes we have made today allow us to move forward with clear language that is consistent across the board, so that the bills will reflect the most effective energy conservation methods available." Among the changes:

SB2271 SD1, the Energy Self-Reliance Bill: Provisions repealing the gas cap have been removed. The LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standard for state-funded buildings has been removed, and will be placed in SB998. The bill's definition of Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) has been amended to include "displacement technologies" such as solar thermal and seawater air-conditioning.

SB2957 SD1, the Senate Majority Energy Bill: The language of the bill has been harmonized with its companion bill, HB2175 HD1. The section that deals with LEED building standards for State facilities will be moved to SB998.

SB3173 SD1, Alternative Fuel Vehicles: The original provisions have been removed and replaced with Sections 25 and 26 from SB2771.

(more)

SB3185 SD1, Renewable and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standards: The bill focuses on renewable standards and the de-linking of renewable power contracts from oil prices. The definitions of "renewable" has been expanded (as in SB2271 SD1), and Section 45 of SB2271 SD1, separating renewable contracts from oil prices, has been added to this measure.

SB3161 SD1, Relating to Renewable Energy; The original provisions of the bill have been entirely replaced with provisions from SB2271, SD1, to support the expansion of the biofuels industry in Hawai'i.

Sen. English said, "We are confident that today's amendments will clarify the language of these energy bills and increase the chances for meaningful energy reform in the 2006 legislative session."