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Kihei

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Abundant Life
Natural Foods
Hilo

Kim Coco Iwamoto
Enlightened Energy
Honolulu

Chamber of
Sustainable
Commerce
P.O. Box 22394
Honolulu, HI
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Sen. Lynn Decoite, Chair
Sen. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Comm. on Energy, Economic Dev. & Tourism

Sen. Mike Gabbard, Chair
Sen. Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair
Comm. on Agriculture & Environment

Tuesday, January 30, 2024
1:01 pm, EET
Conference Room 229 or via Zoom

RE: SB2102 Relating to Renewable Energy - Strong Support

Dear Chairs Decoite & Gabbard, Vice Chairs Wakai & Richards, and
Members of the Committees,

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce represents over 100 small businesses across the State of Hawaii that strive for a triple bottom line: people, planet and prosperity; we know we can strengthen our economy without hurting workers, consumers, communities or the environment. This is why we are in strong support of SB2102.

Thank you for finally cleaning up the state's definition of what is (and what is not) a "renewable energy" source. Burning biomass and solid waste as fuel emits green house gases that continue the exponential warming of our planet. The whole point of identifying "renewable resources" is to move away from fossil fuels because of the green house gases that have led to global warming and its harmful effects.

So much of our solid waste is plastic or other petroleum based materials - made up chemicals and fossil fuels.

Instead of burning biomass like eucalyptus on Hawaii island, we should use eucalyptus for wooden flooring. All the other organic matter that is burned in an incinerator for energy should go into earth to become carbon capturing soil. Composting is an important step in neutralizing the hundreds of tons of chemicals put into the land during decades of industrial mono-cropping pineapple and sugarcane.