



University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Environmental Center
A Unit of Water Resources Research Center
2550 Campus Road • Crawford 317 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822
Telephone: (808) 956-7361 • Facsimile: (808) 956-3980

RL:01468

SB 1468

RELATING TO AN OCEAN FLOATING, ALL NATURAL, CLEAN POWER STATION

Senate Committee on Economic Development
Senate Committee on Education and Technology

Joint Public Hearing - February 17, 1999
3:30 p.m., Room 212, State Capitol

by

John T. Harrison, Environmental Center
Hans-Jurgen Krock, Ocean Engineering

HB677 appropriates funds to study the feasibility of constructing and operating an ocean floating, all-natural clean energy power station.

Our statement on this measure does not constitute an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

The International Offshore Alliance convened a conference in Honolulu December 3-5, 1998 at which I was invited to make a presentation on the environmental impacts of Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC). This conference, organized with the help of former Governor Aryoshi and attended by experts in large floating platform technology from all over the world, ended with a recommendation that Hawaii should take the next step of developing an OTEC facility on a large floating platform.

This measure implements the state's energy policy to wean ourselves from imported fossil fuels as the basis of our energy economy. We have long advocated the adoption of renewable energy technologies as not just a desirable, but a necessary endeavor, if we are to achieve energy independence and avoid the catastrophic effects of certain future oil price shocks. On the basis of information and technology presently available, we suggest that the required report may be readily deliverable, not to the 2001 Legislature, but by next year, as inspiration for a millennial new beginning.