HB 677 H.D.1
RELATING TO AN OCEAN FLOATING, ALL NATURAL, CLEAN POWER STATION

Senate Committee on Education and Technology
Senate Committee on Economic Development

Joint Public Hearing - March 19, 1999
5:00 p.m., Room 212, State Capitol

by
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HB677 H.D. 1 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.

As we noted in prior testimony on this measure, the technology for full-scale implementation of OTEC presently is available. The funds allocated herein are needed for the site-specific evaluations and impact assessments required for taking the next step.