Abercrombie-sponsored Energy Legislation in the 109th Congress:

- **H.R. 424** - the Energy efficiency Investment Act of 2005, which amends the Internal Revenue Code to allow a tax credit of up to 25% of the cost of energy efficient buildings and systems placed in service or installed in an existing principal residence or property used by businesses.
- **H.R. 737** - the

Dear Friend:

Over the past year, Americans have seen a dramatic increase at the pumps due to rising oil prices and the recent hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico. Americans will also feel the pinch this winter when home heating costs double from last year's levels.

These developments demonstrate the pressing need to decrease our dependency on foreign sources of oil and discover new alternative, environmentally responsible reusable energy sources.

I am a strong supporter of technologies and incentives to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, which in turn would help protect our environment. I have consistently supported programs that emphasize using energy resources other than fossil fuels. It is very important for our environment and our children's future that we make the switch to renewable energy sources.

In the past, businesses claimed that research into renewable energy was not cost effective. In recent years, concerned citizens have pushed companies to become aware of the costs that they impose on the environment. The electric hybrid car is one example of the results industry can achieve when provided the incentives to do so. Federal and state governments can play a role by funding research to explore and develop renewable energy.

Rising energy costs, availability concerns about traditional fossil fuels, and issues over fossil fuel pollution, have fostered interest in renewable energy sources such as solar power and hydrogen fuel cells.

I have supported several different programs designed to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and foster new alternative energy sources.

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Act of 2005, which establishes an energy program for the United States that unlocks the potential of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

- **H.R. 1421** - the Resource Efficient Appliance Incentives Act of 2005, which amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow for an energy efficient appliance credit.

This e-neil update will give you a brief overview of some of the programs that I have supported over the last two years.

Sincerely,

Neil Abercrombie
Member of Congress

If you would like be removed from my ***e-neil update*** list, please go to my website at http://www.house.gov/abercrombie/e-neil.shtml and fill out the un-subscribe portion of the web page.

Alternative Energy Projects

The Ford Island Photovoltaic Project

Photo courtesy of Riley Saito – PowerLight Corp

I helped to provide funds for the U.S. Navy solar power project on Ford Island. The project went into operation this year on the roof of one of the World War II – era hangers on October 13, 2005. The solar power system includes 1,500 solar panels generating 300 Kilowatts of electricity that will be fed directly into the Navy's power grid at Pearl Harbor. In partnership with the University of Hawaii, students will monitor and study the system's performance in order to develop future solar power technology. The Ford Island

Wave Power Project

Photo courtesy of Ocean Power Technologies

My efforts to secure funds for phase I of a Wave Power Buoy Demonstration Project located just off the U.S. Marine Corps base in Kaneohe will materialize on 2006. Hawaii is one of the best locations in the world for wave power generation due to the strong wave action in our waters. The wave power system is environmentally friendly because it produces pollution-free electricity, and the buoy system also creates habitat for fish. Phase I is expected to start generating power in late 2006, and when complete, it will provide significant amounts of electric power to Marine Corps Base Kaneohe.

Photovoltaic project avoids pollution equal to 12 million miles of driving on Oahu and it will save an estimated $40,000 per year in ordinary electrical costs.

Other Alternative Energy Projects

Hydrogen Powered Vehicles

Photo by Frank Bellavia

Congressman Neil Abercrombie takes an experimental hydrogen car for a spin around the U.S. Capitol grounds on November 3, 2005 with a representative from the car's manufacturer.

According to car's manufacturer, the car has a top speed of 99 mph and a 168-249 mile range, depending on whether the fuel is stored in liquid or in compressed form.

The hydrogen which powers the car is manufactured from natural gas.

In order to increase our hydrogen

Sugar to Ethanol Production

Senator Akaka and I authored language in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to establish additional incentives for ethanol production designed to both aid Hawaii's agriculture industry and make locally produced ethanol available to Hawaii consumers.

- Section 208 of the Act authorizes the Environmental Protection agency to provide $36.0 million in grants to sugar cane producers of Hawaii, Texas, Louisiana and Florida for the construction of ethanol facilities. The funds are to be divided equally among the four states. When fully funded, Hawaii sugar producers will have $9.0 million over the next 3 years to construct ethanol plants.

- Section 1516 of the new law authorizes the Department of Energy to guarantee up to 80 percent of the cost of the

power capacity, I am supporting policies to encourage domestic production of natural gas.

Hydrogen vs. Gasoline key facts

- 50% reduction in energy consumption
- 99% reduction in petroleum consumption
- 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions
- 95% reduction in volatile organic carbon emissions
- 99% reduction in carbon monoxide emissions
- 50% reduction in nitrogen oxide emissions

construction of sugar-to-ethanol demonstration facilities. Projects cannot exceed $50.0 million in cost, must be designed to utilize a continuous process, be fully reviewed technically, be economically viable, and have reasonable assurance of the loan being repaid. Such demonstration facilities must use sugar cane, bagasse or other sugar byproducts, such as a feedstock.

I believe the future of the sugar industry in Hawaii is dependent on shifting production to ethanol fuel. The state's mandate next year for a 10 percent gasoline-ethanol blend is a major incentive in that it establishes a definite and specific market for ethanol. But we should not think of ethanol solely as a fuel additive. Eventually, not only can the mandate be increased to much higher percentages as technology develops, but ethanol can be used to fuel electricity generating plants. The savings to our consumers, who pay among the highest electric rates in the nation, would be enormous.

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