



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SCOTT J. GLENN
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

235 South Beretania Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone:
Web:

(808) 587-3807
energy.hawaii.gov

Testimony of
SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer

before the
SENATE Committee on ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

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3:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

in Consideration of
SB 2283
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HYDROGEN STRATEGIC PLAN.

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Misalucha, and Members of the Committee, the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on SB 2283, which requires the Hawaii Natural Energy Institute (HNEI) to conduct a study to examine the State's ability to advance hydrogen production from local renewable energy resources and develop the Hawaii Hydrogen Strategic Plan utilizing the results of its study, which shall be reviewed and updated every four years, and to report to the Legislature.

HSEO's comments are guided by its mission to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation to help achieve a resilient, clean energy, decarbonized economy.

HSEO agrees that hydrogen has the potential to be an increasingly important component of Hawai'i's energy system, including: energy storage for the electrical grid; and for use in the transportation sector, including for light-and heavy-duty vehicles; and in the production of electrofuels, or other liquid and gaseous fuels, for use by all parts of Hawai'i's energy system (including aviation energy), in the immediate, mid, and long-term.

While it is appropriate for HNEI "to conduct a study to evaluate the technical feasibility to produce and use hydrogen locally" HSEO, in cooperation with HNEI, is the appropriate agency to develop the Hawaii Hydrogen strategic plan as part of HSEO's

overall energy planning mandate to decarbonize the economy. In 2019 Act 122 established the Hawaii state energy office “with a clear mission... to assist both the public and private sectors in achieving the State’s energy goals” and “achieving a clean energy economy, ” and mandated Hawaii’s Chief Energy Officer to “Identify market gaps and innovation opportunities, collaborate with stakeholders, and facilitate public-private partnerships [...] that will support the State’s energy and decarbonization goals.” Additionally, HB1800 mandates HSEO "conduct a study to determine Hawaii’s pathway to decarbonization and identify challenges, opportunities, and actions that will be needed to achieve those goals.” The Hydrogen Study and the Hydrogen Strategic Plan may be most effective if conducted within the overall framework of Hawaii’s energy planning. HSEO looks forward to collaborating with HNEI on the study of hydrogen production in Hawai’ and would look forward to continue the collaboration to incorporate the results of the study with the creation of a Hydrogen Strategic Plan as part of HSEO’s overall planning for the decarbonization of Hawaii’s economy. HSEO would require sufficient resources to conduct the Hydrogen Strategic Plan.

HSEO supports the intent of this bill with these changes, and provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget.

HSEO defers to the to the appropriate agency for comment on this matter.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.