



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
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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9:45 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

**SUPPORT
HB 2203
RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS TO
ASSIST DIBSHAWAII LLC.**

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports HB 2203, which authorizes the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to assist DIBS Hawai'i LLC in the construction of a net-zero carbon capture storage utilization platform that will recover vented carbon dioxide emissions and scrub them into food grade liquid carbon dioxide.

HSEO believes that the project is in the public interest and supports the use of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds for this purpose.¹

Due to global supply chain issues as a result of the pandemic, Hawai'i is experiencing a carbon dioxide shortage for economic activity, much like the rest of the nation, but more acutely as there is only one facility in Hawai'i that produces carbon dioxide. Sourcing it from the continental US is more difficult due to the shortage and more costly due to the transportation distances. Carbon dioxide in Hawai'i has many commercial uses, including carbonated beverages, agricultural technology, water

¹ Special Purpose Revenue Bonds provide loan financing to assist qualifying capital improvement projects in the public interest. The bonds do not constitute a general obligation of the State and are not State monies.

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treatment, waterless surface cleaning, dry ice for maintaining freshness of cold items during transport, and others.

It is HSEO's understanding that DIBS Hawai'i is a native Hawaiian-owned company and is planning to build a net-zero carbon capture storage utilization platform. This is consistent with Hawai'i's interests, as it captures carbon dioxide that would otherwise be released into the atmosphere; uses already-available rather than imported material for local applications; and supports a locally-owned business in promoting import substitution and economic diversification.

Capturing emissions from the atmosphere for economic activity and long-term sequestration is an important feature in Hawai'i's clean energy, decarbonized economy transition and statutory commitment to the Paris Agreement. Furthermore, this project will help to build the local knowledge base and expertise for Hawai'i to source carbon dioxide from renewable sources in the future as fossil energy is phased out and Hawai'i transitions to a net-negative, resilient clean energy economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.