



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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Testimony of
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before the
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM
AND
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

Wednesday, February 9, 2022
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

**COMMENTS
SB 2590
RELATING TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

Chairs Wakai and Moriwaki, Vice Chairs Misalucha and Dela Cruz, and members of the Committees, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on SB 2590, which requires energy efficiency scores and grades for certain buildings, assigns powers and duties to the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT), requires the Department to submit to the Governor and Legislature a report on energy asset scores, establishes penalties, and appropriates moneys.

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

HSEO appreciates the intent of SB 2590 in requiring buildings to obtain and display energy efficiency scores and grades to incentivize reduced energy demand. HSEO notes these requirements would be in addition to several other initiatives currently underway, including benchmarking, energy audits conducted as part of performance contracting, the use of the ENERGY STAR Portfolio manager tool that scores and recognizes buildings for their EE, and other measures supporting the

existing and growing efforts to track and assess the energy efficiency of buildings in Hawai'i.

The requirements of the new program would be in addition to several other Hawai'i State Energy Office measures currently underway in cooperation with other state agencies, including benchmarking, energy audits conducted as part of performance contracting, the use of the ENERGY STAR Portfolio manager tool, and other measures supporting the existing and growing efforts to track and assess the energy efficiency of buildings in Hawai'i. The new program may, without additional program implementation funding, divert limited state resources from other existing related activities including building industry awareness and training efforts and the development and implementation of energy-efficient building codes and appliance standards focused on selecting and using improved materials and methods when buildings are designed and constructed.

Without significant additional resources, it would also be difficult to do a satisfactory job enforcing the program requirements. HSEO notes that many details of the program envisioned by SB2590 have yet to be determined along with rules for its implementation. The additional manpower and funding for DBEDT to establish the program, rules, scores and grades, and to enforce and exact fines on building owners that do not comply, are unknown. HSEO also notes that DBEDT is generally not an enforcement agency.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.