



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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Testimony of
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before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

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**COMMENTS
SB 2283, SD1
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HYDROGEN STRATEGIC PLAN.**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offer comments on SB 2283, SD1, 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 requires reports to the Legislature.

HSEO appreciates that SD 1 of the bill was revised to specify that the long-term hydrogen plan developed by this measure should align with the State's existing energy planning goals and directs HNEI to consult with relevant entities, including HSEO.

HSEO agrees that hydrogen has the potential to be an increasingly important component of Hawai'i's energy system and that it is appropriate for HNEI "to conduct a study to evaluate the technical feasibility to produce and use hydrogen locally." The hydrogen study is the first step in creating a hydrogen deployment strategy 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 Hawai'i'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.” The Hawaii State Planning Act, HRS Section 226-55(a), also affirms HSEO’s overall energy planning mandate: “The state agency head [i.e., the Chief Energy Officer] primarily responsible for a given functional area shall prepare and periodically update the functional plan for the area.” HSEO looks forward to collaborating with HNEI on the study of hydrogen production in Hawai'i and continuing 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 defers to the appropriate agencies for comment on the fiscal, administrative, and regulatory impacts of this proposal.

HSEO supports this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget.

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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.