



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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Testimony of
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before the
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
AND
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM**

Tuesday, February 8, 2022
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

**COMMENTS
SB 2513
RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.**

Chairs Baker and Wakai, Vice Chairs Chang and Misalucha, and members of the Committees, the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on SB 2513 which requires the Public Utilities Commission to have electric utilities separately issue requests for proposals for firm renewable energy generation and requests for proposals for intermittent renewable energy generation; prohibits the Public Utilities Commission from approving any new or renewed utility-owned generation project by a public utility or any new or renewed power purchase agreement for electricity generation with affiliated interests with a public utility; and appropriates moneys.

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 appreciates the intent of the bill to improve reliability and resilience when fossil-fuel power plants are retired and to simplify the evaluation process for their replacement. HSEO believes that establishing operational parameters based on the needs of the grid at the time of the procurement offers the greatest opportunity for managing electricity costs and affordability, as bids will reflect the technologies and costs that are available and complementary to the existing grid and projected resources.

Prohibiting either firm or intermittent resources from a solicitation may disallow cost-effective hybrids and new or timely technologies.

Regarding the definition of “Firm renewable energy” in Section 2 of the bill (page 6, lines 15-19), HSEO notes that a strict or narrow reading of the language (“subject only to..”) may be interpreted to exclude those that are subject to the availability and receipt of certain inputs (fuels) for their operation. Including the availability of fuel would broaden the definition to clearly include those resources, if that is the Legislature’s intent.

"Firm renewable energy" means renewable energy that is always available and capable of being continuously produced at its contracted capacity twenty-four hours per day, three hundred sixty-five days per year, subject only to routine maintenance [~~and~~], availability of fuel, or emergency repairs.

Regarding the assignment in Section 3 of the bill , HSEO concurs with the need for and value of this type of study within the overall analysis of the pathways to reaching the states renewable energy and net negative carbon emissions goals. HSEO requests that, due to the time required for the procurement process, any report to the Legislature be submitted prior to the convening of the 2024 regular session.

HSEO defers to the appropriate agencies on the topic of utility power procurements.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.