



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 TRANSPORTATION

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Time 3:00 PM
State Capitol, Via Videoconference

**COMMENTS
SB 2517
RELATING TO BICYCLE COMMUTING.**

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye and Members of the Committee, the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on Bill No. SB 2517 which establishes a goal for the Department of Transportation to have an unspecified percentage of commuting trips be by bicycle or e-bike by 2030.

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.

Electric bikes are significantly more cost effective and better for the environment than gas powered motor vehicles and provide a zero-emission technology that is accessible to a broader range of Hawaii residents than passenger vehicles.

Emissions from transportation account for the largest share of energy sector emissions in the state. As noted in the 2016 Greenhouse Gas Inventory, transportation emissions in Hawaii were at 8.69 million metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents, accounting for 51 percent of total energy sector emissions. For Hawaii to meet its statutory target in Chapter 225-P "to sequester more greenhouse gases than emitted as soon as practicable but no later than 2045", planning and implementation of clean transportation alternatives are essential.

To address transportation emission the HSEO engages with stakeholders to implement policies and programs to help reduce the energy intensity of mobility. To support the implementation of VMT reduction and active transportation strategies the HSEO collaborated with the State Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission on a grant from the United State Climate Alliance to fund a Vehicle Miles Travelled and Active Transportation Specialist. The position will support HSEO's collaboration with Hawaii Department of Transportation and other state and county agencies on development and implementation of strategies to reduce vehicle miles travelled (VMT) through mode-shift, active transportation, and other associated means.

A coordinated effort is needed amongst a wide range of stakeholders to make meaningful progress in transitioning the transportation sector. The HSEO will continue to work with relevant agencies and stakeholders to support the goals of Chapter 225-P and take holistic actions to achieve the decarbonization of the transportation sector.

HSEO defers to the appropriate agency on fiscal and administrative impacts.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.