



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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Testimony of
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before the
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

Tuesday, February 8, 2022
Time 3:15 PM
State Capitol, Via Videoconference

**SUPPORT
SB 2803
RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE.**

Chairs Lee and Moriwaki, Vice Chairs Inouye and Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committees, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on SB 2803, which Requires all state, county, and private bus operators to upgrade to zero emission buses by 2035.

According to the Department of Health Greenhouse Gas Inventory for 2017 transportation made up over half of energy emissions. Ground transportation made up forty seven percent of all transportation emissions making ground transportation a key segment for emission reductions. Hawaii has been moving aggressively to address the emissions from transportation with the passage of Act 74 setting the goal to transition the state's light duty fleet by 2035 and prohibiting the procurement of internal combustion engine passenger vehicles starting January 1, 2022. Act 74 also updated procurement guidelines to incorporate medium- and heavy-duty (MHD) vehicles putting a priority on the procurement of (1) zero-emission vehicles, (2) plug-in hybrid electric vehicles, (3) alternative fuel vehicles, and (4) hybrid electric vehicles.

Hawai'i has also signed onto the Multi-State Medium-and Heavy-Duty Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) MOU setting a goal, among other things, that 30% of all

medium- and heavy-duty vehicle sales are ZEVs by 2030 and 100% by 2050. The HSEO, in collaboration with the Hawai'i Department of Health – Clean Air Branch, has launched the Diesel Replacement Rebate (DRR) program to support the adoption of MHD ZEVs by both the public and private sector. The DRR program leverages the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Diesel Emission Reduction Act and Volkswagen Settlement funds to receive a bonus incentive from the EPA to fund rebates here in Hawaii. The HSEO is also working with the Hawaii Department of Transportation, Hawaii County, Kauai County, and Maui County on a zero-emission bus program with the goal of funding four ZEV transit buses for each county leveraging Federal Transit Administration Low-No Program grants and Volkswagen Settlement funds.

To achieve a net-negative carbon economy as soon as practicable and no later than 2045 ground transportation needs to be addressed. The transit and school bus sector play an important role in ensuring the decarbonization of transportation is equitable, serving communities other than those who are served predominantly by single passenger vehicles. The HSEO has reached out to affected agencies and stands ready to collaborate on the adoption of ZEV buses.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.