



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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10:00 A.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 211 and Videoconference

**COMMENTS
SB 2834 SD1
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on SB 2834 SD1, which establishes the Transportation Safety and Modernization Council to help the Department of Transportation achieve state goals and outcomes while improving reporting to provide better information and transparency for elected leaders and the public.

HSEO requests one minor amendment under the members of the Transportation Safety and Modernization Council to change the "executive director of the State energy office" to the "Chief Energy Officer of the Hawaii State Energy Office" to align with existing statute.

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. 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 "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 emissions, the HSEO engages with stakeholders to implement policies and programs to support the decarbonization transportation.

HSEO collaborated with the Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) – Highways on successful applications for the designation of alternative fuel corridors on the islands of Hawaii, Kauai, Lanai, Maui, Molokai, and Oahu opening the door to federal funding opportunities. 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 U.S. Climate Alliance to fund a Vehicle Miles Travelled and Active Transportation Specialist. The position supports HSEO's collaboration with the Hawaii Department of Transportation and other state and county agencies on development and implementation of strategies to achieve energy efficiency in transportation, primarily via reducing 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 to clean energy. The HSEO will continue to work with relevant agencies and stakeholders to support the goals of Chapter 225P, Hawaii Revised Statute, 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.