



# HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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Testimony of  
**SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer**

before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

Thursday, February 24, 2022  
Time 10:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

**SUPPORT  
SB 3158 SD1  
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee, the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) supports SB 3158 SD1, which establishes the Electric Vehicle, Electric Bicycle, Moped, and Motorcycle Rebate Program and special fund to encourage the purchase and use of electric motor vehicles, bicycles, mopeds, and motorcycles.

Emissions from ground transportation account for more than half of energy emissions as reported in the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report for 2017<sup>1</sup>. Ground transportation accounted for forty seven percent of the reported transportation emissions. For Hawaii to meet its statutory target “to sequester more greenhouse gases than emitted as soon as practicable but no later than 2045”, significant reductions in emissions from ground transportation will need to be made in the near to medium term. For significant reductions to be made all market segments in Hawaii need to be addressed. SB 3158 SD1 supports the proliferation of zero-emission transportation options, including micro mobility options, which can reduce fossil-fuel powered vehicle miles traveled and related transportation emissions.

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<sup>1</sup> State of Hawai'i. Department of Health. Hawai'i Greenhouse Gas Program, Emissions Report for 2017. [https://health.hawaii.gov/cab/files/2021/04/2017-Inventory\\_Final-Report\\_April-2021.pdf](https://health.hawaii.gov/cab/files/2021/04/2017-Inventory_Final-Report_April-2021.pdf)

Neighborhoods with higher percentages of low-to-moderate income (LMI) households generally have a significantly lower adoption rate of electric vehicles (EVs) as a percentage of total vehicles in that neighborhood. The percentage of registered EVs relative to total registered vehicles in zip codes where LMI households make up greater than sixty percent of households is less than half the percentage of registered EVs in zip codes where LMI households make up less than sixty percent of households. This is a telling data point when considering where Hawaii currently stands on the equitable transition to a decarbonized ground transportation sector.

HSEO supports the amendments incorporated by the Senate Committee on Transportation in SD1 which include: inserting language to establish the electric vehicle, electric bicycle, moped, and motorcycle rebate program and electric vehicle and electric bicycle rebate special fund within the Department of Transportation to provide rebates up to a to be determined amount to individuals for the purchase of an electric vehicle, electric bicycle, moped, or motorcycle and authorizing the Department of Transportation to contract with a third-party administrator to manage the rebate program, specifying that the rebate program prioritize low-income applicants. HSEO is ready to work with the Legislature, state agencies, and stakeholders to address any issues in order to advance the decarbonization of ground transportation through both support of transportation powered by renewable fuels and decreasing the energy intensity of mobility through alternative forms of transportation.

HSEO supports this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget. HSEO defers to the appropriate agencies regarding administrative and fiscal impacts.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.