



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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Testimony of
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before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

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3:00 PM
State Capitol, Video Conference

COMMENTS
SB 3274
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.

Chair Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on SB 3274, which establishes the Multimodal Transportation Branch of the Department of Transportation to increase funding, pursue grants, and work on projects focusing on safe, low user cost pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.

Emissions from ground transportation accounts for over half of energy emissions as noted in the 2017 Greenhouse Gas Inventory. Ground transportation accounted for forty seven percent of the transportation emissions. For Hawai'i 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. To achieve those reductions Hawai'i will need to reduce the energy intensity of mobility.

Highlighted in the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative Transportation Energy Analysis, one of the strategies expected to have the greatest impact on energy consumption is to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT).¹ A robust, equitable, and interconnected active transportation network that includes greenways, where residents and visitors can safely

¹ https://energy.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Final_TransEnergyAnalysis_8.19.15.pdf

and comfortably walk, ride a bike, or take transit for all or many of their daily needs is essential to achieving VMT reductions and making progress towards climate goals. These will provide economic, public health, and environmental dividends for years to come—and help Hawai'i meet its climate and clean energy goals in a resilient and equitable manner.

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 Hawai'i Department of Transportation and all the other state and county agencies needed for the 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 reducing VMT. The HSEO will continue to work with relevant agencies and stakeholders to support the state's commitment to the Paris Agreement and HRS section 226-18(a)(2) which pursues "the ultimate elimination of Hawaii's dependence on imported fuels for electrical generation and ground transportation."

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.