



# HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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

before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

Wednesday, March 23, 2022  
11:05 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 423 & Videoconference

COMMENTS  
**HR 181**

**REQUESTING A WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE THE IMPACT OF SUSTAINABLE  
TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS IN THE STATE, INCLUDING GROUND-EFFECT  
VEHICLES AND OTHER INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES.**

Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Ilagan, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on HR 181, which requests the Department of Transportation, in collaboration with the Departments of Land and Natural Resources and Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, to convene a working group to examine the impact of sustainable transportation solutions in the State, including ground-effect vehicles and other innovative technologies.

Emissions from transportation account for the largest share of energy sector emissions in the state. As noted in the 2017 Greenhouse Gas Inventory, transportation emissions in Hawai'i account for 51 percent of total energy sector emissions. A coordinated effort is needed amongst a wide range of stakeholders to continue meaningful progress on clean transportation. Ground-effect vehicles are one of many technologies that have the potential to benefit Hawaii in the decarbonization of the transportation sector.

HSEO offers the following comments regarding participation on the working group. HSEO suggests the Chief Energy Officer of the Hawaii State Energy Office or their designee be included as a member of the sustainable transportation working

group. Per §196-71 the statutory purpose of the Hawaii State Energy office includes providing analysis and planning to actively develop and inform policies to achieve energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy resiliency, and clean transportation goals in collaboration with the legislature, public utilities commission, state agencies, and other relevant stakeholders. HSEO notes there are currently no generally funded transportation positions within HSEO to support its participation. The House of Representatives proposes in HB 1600, HD1 to provide funding and a position for a transportation specialist in HSEO, which would enable HSEO to support a working group such as this should that budget become adopted into law. HSEO defers to the appropriate agency for the implementation and fiscal impacts of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.