



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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Testimony of
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before the
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM
AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

Wednesday, March 30, 2022
3:05 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

COMMENTS SCR 99

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO UPDATE A STUDY ON THE FEASIBILITY OF UNDERGROUNDING THE STATE'S UTILITY FACILITIES.

Chairs Wakai and Moriwaki, Vice Chairs Misalucha and Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committees, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on SCR 99, which requests the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) to update a study on the feasibility of undergrounding the state's utility facilities.

HSEO requests consideration to be a consulted member of the LRB study. Per §196-71, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, the statutory purpose of the HSEO shall be to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation to help achieve a resilient clean energy economy. As part of that responsibility, the HSEO provides analysis and planning to actively develop and inform policies to achieve energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy resiliency, and clean transportation goals with the legislature, public utilities commission, state agencies, and other relevant stakeholders.

HSEO also serves as the primary and coordinating agency for State Emergency Support Function 12, Energy, maintaining situational awareness through coordination between local, state, federal, and energy industry partners. HSEO has responsibilities for resiliency and energy security in both the planning and response functions and is ready to support an update to the study on the feasibility of undergrounding the state's utility facilities.

HSEO defers to relevant agencies on the administrative and fiscal impacts of the resolution.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.