



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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**SUPPORT
HB 1801, HD1, SD1
RELATING TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY.**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee, the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) supports HB 1801, HD1, SD1, which requires and establishes deadlines for all state facilities, except for smaller facilities, to implement cost-effective energy efficiency measures; directs HSEO to collect utility bill and energy usage data for state-owned buildings and to make the data publicly available; provides that agencies that perform energy efficiency retrofitting may continue to receive appropriations for such measures; and beginning 7/1/2023, requires, where feasible and cost-effective, the design of all new state building construction to maximize energy and water efficiency, maximize energy generation potential, and use building materials that reduce the carbon footprint of the project.

HSEO supports HB 1801, HD1, SD1, to maximize the near-term savings and long-term energy performance of state buildings. The objectives of energy efficiency, cost control, lower energy bills, and leading by example outlined in HB 1801, HD1, SD1, are consistent with HSEO's mission in accordance with Section 196-71(a), Hawai'i Revised Statutes. It is also consistent with the Chief Energy Officer's duties, set forth in Section [196-72](#) of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes, to "provide technical assistance to state and county agencies to assess and implement projects and programs related to energy conservation and efficiency, renewable energy, clean transportation, energy resiliency, and related measures."

HSEO agrees that energy efficiency is the most cost-effective way to reduce energy usage and works with state agencies in Hawai'i on facility benchmarking, energy audits, and energy savings performance contracts. HSEO has observed that there are always more, and sometimes new, energy savings and bill reduction opportunities.

HSEO also agrees that designing new state buildings to maximize energy and water efficiency, identifying energy generation potential, and using building materials that reduce the carbon footprint, where feasible and cost-effective, are in alignment with the State's clean energy and decarbonization goals.

HSEO is working closely with Hawai'i Energy and state agencies on an energy efficiency for state buildings project to assess and promote opportunities to reduce energy use. HSEO has consistently been measuring facility electricity reduction using 2005 as the baseline year. The use of 2005 as the baseline year is also consistent with the United States' baseline year for its commitment pursuant to the Paris Agreement, which Hawai'i committed to support and to "be aligned with" in Part I of [Act 32 of 2017](#). HSEO's analysis shows since 2005, state agencies' total electricity consumption has declined by 20 percent. HSEO believes with Legislative and Administrative support, that amount can increase to 25 percent to reach the target goal by 2025.

To effectively and efficiently achieve Hawai'i's renewable energy and decarbonization goals, high quality, reliable energy data is necessary for the transformation of Hawaii's energy system and to support economic development and innovation. Act 122, SLH 2019, recognized this by tasking HSEO with leading data governance for energy. HSEO is responsible to identify, track, and report key performance measures and milestones related to the State's energy and decarbonization goals. The Senate Committee on Ways and Means is currently considering HB 1600 HD1 for decision making. HB 1600 HD1 provides general funds for a cloud-hosted data lake at HSEO to serve as a single source repository for energy-related data, and other data that have been identified as necessary to fuel a data-driven approach to analyzing, formulating, and recommending policies and plans to achieve the State's energy goals. One of the driving outcomes of the project is to increase data sharing and information dissemination. HB 1600 HD1 also provides a position and funds

for a Data Science Specialist. The position will support operating a data governance framework for data policies, standards and practices to achieve the required level of consistency, quality and protection to meet specific office needs. The position will interface with state departments, county agencies, industry, public, and other stakeholder groups in an effort to design, develop, and implement this framework. Sharing monthly utility bill and energy usage data for state-owned facilities through a portal such as the data lake supported by the Data Science Specialist would greatly increase the accessibility and reproducibility of datasets and allow for streamlined data updates should that budget become adopted into law.

HSEO's analysis shows since 2005, state agencies' total electricity consumption has declined by 20 percent. HSEO believes with Legislative and Administrative support, that amount can increase to 25 percent to reach the target goal by 2025.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.