



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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Testimony of
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before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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Time 8:50 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

**SUPPORT
HB 2090
RELATING TO ZERO EMISSION TRANSPORTATION.**

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports HB 2090, which establishes a zero-emission transportation rebate program within the Public Utilities Commission to enable low- and moderate-income (LMI) families greater access to zero-emission vehicles by providing a rebate on the point-of-sale purchase price of zero-emission vehicles.

Emissions from ground transportation account 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. For significant reductions to be made all market segments in Hawaii need to be addressed, including LMI households.

Neighborhoods with higher percentages of 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.

For Hawai'i to achieve its goal of a net-negative carbon economy as soon as practicable but no later than 2045 it is essential that everyone is afforded the opportunity to participate in the net-negative carbon economy from an equity, economic, and technical perspective.

HSEO defers to the appropriate agency for comment on the administration of this program addition.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.