Testimony of
SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Monday, February 7, 2022
Time 3:00 PM
State Capitol, Room 229 and Via Videoconference

SUPPORT
SB 2543
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS.

Chairs Kidani and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Kim and Nishihara, and Members of the Committees, the Hawai‘i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports SB 2543, which Requires the Department of Education to establish zero-emission vehicle goals as part of the sustainable school’s initiative and requires an annual report to the Legislature.

According to the Department of Health Greenhouse Gas Inventory for 2017 Transportation made up over half of energy emissions. Ground transportation made up forty seven percent of all transportation emissions making ground transportation a key segment for emission reductions. One of the actions Hawaii has taken to address emissions in ground transportation was to sign onto the Multi-State Medium-and Heavy-Duty Zero Emission Vehicle MOU which, among other things, set a goal that thirty percent of all medium and heavy-duty vehicle sales are ZEVs by 2030 and one hundred percent by 2050. To support achieving that goal the HSEO, through collaboration with the Hawai‘i Department of Health – Clean Air Branch, has launched the Diesel Replacement Rebate program to support the adoption of MHD ZEVs by both the public and private sector in order to serve as a catalyst for that market segment.

To achieve a net-negative carbon economy as soon as practicable and no later than 2045 ground transportation needs to be addressed. School buses are an important
transportation segment to ensure the decarbonization of transportation is equitable by providing access to schools through zero emission alternatives. HSEO stands ready to support affected agencies’ integration of ZEVs into their fleets. HSEO defers to the appropriate agency for comment on the impacts and implementation of the bill requirements.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.