



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SCOTT J. GLENN
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

235 South Beretania Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone:
Web:

(808) 587-3807
energy.hawaii.gov

Testimony of
SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

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10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 221 & Videoconference

**COMMENTS
SB 2622
RELATING TO BIOFUELS.**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee, the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on SB 2622, which establishes and appropriates moneys to the Department of Agriculture for a 2-year pilot project to grow biodiesel crops on the island of Moloka'i and requires a report to the Legislature.

HSEO's comments are guided by its mission to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation to help achieve a resilient, clean energy, decarbonized economy. Biofuels can have an important role in energy resilience and security by being readily available during emergencies and a "drop in" fuel for power plants on neighbor islands and medium- and heavy-duty vehicles needed to help clear roads and waters of debris and transport emergency equipment.

HSEO is supportive of efforts by Moloka'i communities to identify energy opportunities that could provide local jobs and economic benefits, as well as increased energy resilience. HSEO has been impressed with the efforts on Moloka'i, including those of the Moloka'i Clean Energy Hui, to identify, understand and develop a variety of energy options for the island. HSEO believes that projects such as this can further Moloka'i energy transformation. HSEO recommends a more flexible timeline to allow for planning, implementation, growing of the crops and reporting.

HSEO defers to the appropriate agency for comment on budget and implementation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.