



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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Testimony of
SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

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3:00PM
State Capitol, Video Conference

COMMENTS
SB 2834
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on SB 2834, which establishes the Transportation Improvement and Modernization Commission to help ensure the Department of Transportation achieves states goals and outcomes while improving reporting to provide better transparency for elected leaders and the public; and names the Chief Energy Officer as a member of the Commission.

HSEO's testimony is guided by its mission to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation to help achieve a resilient, clean energy, decarbonized economy.

Emissions from transportation account for the largest share of energy sector emissions in the state. As noted in the 2016 Greenhouse Gas Inventory, transportation emissions in Hawaii were at 8.69 million metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents, accounting for 51 percent of total energy sector emissions. For Hawaii to meet its statutory target "to sequester more greenhouse gases than emitted as soon as practicable but no later than 2045", planning and implementation of clean transportation alternatives are essential. To address transportation emission the HSEO engages with stakeholders to implement policies and programs to support the decarbonization of transportation.

A coordinated effort is needed amongst a wide range of stakeholders to make meaningful progress in transitioning the transportation sector. The HSEO will continue to work with relevant agencies and stakeholders to support the goals of Chapter 225-P and take holistic actions to achieve the decarbonization of the transportation sector.

HSEO collaborated with the Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) – Highways on successful applications for the designation of alternative fuel corridors on the islands of Hawaii, Kauai, Lanai, Maui, Molokai, and Oahu opening the door to federal funding opportunities. To support the implementation of VMT reduction and active transportation strategies the HSEO collaborated with the State Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission on a grant from the United State Climate Alliance to fund a Vehicle Miles Travelled and Active Transportation Specialist.

Should this measure move forward, the inclusion of the Chief Energy Officer will support HSEO's collaboration with Hawaii Department of Transportation and other state and county agencies on development and implementation of strategies to reduce vehicle miles travelled (VMT) through mode-shift, active transportation, and other associated means.

HSEO defers to the appropriate agency on fiscal and administrative impacts.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.