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Testimony of
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before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

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COMMENTS
SB 3229 SD1
RELATING TO GEOTHERMAL ROYALTIES.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO), offers comments on SB 3229 SD1, which caps the amount of royalties from geothermal resources that are to be paid to the State and to the county in which the geothermal resources are located, establishes the University of Hawai'i Geothermal Exploration Special Fund for the Hawai'i Groundwater and Geothermal Resources Center to further the discovery and development of geothermal resources, and requires the entities that received geothermal royalties to submit an annual report to the Legislature. SD1 makes significant changes from the original SB 3229 that warrant further consideration and discussion.

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. HSEO believes geothermal energy can play a significant role in achieving 100% renewable energy generation statewide and supports incentives for its development. Royalties from geothermal development play an important role in its regulation and the administration of state and county programs related to geothermal.

HSEO defers to the appropriate agencies for comment on the fiscal, administrative, and regulatory impacts.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.