



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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Testimony of
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before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

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State Capitol, Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

**COMMENTS
SB 3274 SD1
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on SB 3274 SD1, which requires the Department of Transportation to increase funding, pursue grants, and work on projects focusing on safe, low user cost pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and appropriates funds for two grant writing positions.

Emissions from ground transportation accounts 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. To achieve those reductions Hawai'i will need to reduce the energy intensity of mobility.

Highlighted in the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative Transportation Energy Analysis, one of the strategies expected to have the greatest impact on energy consumption is to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT).¹ A robust, equitable, and interconnected active transportation network that includes greenways, where residents and visitors can safely

¹ https://energy.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Final_TransEnergyAnalysis_8.19.15.pdf

and comfortably walk, ride a bike, or take transit for all or many of their daily needs is essential to achieving VMT reductions and making progress towards climate goals. These will provide economic, public health, and environmental dividends for years to come—and help Hawai'i meet its climate and clean energy goals in a resilient and equitable manner.

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 U.S. Climate Alliance to fund a Vehicle Miles Travelled and Active Transportation Specialist. The position will support HSEO's collaboration with Hawai'i Department of Transportation (HDOT) and all the other state and county agencies needed for the development and implementation of strategies to achieve energy efficiency in transportation, primarily via reducing vehicle miles travelled (VMT) through mode-shift, active transportation, and other associated means.

The HSEO is currently coordinating with HDOT to satisfy the requirements of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for deployment of electric vehicle charging infrastructure. One of the requirements of the IJJA, now commonly referred to as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law or "BIL", is to achieve certification that existing alternative electric vehicle corridors in the state have been fully built out. HSEO and HDOT worked closely on the designation of alternative fuel corridors throughout Hawai'i and continue to collaborate on the deployment of necessary electric vehicle charging infrastructure to complete the corridors.

A coordinated effort is needed amongst a wide range of stakeholders to make meaningful progress in reducing VMT. The HSEO will continue to work with relevant agencies and stakeholders to support the state's commitment to the Paris Agreement and HRS section 226-18(a)(2) which pursues "the ultimate elimination of Hawaii's dependence on imported fuels for electrical generation and ground transportation."

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.