



# HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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Testimony of  
**SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer**

before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Thursday, March 10, 2022  
1:30 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

**SUPPORT  
HB 1600  
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee, the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) supports HB 1600, which adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium 2021-2023 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs.

The Hawaii State Energy Office – BED120's fiscal year (FY) 23 supplemental budget requests address HSEO's top priorities as the critical path to a resilient clean energy economy while recognizing the critical need to continue supporting the State's economic recovery. HSEO staffing has been cut significantly from 33 positions in FY19 to 22 positions in FY22— about a 30% reduction. To enable HSEO to fulfill its mission on behalf of residents, HSEO is requesting:

**Mission-critical positions and funding.**

- Positions and funds to retain the expertise of four temporary positions, currently federally or grant funded, created and filled to help carry out critical legislatively mandated activities and programs. These include a Data Science Specialist, Energy Analyst, Energy Assurance Specialist, and Transportation Energy Specialist.
- Funds for two existing unfunded positions. These include an Energy Analyst and Energy Program Specialist.

- Positions and funds for four new positions to rebuild capacity in support of the State’s critical energy priorities. These include an Energy Grants Specialist, Regulatory Assistant, Energy Economics Specialist, and Energy Jobs Development Specialist.

**Access to additional funding sources.**

- Energy Security Special Fund (ESSF) expenditure ceiling for the purpose of providing local matching funds to qualify for federal grants; to address gaps in the office’s programmatic needs, including emergency response for energy; and to fulfill its obligation of transferring central service expenses and departmental administrative expenses to the general fund.
- Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust expenditure ceiling increase to include non-administrative expenditures which would create more transparency in the budget.
- Funds for an online “data lake” to serve as a single source repository for energy-related data, and other data that have been identified as the necessary raw material to fuel a data-driven approach to analyzing, formulating, and recommending policies and plans to achieve the State’s energy goals.

To position HSEO to effectively manage an estimated \$6.5 million in energy-related federal formula funding and to compete for the billions of dollars in energy-related federal competitive programs for Hawaii under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, HSEO respectfully requests your favorable consideration of these requests.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.