



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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Testimony of
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before the
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
AND
ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM**

Monday, March 21, 2022
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

**SUPPORT
HB 1800, HD2
RELATING TO CLIMATE MITIGATION.**

Chairs Gabbard and Wakai, Vice Chairs Nishihara and Misalucha, and Members of the Committees, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports HB 1800, HD2, which establishes a goal for the statewide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions limit to be at least fifty per cent below 2005 levels by 2030; requires HSEO to conduct a study to determine Hawai'i's pathway to decarbonization and identify challenges, opportunities, and actions that will be needed to achieve those goals; and appropriates funds out of the Energy Security Special Fund (ESSF) for the study.

HB 1800, HD2 is an important next step in implementing Senate Concurrent Resolution 44, adopted last year, declaring a climate emergency, and calling for a statewide commitment to a decarbonized economy. The bill also builds on the success of Act 234, Session Laws of Hawai'i (SLH) 2017, which established a target to reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 and which Hawai'i achieved on time. The Department of Health's GHG Inventory has been a critical tool for decarbonizing the economy and HSEO appreciates the Department's continual improvement of it.

Setting an interim target of 50% GHG reduction by 2030 compared to 2005 levels is consistent with the Legislature's commitment pursuant to Act 32, SLH 2017, which is

for Hawai'i to address its share of national emissions in the US' commitment to the Paris Agreement¹. The commitment for a US State to mitigate and adapt to climate change consistent with the principles of the Paris Agreement and to declare a climate emergency received worldwide attention and established Hawai'i as a global leader on climate policy.

The US commitment, and what HB 1800, HD2 proposes, includes economy-wide emissions, measuring progress (Part II of the bill), and identifying pathways to decarbonization (Part III of the bill). Undertaking this effort for Hawai'i will ensure progress towards Hawai'i's zero emission clean economy target, Section 225P-5, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS). HSEO is willing to undertake the analysis identified in Part III of the bill, which is consistent with HSEO's statutes as set forth in Sections 196-71 and 196-72, HRS.

The ESSF has funds available to support the analysis. The Legislature has set the allowable uses of the ESSF in Section 201-12.8, HRS, among which include "(3) To support achieving the zero emissions clean economy target set forth in section 225P-5." Use of the ESSF requires a direct appropriation by the Legislature as the current FY23 ESSF spending ceiling of \$500,000 was appropriated for the purpose of providing matching funds to leverage federal grant funding. Absent a direct appropriation by the Legislature, the balance of ESSF funds would remain unused in the account for the upcoming fiscal year.

HSEO defers to the appropriate agencies on matters specific to them.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

¹ National commitments to the Paris Agreement are called "Nationally Determined Contributions" or "NDCs". The US Nationally Determined Contribution is available here: <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/United%20States%20of%20America%20Final/United%20States%20NDC%20April%202021%202021%20Final.pdf>