Testimony of
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before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Tuesday, March 22, 2022
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

SUPPORT
SB 2510, SD2, HD1
RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.

Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai‘i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports SB 2510, SD2, HD1, which amends the Hawaii State Planning Act to give consideration to reducing reliance on energy imports, ensuring that all new utility scale electricity generation projects are renewable, balancing of grid resources including firm renewable energy resources, reliable replacement of fossil fuel generation with balanced grid resources, prohibiting fossil fuel generation after 12/31/2045 except in certain circumstances, and expanding vocational training in renewable energy and related industries.

HSEO appreciates the amendments made in SB 2510, SD2, HD1. The current bill leaves in place the existing functional plan process and adds renewable energy to section 226-10, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), “Objective and policies for the economy--potential growth and innovative activities;” revises HRS section 226-18 by modifying and adding several objectives to be considered when planning for Hawai‘i’s energy systems and adding definitions of “firm renewable energy,” “grid resources,” and “intermittent renewable generation;” revises HRS section 226-103, “Economic priority guidelines,” by adding “renewable energy and related industries” to a vocational training item and “incentives to encourage the development of grid resources” to priority guidelines for energy use and development.

HSEO agrees that energy topics have great potential to provide economic and energy security benefits to Hawai‘i, and their inclusion is appropriate in state planning efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.