Testimony of
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before the
SENATE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM AND TRANSPORTATION

Wednesday, March 30, 2022
3:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

SUPPORT
SCR 103 / SR 91
REQUESTING A WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE ISSUES AND BARRIERS TO THE INSTALLATION OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING SYSTEMS IN MULTI-UNIT DWELLINGS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING CHANGES TO STATUTES, RULES, AND OTHER GUIDANCE TO HELP CLARIFY AND FACILITATE THE INSTALLATION OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING SYSTEMS IN MULTI-UNIT DWELLINGS.

Chair Wakai and Lee, Vice Chairs Misalucha and Inouye, and Members of the Committees, the Hawai‘i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers support with comments on SCR 103 / SR 91, which requests the Hawaii State Energy Office to convene a working group to examine issues and barriers to the installation of electric vehicle charging systems in multi-unit dwellings (MUDs) and make recommendations regarding changes to statutes, rules, and other guidance to help clarify and facilitate the installation of electric vehicle charging systems in multi-unit dwellings.

Emissions from transportation account for the largest share of energy sector emissions in the state. As noted in the 2017 Greenhouse Gas Inventory, transportation emissions in Hawai‘i account for 51 percent of total energy sector emissions. A coordinated effort is needed amongst a wide range of stakeholders to continue meaningful progress on clean transportation. Ensuring access for residents of MUDs to fuel their zero-emission vehicles is necessary to maintain momentum in the decarbonization of ground transportation. Access to charging infrastructure is improving but remains one of the significant barriers to electric vehicle (EV) adoption.
HSEO offers the following comments regarding leading the working group to examine EV charging in MUDs. HSEO notes there are currently no generally funded transportation positions within HSEO to support leading this working group. The Senate Committee on Ways and Means is currently considering HB 1600 HD1 for decision making. HB 1600 HD1 provides general funds for an authorized but unfunded Energy Analyst position in HSEO. This position, which would interface with stakeholders at the Legislature, state departments, county agencies, federal partners, industry, and other stakeholder groups to coordinate state clean transportation efforts with the overarching state energy policy, would also enable HSEO to support a working group such as this should that budget become adopted into law.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.