



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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Testimony of
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before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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Time 1:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308 and Via Videoconference

**SUPPORT
SB 3311 SD2 HD1
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports SB 3311 SD2 HD1, which establishes the interisland transportation working group, requires the Department of Transportation (DOT) to prepare for and incentivize the increased adoption of electric vehicles in the State, and establishes goals.

HSEO is willing to participate in the interisland transportation working group as a co-chair and member to support the goals of Chapter 225P, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, and take holistic actions to achieve the decarbonization of the transportation sector.

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. To reduce transportation emissions, the HSEO is engaging with stakeholders to implement policies and programs to support the electrification of ground transportation and aviation.

Hawai'i is a national leader in renewable energy and in the adoption of electric vehicles, ranking second nationally in ground EV adoption per capita. The DOT has made extensive efforts to reduce its operational emissions and has partnered with HSEO to support reduction of multiple modes of transportation fossil fuel energy use.

A coordinated effort is needed amongst a wide range of stakeholders to continue meaningful progress on clean transportation. As an example, HSEO collaborated with

DOT-Highways to put in place a vehicles-as-a-service contract to support the transition of the State's fleet to zero emission vehicles (ZEVs); and on successful applications for the designation of alternative fuel corridors on the islands of Hawai'i, Kaua'i, Lāna'i, Maui, Molokai, and O'ahu opening the door to federal funding opportunities. The HSEO was the lead for the State's signing onto the Multi-State Medium- and Heavy-Duty Zero Emission Vehicle Memorandum of Understanding calling for 30% of new truck and bus sales to be zero-emission by 2030 and 100% by 2050. In support of that objective, the HSEO collaborated with Hawai'i Department of Health, Clean Air Branch to implement a Diesel Replacement Rebate to support the adoption of ZEVs for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles.

Hawai'i is also poised to take a leadership role in the decarbonization of aviation. On November 22, 2020, Ampaire's Electric EEL airplane became the first hybrid electric aircraft to conduct test flights on a commercial airline route, flying roundtrip from Maui's Kahului airport to Hana. This flight made it apparent that for Hawai'i to meet its statutory target "to sequester more greenhouse gases than emitted as soon as practicable but no later than 2045", planning and implementation of clean transportation alternatives to other modes of transportation such as aviation are essential and timely.

To prepare for the electrification of aviation, HSEO partnered with HDOT-Airports on a planning grant for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities (BRIC) grant program. The proposal is to study the infrastructure and energy requirements necessary to support electrification of aviation and how to leverage that infrastructure to support resiliency hubs in response to all-hazard events such as hurricanes.

While the HSEO supports this measure, there are currently no generally funded transportation positions within HSEO to support its participation in the interisland transportation working group and electrification of ground transportation. The House of Representatives proposes in HB 1600 HD1 to restore funding for an authorized position for a transportation specialist in HSEO, which would enable HSEO to support a working group such as this one, should that budget become adopted into law.

HSEO defers to the appropriate agency regarding the bill's fiscal and administrative impacts. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.