

## HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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

## before the HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Thursday, April 21, 2022 Time 2:00 PM State Capitol, Conference Room 423 or Via Videoconference

SUPPORT

## SCR 103 SD1 HD1 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 Ling Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers support with comments on SCR 103 SD1 HD1, 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 appreciates the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection's amendments clarifying that the representative of the Hawaii State Energy Office is requested to convene the working group and serve as its chairperson or designate another member of the working group to serve as chairperson if mutually agreed upon by the members and adding a representative from the Kauai Island Utility Cooperative. HSEO notes there are currently no generally funded transportation positions within HSEO to support leading this working group. HB 1600 HD1 SD2 eliminates an authorized but unfunded Energy Analyst position in HSEO. This position, which is needed to 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 enable HSEO to support a working group such as this. Unless the Energy Analyst position is retained in the budget and general funds are appropriated for payroll, HSEO would not have a position to support transportation efforts such as the proposed working group.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.