



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Tuesday, February 7, 2023
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309 and Videoconference

Providing COMMENTS on
HB 187

RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on HB 187.

HSEO strongly supports the use of local labor for renewable energy projects in Hawai'i and the intent of this measure towards that end. HSEO, however, recommends additional analysis and discussion be conducted prior to establishing labor requirements for the construction of renewable energy projects with a capacity rating of ten (10) megawatts (MW) or greater to prevent unintended consequences.

The intent of this measure may also benefit from an upcoming partnership of HSEO and the University of Hawai'i Community Colleges to launch a multi-year Good Jobs Hawai'i workforce development initiative funded by a grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration. With clean energy as one of four sector focus areas, the Good Jobs Hawai'i initiative seeks to identify and meet current and future needs of Hawai'i's clean energy workforce.

HSEO also notes that the renewable energy tax credits provided under the Inflation Reduction Act contain prevailing wage and apprenticeship requirements and incentives, while the most recent request for proposals issued by Hawaiian Electric for new

renewable energy projects on Maui and O'ahu require a detailed Community Outreach Plan addressing local labor and prevailing wage commitments (if any).¹

Should this measure move forward, HSEO would also encourage further discussion on whether 10 MW is the appropriate threshold for local labor requirements.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

¹ [Docket 2017-0352 \(dms.puc.hawaii.gov\)](https://dms.puc.hawaii.gov), Page B-22 (pdf page 128) and I-21 (pdf page 319).