



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION

Wednesday, February 15, 2023
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329 and Videoconference

In SUPPORT of
HB 198, HD1

RELATING TO ELECTRIC VEHICLES.

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and Members of the Committee, the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) offers testimony in support of HB 198, HD1, which appropriates funds for subsidies to encourage the purchase and use of electric motor vehicles for low- and moderate income (LMI) households.

Ground transportation makes up 30% of Hawaii's petroleum use, making it a key focus area of decarbonization efforts towards Hawaii's goal of achieving net negative carbon emissions by 2045. Although EVs often cost less to own and maintain, their higher purchase cost represents a barrier to LMI households. HB 198, HD1, would provide an important tool to remove that barrier for LMI households and help ensure Hawaii's transition to a sustainable future is equitable and inclusive of all communities.

HSEO would recommend that rebate amounts differ between plug-in hybrid vehicles and dedicated battery electric vehicles, due to these vehicles' differing carbon footprints. HSEO also suggests that a flat rebate dollar amount per vehicle be considered rather than rebates that reflect a percentage of vehicle costs to make the program more progressive, and to streamline program implementation.

HSEO stands ready to coordinate with state agencies and stakeholders and work with the legislature to develop specific language that meets the policy objectives as identified in the purpose of HB 198, HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.