



# HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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Testimony of  
**MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer**

before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

Wednesday, February 15, 2023  
9:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 312 and Videoconference

In SUPPORT of  
**HB 1252, HD1**

**RELATING TO ENERGY.**

Chair Hashimoto, Vice Chair Aiu, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports and offers the following comments on HB 1252, HD1, which provides rebates for eligible electric vehicle (EV) ready parking stalls in new affordable housing construction and requires that EV ready parking for new construction be integrated as a criterion in the low-income housing tax credit qualified allocation plan starting in calendar year 2024.

HSEO's testimony is guided by its mission to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation to help achieve a resilient, clean energy, decarbonized economy. Hawai'i is a national leader in the adoption of electric vehicles ranking second nationally in EV adoption per capita. However, battery electric zero-emission vehicles still only constitute 1.7% of all registered light-duty vehicles in the state.<sup>1</sup> The high cost of EVs and limited charging facilities are likely to be particularly limiting factors for EV adoption to those living in affordable housing units, and thus poses an equity issue that must be addressed. For Hawai'i to meet its statutory target "to sequester more greenhouse gases

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<sup>1</sup> <https://energy.hawaii.gov/energy-data/>

than emitted as soon as practicable but no later than 2045”, we must ensure the transition to zero-emission transportation is inclusive of all communities.

In 2015 DBEDT served as the chair of the Act 164 Working Group, examining issues regarding requests to the board of directors of a MUD (multi-unit dwellings) for the installation of EV charging systems. The Working Group found that increasing the availability of EV charging systems located at MUDs could enable roughly one-third of households to own EVs. HSEO is monitoring Section 11401 of the Infrastructure, Investments, and Jobs Act which provides opportunities to state, local, and public entities to install alternative fuel infrastructure. \$1.25 Billion of program funds will be dedicated to competitive “Community Grants” for publicly-accessible alternative fuel charging/fueling projects with priority given to rural, LMI and underserved communities, and multi-unit dwellings. Program guidance is expected to be released in the first quarter of 2023.

To successfully decarbonize the ground transportation sector, we need to ensure our transportation decarbonization policies are equitable and inclusive of all communities. HB 1252, HD1, helps address this important priority.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.