



# HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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

before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

Thursday, February 23, 2023  
10:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229 and Videoconference

In SUPPORT of  
**SB 973, SD1**

## **RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.**

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports SB 973, SD1, which requires rental car companies using state facilities to pay or reimburse the State to install new or utilize existing electric vehicle charging infrastructure at public facilities beginning January 1, 2028; and establishes a task force to determine the implementation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure to support one hundred per cent electric vehicle rental car fleets in the State by 2035. 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.

Hawaii has been a leader in making necessary changes towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions, mitigating climate change impacts, and has taken strides towards securing a more sustainable future. Notably, it was the first state to mandate that all electricity sold by utilities be 100% renewable by 2045. It has committed to the Paris agreement and was the first state to declare a climate emergency. Additionally, Hawaii set the most ambitious goal in the country of becoming carbon net negative by 2045. Decarbonization of ground transportation by shifting towards zero-emission vehicles that utilize local, renewable, and clean (i.e. with low carbon footprint) energy sources will be a necessary and integral part of meeting these goals and commitment.

Rental motor vehicles represent one of the largest passenger vehicle fleets in Hawaii and are responsible for a significant amounts of carbon emissions. Transitioning rental motor vehicle fleets to zero-emission vehicles would reduce carbon emissions and increase the number of ZEVs entering the secondary market, making them more affordable to more Hawaii residents. A ZEV rental fleet would also help accelerate charging infrastructure deployment at hotels, resorts and other tourist destinations, and demonstrate to all who visit the State that Hawaii is a leader in clean energy and sustainable transportation.

Charging infrastructure and charging capabilities at rental hubs, hotels, and visitor attractions will require significant upgrades. Airports facilities, where many rental car companies are located, will need to be retrofitted with adequate power to support the charging/fueling infrastructure that rental fleets will require to convert to zero-emission vehicles. HSEO has engaged with the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development and the Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) and respectfully suggest that HDOT be designated as the lead of the task force consistent with their oversight of airport and associated rental car facilities. Also, Section 2 of SB973 SD1 adds a new section to HRS 347D requiring all rental car companies utilizing state facilities to pay for construction of, or reimburse the State for, construction of new charging infrastructure or use of existing charging infrastructure starting January 1, 2028. HSEO requests additional clarity on the intent of the language in Section 2 in relation to the purpose of the task force which is “to determine, develop, and implement electric vehicle charging infrastructure to support one hundred per cent electric vehicle rental fleets by 2035.” HSEO is engaging with departments and agencies regarding implementation of task force charging infrastructure recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.