



# HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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

before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

Tuesday, January 31, 2023  
3:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 and Videoconference

Providing **COMMENTS** to  
**SB 973**

## **RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.**

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee, the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on SB 973, which requires lessors of rental motor vehicles to incorporate zero-emission vehicles (ZEV) or plug-in hybrid electric vehicles, or both, into the lessor's rental motor vehicle fleets. 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 commitments.

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 demonstrate to all who visit the State that Hawaii is a leader in clean energy and sustainable transportation.

HSEO supports the intent of the bill which is to speed up the decarbonization of ground transportation. By providing specific zero-emission deployment targets, SB 973 provides rental car fleets the certainty needed to plan for and invest in the critical vehicle and infrastructure technologies needed for compliance.

At the same time, it will be critical to ensure that any statutory requirements adopted are technically and economically feasible. 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 been researching means by which a rental ZEV fleet requirement could be implemented and stand ready to work with the legislature, government agencies, industry, and stakeholders on solutions that achieve the objectives of SB 973. HSEO also recommends consultation with the Attorney General's Office to ensure the requirements of the bill are not implicitly preempted by the Clean Air Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.