



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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Testimony of
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before the
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON
ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM
AND
WATER AND LAND**

Tuesday, February 14, 2023
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

Providing COMMENTS on
SB 1247

RELATING TO WASTE-TO-ENERGY.

Chairs DeCoite and Inouye, Vice Chairs Wakai and Elefante, and Members of the Committees, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers the following comments on SB 1247.

HSEO appreciates the contribution waste-to-energy (WTE) technology has made to Hawai'i's renewable energy goals. Hawai'i's only WTE facility, H-POWER in Kapolei, O'ahu, began generating electricity in 1990 and in 2021 generated just under 6% of O'ahu's electricity.¹ HSEO also generally supports the use of state lands for renewable energy projects.

HSEO acknowledges it has limited expertise and experience in public-private partnerships as means to carry out its statutory duties. Building such capacity within HSEO would require additional resources and staffing.

If a WTE project is to provide electricity to the utility grid, the potential developer should be aware that the development of a new utility-scale renewable energy project requires extensive planning and stakeholder coordination. Currently, Hawaiian Electric's

¹ 2021 Renewable Portfolio Standard Status Report, Hawaiian Electric, [DocumentViewer \(hawaii.gov\)](#)

Integrated Grid Planning (IGP) process, “working to define the plan for putting together Hawai'i's clean energy grid,²” includes a description of the selection process.³ HSEO recommends discussions for any new WTE facilities within Hawaiian Electric's service territory (O'ahu, Maui Nui, Hawai'i Island) be informed by the IGP process. In addition, a new renewable energy project that proposes to sell electricity to regulated public utilities must go through a competitive bidding (request for proposals) process unless the utility applies for and receives a waiver for a specific project.

Finally, HSEO notes that several recent attempts to develop new WTE facilities have been unsuccessful due to various reasons including lack of sufficient feedstock (waste) for the projects to be cost-effective. The counties of Kaua'i, Hawai'i, and Maui, as well as the City and County of Honolulu, may have additional information on the current and projected amounts and types of waste available.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

² [Integrated Grid Planning | Hawaiian Electric](#)

³ <https://igp.hawaiianelectric.com/images/Board-Grid-Scale-Renewables-4.png>