



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

MARK B. GLICK
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

235 South Beretania Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone:
Web:

(808) 587-3807
energy.hawaii.gov

Testimony of MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the SENATE COMMITTEES ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT, AND WATER AND LAND

Tuesday, February 7, 2023
3:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225 and Videoconference

With COMMENTS on
SB 1597

RELATING TO THE HAWAII ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

Chairs McKelvey, Gabbard, and Inouye, Vice Chairs Gabbard, Richards, and Elefante, and Members of the Committees, the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on SB 1597, which establishes the Hawaii Environmental Protection Agency and transfers jurisdiction of certain functions and employees of the Department of Agriculture and Department of Health to the Hawaii Environmental Protection Agency.

There is precedence for such a consolidation of disparate environmental functions in state government. SB 1597 is reminiscent of the formation of CalEPA established on July 17, 1991 by executive order W-5-91 by Governor Pete Wilson that combined under one agency the Air Resources Board (ARB), the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR), the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, (CalRecycle), the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB).

As currently written, SB 1597 would appear to have limited effect on HSEO. The HSEO supports OPSD's proposed amendment of SB 1597 in recognition of the recent transfer in Act 152, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2021 of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC), and the Environmental Review Program, to be a part of the OPSD.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.