



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
ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM
AND
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

Tuesday, March 21, 2023
9:45 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

In SUPPORT of
HB 949, HD2

RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.

Chairs DeCoite and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Wakai and Fukunaga, and Members of the Committees, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports HB 949, HD2, which would establish and appropriate funds for a solar energy storage system loan program to provide asset limited, income constrained, employed households with low-interest loans to purchase and install solar energy storage systems.

HSEO's comments are guided by its mission to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy resiliency, and clean transportation to help achieve a decarbonized economy. With the Federal Reserve Bank increasing interest rates to combat inflation, the cost of capital to finance energy efficiency and solar projects is becoming more unattainable, especially for the economically disadvantaged.

HSEO supports providing mechanisms and funding to provide lower cost financing to help undeserved ratepayers reduce their utility bills as well as acquire storage systems that will assist with grid stability. In addition, a revolving loan fund that is capitalized by appropriations as proposed in this bill would offer significant benefits in

that the principal and interest repaid could be used in perpetuity to issue more loans supporting residential solar projects. The establishment of this program would also place Hawai'i in a more competitive position when applying for federal grants under the Inflation Reduction Act, where proof of a sustainable source of matching funds would bolster the chances of acquiring additional funding to support Hawai'i's energy initiatives.

HSEO defers to the Hawai'i Green Infrastructure Authority on matters pertaining to appropriations and revolving loan funds.

HSEO appreciates the intent of the proposal to increase the proliferation of PV solar systems and energy storage systems that will help us reach the goal of 100% renewable electricity.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.