



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

March 16, 2023
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312 and Videoconference

In SUPPORT of
SB 809, SD2

RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Kila, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports SB 809, SD2, which appropriates funding for the electric mobility rebate program and expands eligibility of the program to micro-mobility options such as to electric powered standing scooters, skateboards and other similar devices.

For Hawai'i to meet its statutory target "to sequester more greenhouse gases than emitted as soon as practicable but no later than 2045", significant reductions in emissions from ground transportation will need to be made in the near to medium term. For significant reductions to be made all market segments in Hawai'i need to be addressed. SB 809, SD2, supports the proliferation of low-emission transportation options, including micro-mobility options which can reduce transportation emissions.

SB 809, SD2, may be particularly impactful in reducing fossil-fuel powered vehicle miles traveled and related transportation emissions because the majority of trips taken in Hawai'i are short trips, the ideal trip to be made via micro-mobility options. According to the Drivers of VMT and Priority Reduction Strategies Report for Hawaii, 30% of all trips made are under 1 mile, 60% of trips made are under 3 miles, and 70%

of trips made are under 5 miles.¹ This presents the State the tremendous opportunity to reduce fossil-fuel powered vehicle miles traveled and related transportation emissions by incentivizing the purchase of micro-mobility options that could serve residents' short trip needs.

SB 809, SD2, can reduce the cost of transportation for residents who need it the most. After housing, childcare, and food, the cost of transportation in Hawai'i represents the biggest monthly expense for many residents.² While the high costs affect everyone, they especially hit low-income people who are struggling to get by. The average cost of owning a vehicle in Hawai'i is \$8,100 annually, or \$675 per month, when factoring in the various costs, including gas, maintenance and insurance.³ With 80% of Hawai'i households owning two or more cars⁴, households who do own at least two cars face a \$16,200 annual expense, or about \$1,350 a month for transportation. Rebates for electric bicycles, scooters, and other micro-mobility devices will provide low-income residents with greater access to a diversity of affordable travel options while helping reduce Hawai'i's greenhouse gas emissions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

¹ "Drivers of VMT and Priority Reduction Strategies for Hawaii." State Smart Transportation Initiative. 2022.

² <https://www.civilbeat.org/2022/03/why-it-costs-so-much-to-own-a-car-in-hawaii/#:~:text=According%20to%20a%202021%20study,includ%20gas%2C%20maintenance%20and%20insurance.>

³ <https://ulupono.com/news-listing/report-examines-hawaii-s-21-8-billion-vehicle-economy/>

⁴ <https://www.civilbeat.org/2022/03/why-it-costs-so-much-to-own-a-car-in-hawaii/#:~:text=According%20to%20a%202021%20study,includ%20gas%2C%20maintenance%20and%20insurance.>