



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Tuesday, March 14, 2023
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

In SUPPORT of
SB 973, SD2

RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports SB 973, SD2, which requires rental vehicle companies using state facilities to pay or reimburse the State to install new or utilize existing state electric vehicle charging infrastructure at public facilities beginning January 1, 2028; establishes a task force to develop and implement electric vehicle charging infrastructure to support one hundred per cent electric vehicle rental car fleets in the State by 2035; and requires annual reports to the Legislature. 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.

Hawai'i has been a leader in making necessary changes towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and 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, Hawai'i 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 (ZEVs) 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 commitment.

Rental motor vehicles represent one of the largest passenger vehicle fleets in Hawai'i and are responsible for a significant amounts of carbon emissions. Transitioning rental motor vehicle fleets to ZEVs 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 also help accelerate charging infrastructure deployment at hotels, resorts and other tourist destinations, and demonstrate to all who visit the State that Hawai'i is a leader in clean energy and sustainable transportation.

Charging infrastructure and charging capabilities at rental hubs, hotels, and visitor attractions will require significant upgrades. Airport 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 engaged with the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development and the Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) and respectfully suggest that HDOT be designated as the lead of the task force consistent with their oversight of airport and associated rental car facilities. Also, Section 2 of SB973 SD2 includes a section in HRS 437D requiring all rental car companies utilizing state facilities to pay for construction of, or reimburse the State for, construction of new charging infrastructure or use of existing charging infrastructure starting January 1, 2028. HSEO requests additional clarity on the intent of the language in Section 2 in relation to the purpose of the task force which is "to determine, develop, and implement electric vehicle charging infrastructure to support one hundred per cent electric vehicle rental fleets by 2035." HSEO is engaging with departments and agencies regarding implementation of task force charging infrastructure recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.