



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Wednesday, March 1, 2023
10:10 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Providing COMMENTS on
SB 1247, SD1

RELATING TO WASTE-TO-ENERGY.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on SB 1247, SD1. SB 1247, SD1, deletes the language that would have required the waste-to-energy (WTE) facility to be developed on land under the jurisdiction of the Department of Land and Natural Resources and makes other amendments.

HSEO appreciates the contribution 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 acknowledges it has limited expertise and experience in public-private partnerships as a means to carry out its statutory duties. Building such capacity within HSEO would require additional resources and staffing. HSEO is also concerned its role as a project partner would compromise its neutrality with Hawai'i regulatory agencies and its current ability to facilitate projects by serving as a conduit between the private and public sectors, including matters in front of the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission.

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

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 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 a regulated public utility 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 [Board-Grid-Scale-Renewables-4.png \(2000x2603\) \(hawaiianelectric.com\)](#)