



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

Tuesday, April 4, 2023
10:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

In SUPPORT of
HB 949, HD2

RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee, 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.