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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Tuesday, January 30, 2024
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

Providing Comments on
HB 1970

RELATING TO ENERGY.

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) provides comments on HB 1970 which requires solar conduit and electric panel readiness for new residential construction offered for sale at fair market value and electric vehicle readiness when an electrical panel and parking area are installed.

HSEO has made clear that a significant increase in availability and use of electric vehicles and photovoltaic panels are necessary for Hawai'i to attain its clean energy and decarbonization statutory targets. HSEO's [Hawai'i Pathways to Decarbonization Report](#),¹ to the 2024 Hawai'i State Legislature advised that promoting the transition to battery electric vehicles (BEVs) can significantly reduce emissions from vehicle operation while acknowledging that distributed solar and storage will continue to play an important role in meeting Hawai'i's decarbonization goals.

The intent of this measure is economically sound, as the cost of installing electric-vehicle-ready, solar conduit, and electrical panel ready systems is considerably lower than retrofit installations. When EV and PV supportive infrastructure is installed during construction, homeowners benefit from the greater ease and cost-effectiveness of incorporating electric vehicles and photovoltaic power systems into their homes.

¹ Hawaii State Energy Office. *Hawai'i Pathways to Decarbonization*. 2023. https://energy.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Act-238_HSEO_Decarbonization_Report.pdf¹

The counties of Maui and Honolulu have already amended versions of the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code, including the requirement for electric vehicle and solar conduit and electric panel readiness which address the intent of this measure. The counties of Kaua'i and Hawai'i are expected to adopt similar measures, which HSEO supports.

HSEO is concerned, however, about unintended consequences of incorporating an energy-code level of detail into the state "energy resources" statute as building codes necessarily and regularly change with advancements in technology, cost, materials, and conformity with other building codes. This could potentially result in later difficulties reconciling State and County requirements. Therefore, HSEO respectfully recommends against incorporating any requirements into Chapter 196 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes that would most appropriately be contained in county-level codes and enforced at the county level.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.