



# 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 & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Thursday, February 8, 2024  
9:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

In Support of  
**HB 2020**

## **RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.**

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports, with a recommended amendment, HB 2020 that modifies the definition of "renewable energy producer" in section 171-95 to allow renewable energy producers to sell to entities other than an electric utility company.

HSEO believes that (1) clarifying the definition would be helpful, and (2) the anticipated need for renewable energy extends beyond the electricity sector, since the state's decarbonization goals include the reduction in greenhouse gases from fuels used in the transportation sector, utility gas, and nonregulated fuel gases.

The statutory language, as it currently exists, is somewhat complex. The proposed revision, referencing HRS 269-91, provides welcome consistency between statutes.

HSEO recommends a slight adjustment to ensure that district cooling and sea water air conditioning are able to continue as recognized technologies eligible for these provisions, consistent with Act 205, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007. Using renewable resources to directly provide energy-efficient cooling (i.e. not having to be converted into electricity first and then into cooling) is a potentially powerful means of reducing energy imports and avoiding emissions. Since "sea-water air-conditioning district cooling" is

recognized in HRS section 269-91 as an efficiency technology, this change is consistent with the other reference to HSR section 269-91.

Since there are already two paragraphs, (1) and (2), a simple approach that would retain district cooling would be to add a third paragraph, as follows:

“(3) Any provider of district heating or cooling services utilizing renewable energy.”

HSEO defers to the appropriate agency on the administration of this measure.  
Thank you for the opportunity to testify.