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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Friday, February 23, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

In Support of
HB 2582

RELATING TO CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE INFORMATION.

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports HB 2582 that excludes critical infrastructure information from disclosure requirements under the Uniform Information Practices Act.

HSEO, through our work with energy sector partners in emergency response and energy security planning, understands the sensitive nature of energy system information. Energy isn't simply one of Federal Emergency Management Agency's designated lifelines; it's the enabling lifeline, powering every aspect of our communities, from communication and healthcare to transportation and water treatment. A disruption to our energy system has impacts that are felt in every facet of our lives, highlighting the critical need for robust security measures.

HSEO collaborates closely with industry partners as well as other agencies such as the Office of Homeland Security on their Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) program, actively engaging in information sharing and threat mitigation strategies. However, a persistent hurdle remains: private industry's concerns about government's ability to protect sensitive information under transparency laws such as UIPA.

Exclusion of critical infrastructure information from UIPA, as proposed in this bill, presents an opportunity to alleviate these concerns and foster a more collaborative environment, encouraging the necessary flow of information between industry partners and government agencies. By understanding vulnerabilities and potential threats, we can anticipate, mitigate, and work to prevent catastrophic disruptions to our energy infrastructure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.