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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Friday, February 23, 2024
10:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211 and Videoconference

In Support of
SB 2070, SD1

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports SB 2070 SD1, which exempts career and technical education (CTE) goods and services purchases by the Hawai'i Department of Education (HIDOE) from the State Procurement Code. The SD1 requires HIDOE to obtain three quotes for CTE purchases of not more than \$100,000.

One way in which HSEO supports workforce development is through serving as an Industry Representative on HIDOE's CTE Energy Pathway Advisory Council and Energy Pilot Project Team. The metric for HSEO's work on the Council is the energy-related framework that is included in high school curricula for those interested in exploring a career in energy.

In 2022, HSEO's collaboration with HIDOE and the Maui Economic Development Board resulted in published clean energy curricula and toolkits to train teachers in primarily Title I K-12 schools in Hawai'i. These publicly-available resources are examples of the tangible metrics which empower teacher, student, and family participation in Hawai'i's transition to a decarbonized economy.

The metric for the 2023-2024 school year was the Energy Pathway, a curricula developed and launched at James Campbell High School, Kapolei High School, and

Kealahou High School with the support of industry, teachers, and administrative representatives. The Energy Pathway includes three Programs of Study – (1) Renewable Energy Technologies, (2) Alternative Fuels Technologies, and (3) Power Grid Technologies – each leading with a Foundations of Energy course in the first year followed by three subsequent courses.

SB 2070, SD1, would enable HDOE to upgrade its CTE programs and provide its students with workspaces that reflect current (and future) industry worksites by providing HDOE the ability to timely procure tools and equipment that meet industry standards. HSEO supports SB 2070, SD1, as an efficiency measure to better prepare Hawai'i's students for the current and emerging workforce regardless of where their school is located, enabling equity in access to CTE programs across the state. Students will be able to develop and practice the skills they need to succeed in their industry of study including the clean energy and skilled trades sectors.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this worthy measure.