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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS
AND
WATER AND LAND**

Wednesday, February 7, 2024
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225 and Videoconference

Provides Comments on
SB 2141

RELATING TO ELECTRIC GRID RESILIENCY.

Chairs Wakai and Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committees, the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) respectfully offers comments on SB 2141 which establishes a Homeland Security and Resiliency Council to assess the resilience of the State's electric grid and other critical infrastructure to natural disasters and other emergencies. The purpose of the Council would be to identify electric grid and other critical infrastructure needs and provide recommendations for enhancing grid and critical infrastructure resiliency throughout the State.

Consistent with Presidential Policy Directive 21 (2013), the State of Hawai'i and HSEO take an "all hazards" approach to resilience. This approach has enabled HSEO to coordinate effectively under Emergency Support Function #12 within the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Disaster Recovery Framework and pursue activities with qualified coordinating entities such as that proposed in SB 2141.

For example, HSEO participated from July of 2019 to November 2021 in the Resilience Working Group (RWG) established as part of the Integrated Grid Planning process of Hawaiian Electric Company under the direction of the Hawai'i Public Utilities

Commission (PUC). The RWG gathered a broad cross section of industries, academia, and county, state, and federal governmental agencies that have an interest in grid resilience, including HSEO, branches of the U.S. Department of Defense, and Maui County. Similar to the purpose of SB 2141, the RWG goals were to: 1) Identify and prioritize resilience threat scenarios and potential grid impacts; 2) Identify key customer and infrastructure sector capabilities and needs following a severe event and loss of power; 3) Identify gaps and priorities in grid and customer capabilities following a severe event and loss of power; 4) Provide recommendations and inputs for the Integrated Grid Plan to address resilience needs; 5) Recommend additional grid and customer actions to close gaps in capabilities following severe events; and 6) Identify opportunities and locations to enhance grid resilience that may provide greater public benefits.

HSEO notes that some of the recommendations of the RWG Report are either under development or being pursued using innovative technologies through approved and pending Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Grid Resiliency funding (Sections 40101(d) and 40103(b)), and PUC Docket 2022-0135. These efforts are consistent with Part IX of HRS §269-141 that addresses Electric Reliability, and the capabilities of advanced grid modernization technology to improve the operational capability of the Hawai'i electric system, including but not limited to automatic restoration of electrical service in response to power disturbance events and resilient operation against both physical and cyber-based attacks. HSEO also notes that the Public Utilities Commission has authority under §269-16.1 to establish performance incentive and penalty mechanisms on such topics as electric service reliability.

Given this activity, HSEO believes that this council may not be necessary. If the Legislature, however, were to enact this measure, HSEO would recommend that it be listed as a member, given its statutory duties and recent participation in similar activities and working groups.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.