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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON
ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM
AND
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

Tuesday, February 13, 2024
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229 and Videoconference

In Support of
SB 2675

RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY AND FOOD SECURITY.

Chairs DeCoite and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Wakai and Richards, and members of the Committees, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers testimony in support of SB 2675, which provides direction on improving the ability of renewable energy production to support local food security.

HSEO appreciates that this proposal requires HSEO to build on prior work by those in the private sector, academia, and state agencies to facilitate the co-location of clean energy and local food production. This bill would allow HSEO to leverage the excellent research of the agrivolatics project of the Hawai'i Agricultural Research Center and Clearway Energy Group, as well as research into Sustainable Aviation Fuels by the Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute. The bill would support the growth of local biofuels production as a potential source of required firm renewable energy by building on the continued leadership of Pacific Biodiesel in a manner that could be replicated and expanded locally. The bill appropriately calls for cooperation among state agencies with roles and responsibilities concerning contaminated land and agricultural production.

HSEO's energy strategy includes strategies such as phytoremediation to improve the availability and health of agricultural lands. Phytoremediation relies on vegetation to

pull toxins out of the soil, and this bill would focus on increasing biofuel production from the otherwise inedible crop. These biofuels can be used to significantly reduce the carbon footprint of electricity generation, heavy duty transportation, and aviation. While this approach to biofuel production will not completely displace the need for imported fuels given the limited available land in Hawai'i, this bill would fund important next steps to deepen our understanding of this resource and support the balanced growth of this sector. The work required by this bill would also enable the state to better understand the potential and appropriate balance and subsidies of biofuel crops to become an active land management strategy for large parcels vis-a-vis other agricultural uses.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.