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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Tuesday, January 30, 2024
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 and Videoconference

Providing Comments on
SB 2892

RELATING TO MOPEDS.

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) provides comments on SB 2892 which establishes a fee on the sale of new combustion engine-powered mopeds and requires that all fees collected from the sale of combustion engine-powered mopeds be deposited into the Electric Moped Rebate Program Special Fund.

To decarbonize our economy and meet Hawai'i's goal of reducing carbon emission to 50% by 2030, Hawai'i will need significant reductions in emissions from ground transportation by 2030 and a net negative carbon economy by 2045. HSEO's Hawai'i Pathways To Decarbonization, Act 238, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2022 highlights reducing the amount of energy needed for ground transportation as one of the two major facets to reducing emissions in ground transportation¹. SB 2892 provides funding to the Electric Bicycle and Electric Moped Rebate Program which supports that strategy by incentivizing electric bicycles and potentially other modes of transportation proposed in SB 3021 captured under "electric mobility device" that reduce vehicle miles traveled from passenger vehicles.

¹ Page 104, 1. Reducing the amount of energy needed for ground transportation.

HSEO believes that the strategic use of incentives and directive language (carrots and sticks) could effectively support micro-mobility and other alternative transportation options. HSEO is reaching out to state agencies and doing research on the proposed fee on combustion engine-powered mopeds but will defer to the Department of Budget and Finance on the matter of fiscal impacts to the State Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.