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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Tuesday, February 27, 2024
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016 and Videoconference

Providing Comments on
SB 2997, SD1

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES.

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on SB 2997, SD1, that requires each electric utility to have a risk-based wildfire protection plan, which shall be filed with and approved by the Public Utilities Commission.

HSEO appreciates the need for utilities to maintain a risk-based wildfire protection plan, however HSEO prefers planning and mitigating against all-hazards. HSEO recently completed a FEMA Advance Assistance project that conducted a risk assessment for critical energy infrastructure on O'ahu for all-hazards and has been selected for a FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) planning grant to complete the same analysis for the rest of the state. HSEO also prefers a measure that considers a cost recovery mechanism for these activities such as securitization as it can offer better overall outcomes for ratepayers such as found in HB 2407, HD2, and SB 3096, SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.