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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

Thursday, March 14, 2024
1:01 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229 and Videoconference

In Support of
HB 1828, HD1

RELATING TO ENERGY-EFFICIENCY PORTFOLIO STANDARDS.

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports HB 1828, HD1, which extends the State's energy-efficiency portfolio standards (EEPS) from 2030 to 2045 and authorizes the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to establish interim goals by rule or order to maximize cost-effective energy-efficiency programs and technologies.

HSEO serves on the PUC's Technical Working Group of energy stakeholders that review and assess the State's progress to meeting that State's energy efficiency goals. HSEO also prepared and submitted the Hawai'i Pathways to Decarbonization Report¹ to the 2024 Hawai'i State Legislature that candidly reviews the significant challenges to meeting Hawai'i's decarbonization goals and the difficult, yet achievable, pathways to get there. There is consensus among the Technical Working Group and the

¹ Hawaii State Energy Office. *Hawai'i Pathways to Decarbonization*. 2023. https://energy.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Act-238_HSEO_Decarbonization_Report.pdf

Decarbonization Study that "energy efficiency and conservation" is the most important and cost-effective means to reduce electricity demand, thus negating the need to develop more electricity generation. The Decarbonization Report has a specific recommendation to update and extend the EEPS:²

Recommendation

Extend, update, and strengthen supportive policies for energy efficiency, such as the Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard (EEPS)...

Rationale

In both this report and similar national strategies, such as the "The Long-Term Strategy of the United States: Pathways to Net-Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2050," near-term action on energy efficiency provides the foundation for cost-effective and on-schedule decarbonization... Achieving this level of energy efficiency will require new policies and programs.

Given the critical importance of energy efficiency in Hawai'i's energy transition, extending the EEPS end goal date of 2045 to be consistent with the renewable portfolio standard and decarbonization policies are warranted, reasonable, and advisable.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

² Ibid, page 9.