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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
**HOUSE COMMITTEES ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
AND
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329 and Videoconference

Providing Comments on
SB2997, SD2, HD1

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES.

Chairs Nakashima and Tarnas, Vice Chairs Sayama and Takayama, and members of the Committees, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on SB2997, SD2, HD1, that creates a process for electric utilities to develop and submit risk-based wildfire protection plans to the Public Utilities Commission for approval and requires public utilities to report wildfires potentially caused by or occurring in connection with their operations.

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 Oahu for all-hazards and developed mitigation measures. A second Advance Assistance project 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 requests pairing language from HB2407, HD2 with specified language on securitization as a cost recovery mechanism for wildfire mitigation activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.