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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
**HOUSE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AND
WATER & LAND**

Thursday, March 14, 2024
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

Providing Comments on
SB 2997, SD2

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES.

Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama, Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and members of the Committees, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on SB 2997, SD2, 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 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 adding language from HB 2407, HD2, with specifications and minimum requirements on acceptable wildfire mitigation plans and methodology for securitization as a cost recovery mechanism for these activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.