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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Tuesday, March 12, 2024
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

Providing Comments on
SB 3010, SD1

RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on SB 3010, SD1, that requires the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to direct the Hawai'i State Energy Office, and work with utility companies and other renewable energy developers, on all applicable planning, leasing, and permitting processes to expedite the development of renewable energy resources.

HSEO appreciates the intent of the measure to broaden the title of section 196-41 from "renewable portfolio standards," which pertains to electricity generation, to a broader scope, that of "renewable energy projects and renewable portfolio standards," in other words, fuel production.

However, the section on page 2, lines 9-13, pertaining to DBEDT directing HSEO to work with utility companies and other renewable energy developers is unnecessary, as such activities are authorized by the Legislature directly to the Hawai'i State Energy Office and Chief Energy Officer in Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Sections 196-71 and 196-72 (emphasis in "bold" added):

Section 196-71, subsection (a), states, "The purpose of the Hawaii state energy office shall be to promote energy efficiency, **renewable energy**, and clean transportation to help achieve a resilient clean energy economy."

Section 196-71, subsection (b), states, "The Hawaii state energy office shall... Provide analysis and planning to actively develop ... **renewable energy** ... with the legislature, public utilities commission, **state agencies, and other relevant stakeholders... Provide renewable energy... project deployment facilitation** to assist private sector project completion ... **Engage the private sector ... to achieve renewable energy ... goals...**"

Finally, section 196-72, subsection (d), states that the chief energy officer shall "Facilitate the **efficient, expedited permitting** of energy efficiency, **renewable energy**, clean transportation, and energy resiliency projects by coordinating and aligning state and county departments and agencies to support, expedite, and remove barriers to deployment of energy initiatives and projects."

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.