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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Tuesday, April 2, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329 and Videoconference

In Support of
HCR 213, HD1 / HR 193, HD1

**REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE TO CONVENE A
RENEWABLE LIQUID FUELS WORKING GROUP TO STUDY LOCAL
PRODUCTION, DEVELOPMENT, AND INCENTIVES FOR RENEWABLE LIQUID
FUELS.**

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports HCR 213, HD1 / HR 193, HD1, requesting HSEO to convene a renewable liquid fuels working group to study local production, development, and incentives for renewable liquid fuels.

Hawai'i's energy strategy seeks to establish an affordable, clean, resilient, and diversified energy resource portfolio. Locally-produced renewable fuels should play a vital role in the energy mix needed to decarbonize the transportation sector and contribute to Hawai'i's 100% renewable portfolio. However, land availability severely limits the amount of local production towards Hawaii's economic, energy and agricultural objectives. HSEO agrees with the merit of convening local experts to identify potential opportunities, synergies, and barriers for these fuels. HSEO confirms that it can comply with the proposed timeline and intends to provide a progress report to the Legislature prior to the convening of the 2025 Legislative Session.

Renewable liquid fuels have the potential to decrease carbon emissions from transportation, especially in aircraft and medium and heavy-duty vehicles.¹ However, the Decarbonization Report prepared by HSEO pursuant to Act 238 (2022) and submitted to the Hawai'i Legislature in December of 2023 pointed out that renewable liquid fuels have widely varying environmental and cost profiles, depending on a variety of factors. The proposed working group could bring together the appropriate energy stakeholders to meaningfully engage in an analytical review of resource base potential and the most appropriate approaches, strategies, realistic quantities, and associated incentives and recommendations for local production of renewable liquid fuels.

HSEO is committed to the development of effective solutions for renewable liquid fuels that serve Hawai'i's environmental, economic, and community needs, and is already engaged in tracking the production of renewable fuels in Hawai'i. HSEO looks forward to supporting this sector of the energy economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

¹ Hawai'i State Energy Office (2023). Hawai'i Pathways to Decarbonization Report to the 2024 Hawai'i State Legislature Act 238 (SLH 2022). Available at: https://energy.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Act-238_HSEO_Decarbonization_FinalReport_2023.pdf pages 105 and 113