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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Thursday, February 6, 2025
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

In Support of
HB 242

RELATING TO ELECTRIC VEHICLE BATTERIES.

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai‘i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports HB 242, with suggested amendments, which convenes a working group within the Hawai‘i State Energy Office, co-chaired with the Department of Health, to make recommendations for the reuse and recycling of electric vehicle batteries.

The rapid development of the electric vehicle (EV) industry brings exciting opportunities for innovation and sustainability. As we navigate the complexities of living in an island state, we have the chance to pioneer effective management practices that ensure health and safety while addressing regulatory requirements. For example, by incorporating circular economy principles that prioritize safety, affordability, and sustainability, we can help to develop local industries managing the processing of lithium-ion batteries (LIBs) at the end of their useful lifetime (EOL) and in a way that creates and retains good paying jobs in Hawaii, as well as set a positive example for others to follow and contribute to a greener future.

The batteries within electric vehicles provide a pathway towards decarbonizing our transportation sector. The Decarbonization Report prepared by HSEO pursuant to Act 238 (2022) and submitted to the Hawai‘i Legislature in December 2023 mentions

how “ground transportation sector tailpipe emissions comprise 38% of all transportation emissions in Hawai‘i. In 2019, ground transportation contributed 4.03 MMT CO2e, making up 18.3% of the aggregated state gross total of 22.01 MMT CO2e emissions.”[1] In addition to this observation, the report also states that decarbonization requires a two-prong approach: reducing the amount of energy for ground transportation and transitioning to zero-emission vehicles.

As Hawai‘i develops a more resilient energy economy, it is important that the transition be equitable, economic, resource-efficient and above all practically executable. HSEO agrees with the intention of convening a group of experts in technology, law, government and industry to develop a report that can inform the management practices for EV batteries in Hawai‘i, along with the supporting required regulatory framework.

To that end, HSEO recommends adding HNEI as a member, as they have already, in collaboration with HSEO, researched the framework for management of EOL LIBs over three reports.[2] In addition, HNEI will, this year and in collaboration with HSEO and the Hawaii Energy Policy Forum, lead a new working group of participants across the full logistical train of participants in Hawaii, in defining the requirements (i.e. insurance, utilities, land, first responders, State and Federal) for a number of options to manage the processing of EOL LIBs. Understanding these requirements is essential to our development of sound policy that the entire industry is likely to support and be able to execute.

In support of this, HSEO also respectfully recommends the following:

1. One addition to page 3, line 7:

   > (3) One representative from the battery energy storage industry;

   This provides clarity and supports the focus on batteries.

2. One addition to page 4, line 5:

   > Potential stationary energy storage systems as a second option,

   This narrows the scope to systems that are pertinent to the bill and avoids potential confusion.

HSEO is dedicated to developing effective solutions for reuse and EOL management of EV batteries that enhance energy security and use of materials.

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 102 and 106

[2] Hawaii Natural Energy Institute (HNEI), three reports:

2022: *Final Report to Provide Recommendations on Waste Management of Clean Energy Products in Hawai‘i to the 2023 Legislature under Act 92 and HB 1333,* December 2022 (https://www.hnei.hawaii.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023-HNEI-Act92-Final-Report-Clean-Energy-Products-Waste-Management.pdf);

2023: *Policy Recommendations on Waste Management of Clean Energy Products in Hawai‘i – Supplemental Report to the Hawai‘i State Legislature in Accordance with HB1333*, December 2023 (https://www.hnei.hawaii.edu/wp-content/uploads/HNEI-Act92-Supplemental-Report-Clean-Energy-Products-Waste-Management.pdf);

2024: *Waste Management of EOL PV Panels and LIBs in Hawai‘i*, December 2024 (https://www.hnei.hawaii.edu/wp-content/uploads/Waste-Management-of-EOL-PV-Panels-and-LIBs-in-Hawaii.pdf).