HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE
STATE OF HAWAII

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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Tuesday, January 28, 2025
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

In Support of
HOUSE BILL NO. 243

RELATING TO ENERGY.

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai‘i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports HB243, which requires solar conduit- and electrical panel-readiness for new residential construction and electric vehicle (EV)-readiness when electrical panels and parking areas are installed, beginning January 1, 2026. This measure is an important step in ensuring that Hawai‘i's new construction is aligned with our renewable energy and decarbonization goals, helping to reduce future retrofitting costs and providing foundational readiness for clean energy adoption.

Meeting Hawai‘i's target of a net-negative carbon economy by 2045 requires significant action across all sectors, including electricity and ground transportation. By incorporating photovoltaic (PV) and EV infrastructure readiness into new construction, this bill helps minimize future retrofitting costs and ensures that homes and multi-family residences are built to support the adoption of renewable energy and zero-emission vehicles.

The HSEO's *Hawai‘i Pathways to Decarbonization* report,[1] submitted to the Legislature in December 2023 pursuant to Act 238 (2022), highlights the importance of transitioning to renewable energy and increasing the adoption of Zero Emission

[1] https://energy.hawaii.gov/what-we-do/clean-energy-vision/decarbonization-strategy/

Vehicles (ZEVs) to achieve the state’s decarbonization goals. Analysis from the City and County of Honolulu’s Office of Climate Change, Sustainability, and Resiliency as well as Ulupono shows that retrofitting existing buildings to accommodate PV and EV infrastructure can be 3 to 8 times more expensive than incorporating readiness measures during initial construction. A disproportionate percentage of the cost increase is associated with permitting, project management, and raceway. Permitting has been a priority issue especially as it can be dealt with upfront, saving time and money.

This proactive approach is critical, as retrofitting completed homes often involves costly and disruptive activities such as trenching, demolition, and re-paving. By requiring readiness at the construction stage, HB243 ensures that future homeowners can more easily and affordably install PV systems and EV chargers, which will support broader adoption of renewable energy and clean transportation statewide.

Hawai‘i’s decarbonization goals depend on forward-thinking policies like HB243, which remove barriers to PV and EV adoption while ensuring that infrastructure development aligns with long-term sustainability objectives. HSEO supports this measure as it complements ongoing efforts to accelerate the state’s transition to clean energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.