



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

235 South Beretania Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone:
Web:

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

MARK B. GLICK
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

(808) 451-6648
energy.hawaii.gov

Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Tuesday, March 18, 2025
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211 and Videoconference

In Support of
HB 300, HD1

RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments with suggested amendments supporting the intent of HB 300, HD1 which appropriates funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch for fiscal years 2025-2026 and 2026-2027.

We respectfully seek your support of HSEO's BED 120 suggested budget requests to ensure HSEO is appropriately staffed and funded to carry out its statutory duties under HRS 196-71 in fulfilling the State's top priorities to a secure, resilient, clean energy economy.

HSEO requests the Committee's consideration for amending the following:

Adjustment: SEQ#100-001 – Add Funds for Hawai'i State Energy Office

Impact Statement: This request is an increase in payroll for the salaries of six mission critical positions in the HSEO. We appreciate the House approval to increase the base budget for five positions. However, we are requesting your consideration for funds in the amount of \$20,432 for PN 124584 be included. An increase in the base budget is needed to attract qualified candidates to fill the position. This position is

currently vacant. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the mean salary for an economist in Hawai'i is \$100,000. The current budgeted salary is \$77,521. This increase would raise the base budget to \$98,000. To attract and retain a qualified employee an increase in the budgeted salary is necessary to be competitive in the current market.

Adjustment: SEQ#101-001 – Personal Services for Temp Chief Energy Officer

Impact Statement: This request will appropriately fund the position of the Chief Energy Officer, established by the Legislature under Act 122, SLH 2019. Additional funds are needed to cover a payroll shortfall from the salary amount currently provided for the position that places the agency's statutory head among the lower half of paid positions in the agency at \$80,625. The requested salary adjustment will realign the budget with actual costs and allow the program to utilize OCE funds now covering the shortfall to support critical operational expenses.

HSEO respectfully requests your favorable consideration of these requests.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.