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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Wednesday, February 12, 2025
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 430 and Videoconference

In Support of
HOUSE BILL 346 HD1

RELATING TO ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE.

Chair Evslin, Vice Chair Miyake, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers testimony in support on HB 346 HD1, which provides rebates for the installation of eligible electric vehicle-ready parking stalls for new construction of affordable housing.

To meet Hawai'i's decarbonization goals, significant emissions reductions from ground transportation are required by 2030 to place the state on a trajectory toward achieving a net-negative carbon economy by 2045. HSEO's *Hawai'i Pathways to Decarbonization* report,¹ submitted to the Legislature in December 2023 pursuant to Act 238 (2022), emphasizes the transition to Zero-Emission Vehicles (ZEV) as a key strategy to reducing emissions in ground transportation. Expanding access to reliable electric vehicle (EV) charging, particularly for residents of multi-unit dwellings and affordable housing, is an essential component of this strategy.

Currently, Hawai'i has approximately 47 registered EVs per public charging port statewide,² the second worst ratio in the nation. This marks a decline from the previous year, when Hawai'i ranked third worst with 38 EVs per charging port.³ While EV adoption continues to grow, the expansion of charging infrastructure has not kept

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

² Alliance for Automotive Innovation: Get Connected Electric Vehicle Quarterly Report, Third Quarter 2024

³ Alliance for Automotive Innovation: Get Connected Electric Vehicle Quarterly Report, Third Quarter 2023

pace—widening the gap by roughly 24% year over year. This lag in charging availability risks slowing the potential growth of EV adoption, particularly among residents without reliable access to home charging. Without expanded access to charging, particularly in underserved communities, achieving equitable EV adoption will remain challenging.

HB 346 HD1 directly addresses this challenge by incentivizing EV-ready parking stalls in affordable housing developments. This measure ensures that low- and moderate-income communities, who are often the most affected by transportation costs and environmental burdens, can participate in and benefit from the state's transition to a cleaner transportation system.

All three mitigation scenarios in the *Hawai'i Pathways to Decarbonization* report assume Hawai'i will achieve 100% ZEV light-duty vehicle sales by 2035, with 21% of registered light-duty passenger vehicles needing to be ZEVs by 2030. Achieving these goals requires policies that remove barriers to EV adoption, including access to charging infrastructure for residents in affordable housing. The HSEO supports HB 346 HD1 as long as its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.