



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
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. 346

RELATING TO ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE.

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers testimony in support on HB346, which provides rebates for the installation of electric vehicle (EV)-ready parking stalls for new affordable housing developments, addressing a critical need to expand equitable access to EV charging infrastructure across the state.

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 (ZEVs) as a key strategy to reducing emissions in ground transportation. Expanding access to reliable EV charging, particularly for residents of multi-unit dwellings and affordable housing, is an essential component of this strategy.

Unfortunately, Hawai'i is failing to do this. Currently, Hawai'i has approximately 47 registered EVs per public charging port statewide,² the second worst ratio in the

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

nation. This compares to 38 registered EVs per public charging port statewide,³ and third worst in the nation, the year before. Hawai'i's growing deficit in EV charging infrastructure, about a 24% increase year over year, creates a significant barrier to EV adoption. Reliable access to charging at home is critical, as evidenced by data from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), which underscores the importance of overnight charging availability for 90% of EV drivers by 2030. Without expanded access, particularly in underserved communities, achieving equitable ZEV adoption will remain challenging.

HB346 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 HB346 as long as its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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