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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
HB 350, HD1

RELATING TO ENERGY.

Chair Evslin, Vice Chair Miyake, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports HB 350, HD1, that expands the types of water heater systems that may satisfy the relevant requirement for the issuance of a building permit for new single-family dwellings to include ENERGY STAR certified heat pump water heaters.

Today's modern, ENERGY STAR Certified heat pump water heaters are highly energy efficient and able to participate in demand-response and time-of-use programs.¹ The ability to efficiently and flexibly use electricity makes them an excellent match for the use of excess on-site or grid-provided solar energy. This has the potential to provide grid support and cost savings now, with even greater benefits in the future.^{2,3}

Therefore, allowing the choice of an ENERGY STAR Certified heat pump water heater is consistent with Hawai'i's energy goals.

¹ US Environmental Protection Agency, <https://www.energystar.gov/productfinder/download/certified-heat-pump-water-heaters/> : Low-Usage Uniform Energy Factor (UEF): 2.52-3.45; Medium-Usage UEF: 3.0 – 3.88; High-Usage UEF: 2.85-4.07.

² Hawaii Energy, <https://hawaiienergy.com/for-homes/water-heating/heat-pump/>

³ Kauai Island Utility Cooperative, <https://kiuc.coop/great-water-heater-debate-heat-pump-or-solar>

HSEO also supports the requirement that only ENERGY STAR certified demand water heaters be included as acceptable alternatives if solar or heat pump water heaters are not feasible. There are currently 170 models of ENERGY STAR Certified gas-fueled demand water heaters.⁴

HSEO suggests that the definition on page 3, lines 1-3 be removed, as it is not necessary. However, if the definition is retained, HSEO recommends that it be revised as follows:

For the purposes of this subsection,
"heat pump" means a device that uses
electricity to move heat from one place to
another."

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

⁴ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, <https://www.energystar.gov/productfinder/download/certified-gas-water-heaters/> Medium-Usage Uniform Energy Factor (UEF): 0.97; High-Usage UEF: 0.95-0.98