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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
AND
HOUSING**

Tuesday, March 11, 2025
3:01 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016 and Videoconference

In Support of
HB 350, HD2

RELATING TO ENERGY.

Chairs Wakai and Chang, and Vice Chairs Chang and Hashimoto, and Members of the Committees, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports HB 350, HD2, 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

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