



# HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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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  
**HB 350**

**RELATING TO ENERGY.**

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports HB 350 that would update the 2008 solar water heater mandate to also allow certain heat pump water heaters, without use of the variance process, to satisfy the water heating requirements for new single-family residential construction; and would specify that gas tankless water heaters be ENERGY STAR Certified as well.

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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2,3</sup>

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

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

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

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

HSEO also supports the proposed revisions to subparagraph (4) on page 2. There are currently 170 models of ENERGY STAR Certified on demand gas water heaters.<sup>4</sup>

HSEO observes that adding a definition on page 3, lines 1-3 is inconsistent with the other water heater technologies that are not defined. Also, the certification requirement provides constraints to interpretation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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<sup>4</sup> 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