



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Tuesday, February 11, 2025
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329 and Videoconference

In Support of
HOUSE BILL 1161 HD1

RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Chun, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports HB1161 HD1 that provides authority for counties to impose a mileage-based road usage charge and clarifies the disposition of funds related to such charges.

HSEO's comments are guided by our statutory mission to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation as laid out in HRS §196-71 and the specific duties of the Chief Energy Officer pursuant to §196-72 relating to clean transportation, as well as the interface of clean transportation in the overall energy ecosystem.

As Hawai'i works toward decarbonizing its transportation sector and transitioning to cleaner, more sustainable transportation options, securing a reliable and equitable source of funding for transportation infrastructure is essential. HB 1161 HD1 aligns with the state's decarbonization goals by allowing counties to implement a mileage-based road usage charge. This shift from traditional fuel taxes to a per-mile charge is important for ensuring the financial sustainability of Hawai'i's transportation system as the use of electric vehicles (EVs) increases.

Additionally, we support the establishment of a state mileage-based road usage charge subaccount within the state highway fund to manage the collection of fees and the disbursement of reimbursements. This mechanism is crucial for ensuring that funds are directed toward essential transportation infrastructure needs, and we encourage continued collaboration with the Department of Transportation to ensure that these funds are allocated efficiently and transparently.

HSEO stands ready to work with the Department of Transportation and counties to further the state's decarbonization goals and ensure the success of a mileage-based road usage charge program that will support the evolving transportation needs of Hawai'i. We believe that this bill represents an important step toward a sustainable and fair transportation system in Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.