HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE
STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

MARK B. GLICK
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

South Beretania Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Telephone: (808) 451-6648
ing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804 Web: energy.hawaii.gov

Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
SENATE COMMITTEES ON
ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
AND
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, January 29, 2025
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 and Videoconference

In support of
SB 103

RELATING TO ELECTRIC VEHICLE BATTERIES.

Chairs Wakai and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Chang and Richards, and Members of the Committees, the Hawai‘i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports SB 103, with suggested amendments, which convenes a working group within the Hawai‘i State Energy Office, co-chaired with the Department of Health, to examine options for recycling, reuse, or repurposing of electric vehicle batteries.

The rapid development of the electric vehicle (EV) industry brings exciting opportunities for innovation and sustainability. As we navigate the complexities of living in an island state, we have the chance to pioneer effective management practices that ensure health and safety while addressing regulatory requirements. For example, by incorporating circular economy principles that prioritize safety, affordability, and sustainability, we can help to develop local industries managing the processing of LIBs at the end of their useful lifetime (EOL) and in a way that creates and retains good paying jobs in Hawaii, as well as set a positive example for others to follow and contribute to a greener future.

The batteries within electric vehicles provide a pathway towards decarbonizing our transportation sector. The Decarbonization Report prepared by HSEO pursuant to Act 238 (2022) and submitted to the Hawai‘i Legislature in December 2023 mentions how “ground transportation sector tailpipe emissions comprise 38% of all transportation emissions in Hawai‘i. In 2019, ground transportation contributed 4.03 MMT CO2e, making up 18.3% of the aggregated state gross total of 22.01 MMT CO2e emissions.”[1] In addition to this observation, the report also states that decarbonization requires a two-prong approach: reducing the amount of energy for ground transportation and transitioning to zero-emission vehicles.

As Hawai‘i develops a more resilient energy economy, it is important that the transition be equitable, economic, resource-efficient and above all practically executable. HSEO agrees with the intention of convening a group of experts in technology, law, government and industry to develop a report that can inform the management practices for EV batteries in Hawai‘i, along with the supporting required regulatory framework. To that end, we recommend adding HNEI as a member, as they have already, in collaboration with HSEO researched the framework for management of EOL LIBs over three reports [2,3,4][1]. In addition, HNEI will, this year and in collaboration with HSEO and the Hawaii Energy Policy Forum, lead a new working group of participants across the full logistical train of participants in Hawaii, in defining the requirements (i.e. insurance, utilities, land, first responders, State and Federal) for a number of options to manage the processing of EOL LIBs. Understanding these requirements is essential to our development of sound policy that the entire industry is likely to support and be able to execute.

In support of this, HSEO respectfully recommends the following:

1. One addition to page 3, line 7:

   `(3) One representative from the battery energy storage industry;`

   This provides clarity and supports the focus on batteries.

2. One addition to page 4, line 5:

   `Potential stationary energy storage systems as a second option,`

   This narrows the scope to systems that are pertinent to the bill and avoids potential confusion.

HSEO is dedicated to developing effective solutions for reuse and EOL management of EV batteries that enhance energy security and use of materials.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

[1] Hawai‘i State Energy Office (2023). Hawai‘i Pathways to Decarbonization Report to the 2024 Hawai‘i State Legislature Act 238 (SLH 2022). Available at: https://energy.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Act-238_HSEO_Decarbonization_FinalReport_2023.pdf pages 102 and 106
[2] https://www.hnei.hawaii.edu/wp-content/uploads/Waste-Management-of-EOL-PV-Panels-and-LIBs-in-Hawaii.pdf.
[3] https://www.hnei.hawaii.edu/wp-content/uploads/HNEI-Act92-Supplemental-Report-Clean-Energy-Products-Waste-Management.pdf.