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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
AND
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

Thursday, February 13, 2025
1:02 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229 and Videoconference

In SUPPORT of
SB 1396

RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Chairs DeCoite and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Wakai and Richards, and members of the Committees, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports SB 1396, an Administration measure, which establishes the Climate Mitigation and Resiliency Special Fund (CMRSF) and the Economic Development and Revitalization Special Fund (EDRS), increases the Transient Accommodations Tax (TAT) starting in 2026, and allocates funds generated by the increase to the newly established funds.

HSEO concurs with the Legislature's finding that immediate investments in climate change resilience and mitigation are needed to protect Hawai'i's economy and people. With a balanced approach, HSEO believes the TAT is an appropriate and effective vehicle to fund such investments given their long-term benefits to Hawai'i's visitor industry. HSEO stands ready to support the agencies tasked with administration of the CMRSF and EDRS, and the Selection Committee to review and recommend CMRSF investments; particularly those related to energy and transportation resilience.

As this is a fiscal issue, we defer to the appropriate agency for comment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.