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Testimony of **MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer**

before the **HOUSE COMMITTEES ON HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION**

Tuesday, March 11, 2025
8:59 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 430 and Videoconference

Providing Comments on
SENATE BILL 1669 SD2

RELATING TO TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT.

Chairs Evslin and Darius, Vice Chairs Tyson and Grandinetti, and Members of the Committees, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports the concept of SB 1669 SD2 that establishes a Transit Oriented Community Improvement Partnership and the Community Improvement Revolving Fund to facilitate transit-oriented development (TOD).

Emissions from transportation account for more than half of energy-related emissions and of those 36% come from ground transportation, as reported in the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report for 2021.¹ For Hawai'i to meet its statutory target "to sequester more greenhouse gases than emitted as soon as practicable but no later than 2045," significant reductions in emissions from ground transportation will need to be made in the near to medium term, via vehicle electrification as well as reductions in total vehicle miles traveled (VMT).²

TOD is a key strategy for reducing vehicle miles traveled, which directly contributes to lowering greenhouse gas emissions in Hawai'i. By promoting housing and infrastructure development near public transit hubs, this bill aligns with the State's goals for sustainability, energy efficiency, and emissions reduction. Compact, walkable, and

¹ https://health.hawaii.gov/cab/files/2024/05/2020-and-2021-Inventory_Final-Report_5-29-24.pdf

² <https://energy.hawaii.gov/what-we-do/clean-energy-vision/decarbonization-strategy/>

transit-friendly communities help decrease reliance on personal vehicles, support active transportation, and improve overall energy efficiency.

We appreciate the Legislature's commitment to smart growth policies that enhance community resilience while advancing the State's clean energy and emissions reduction objectives. The HSEO defers to the Department of Budget and Finance and other fiscal agencies on the financial impacts of SB 1669 SD2 and its impact on other priorities of the Executive Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.