



# HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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

before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

Friday, March 28, 2025  
10:02 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211 and Videoconference

In Support of  
**HB 1406, HD1, SD1**

**RELATING TO GOVERNMENT PROCEDURES.**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports on HB 1406, HD1, SD1, which establishes the Intergovernmental Task Force for Permit Simplification to identify actions taken, challenges encountered, and legislative measures necessary to facilitate, expedite, and coordinate state and intergovernmental development permit process.

HSEO candidly acknowledges the well-documented challenges with the permitting processes at the state and county levels throughout Hawai'i. These challenges have impeded the progress of renewable integration that is essential to thwart the harmful impacts of oil price volatility and make Hawai'i more energy secure. Electricity ratepayers everywhere—residents and businesses, schools and hospitals, INDOPACOM facilities and first responders—will all be grateful when these challenges are addressed.

HSEO has made permitting process improvements a priority and strongly supports the establishment of an intergovernmental Task Force dedicated to simplifying and streamlining the permitting process. We appreciate the Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs addressing our comments on HB 1406, HD1, and adding the

HSEO as a member of the Task Force. The work of this Task Force is directly related to HSEO's statutory role under HRS § 196-72(15) to: "Facilitate the efficient, expedited permitting of energy efficiency, renewable energy, clean transportation, and energy resiliency projects by: (A) Coordinating and aligning state and county departments and agencies to support, expedite, and remove barriers to deployment of energy initiatives and projects; and (B) Identify and evaluate conflicting or onerous policies and rules that unreasonably impede project development and deployment and propose regulatory, legislative, administrative, or other solutions to applicable stakeholders."

The Task Force objectives and activities are also directly related to HSEO's and state agency duties outlined in Executive Order No. 25-01 ("Order"), signed in January of this year.<sup>1</sup> The Order requires HSEO to work on multiple objectives related to accelerating the energy transition. Further, it requires all agencies to provide priority handling and processing for all state permits required for renewable energy projects". HSEO looks forward to participating in this working group to aid in achieving the aforementioned objective of the Order.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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<sup>1</sup> State of Hawai'i, Office of the Governor. (2025). *Executive Order No. 25-01: Accelerating Hawai'i's transition toward 100 percent renewable energy*. [https://governor.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/2501085\\_Executive-Order-No.-25-01.pdf](https://governor.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/2501085_Executive-Order-No.-25-01.pdf)