



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Tuesday, February 17, 2026
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 430 and Videoconference

Providing Comments on
HOUSE BILL NO 1620 HD1

RELATING TO ENERGY.

Chair Kila, Vice Chair Miyake, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers the following comments on HB 1620 HD1, which increases the environmental response, energy, and food security tax and the amount collected from the tax that is deposited into the electric vehicle charging system subaccount.

There is no dispute that meeting Hawai'i's decarbonization goals will require significant emissions reductions from ground transportation. HSEO found zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) and expanding access to reliable electric vehicle (EV) charging to be the primary strategies to achieve those goals in its 2023 *Hawai'i Pathways to Decarbonization* report,¹ presented to the Legislature pursuant to Act 238 (2022). But, Hawai'i's progress is lagging on public EV charging, with a ratio of about 44 registered EVs per public charging port statewide,² putting Hawai'i second to the bottom in the nation.

To achieve the State's decarbonization law, all three mitigation scenarios in the *Hawai'i Pathways to Decarbonization* report assume that by 2035 all sales of light-duty

¹ <https://energy.hawaii.gov/what-we-do/clean-energy-vision/decarbonization-strategy/>

² Alliance for Automotive Innovation: Get Connected Electric Vehicle Quarterly Report, Second Quarter 2025

vehicles in Hawai'i will be ZEVs. The report also assumes 21% of registered light-duty passenger vehicles will need to be ZEVs by 2030.

While achieving these goals requires policies that remove barriers to EV adoption, HSEO defers to the Department of Budget and Finance on whether imposing a tax at this time is an appropriate means of removing such barriers, as well as the fiscal impacts of this measure to the State budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.