



# HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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

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

Monday, February 9, 2026  
3:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 and Videoconference

Providing Comments on  
**SB 2373**

## **RELATING TO CARBON SEQUESTRATION.**

Chairs Gabbard and Wakai, Vice Chairs Richards and Chang, and Members of the Committees, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on SB 2373 that establishes a state goal to strengthen nature-based carbon emissions reduction solutions, directing certain state agencies to identify opportunities for investing in nature-based solutions that reduce carbon emissions, and authorizing the Hawai'i State Energy Office to develop methodologies to quantify carbon emissions reductions through marine ecosystem restoration and nature-based solutions.

HSEO agrees with the premise of SB 2373 to strengthen nature-based solutions that reduce carbon emissions and acknowledges that advancing carbon sequestration and emissions reduction is aligned with Hawai'i's long-term commitment to decarbonization.

HSEO also acknowledges its statutory focus placed by the Legislature pursuant to HRS 196-71 as the State's primary government entity for supporting the clean energy initiative and making progress on energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation goals. Furthermore, HRS 196-72, subsections (5) and (6) compel HSEO's Chief Energy Officer to identify market gaps and innovation opportunities,

collaborate with stakeholders, and facilitate public-private partnerships to develop projects, programs, and tools to encourage private and public exploration, research, and development of energy resources, distributed energy resources, and data analytics that will support the State's energy and decarbonization goals; and create and review proposed state actions that may have a significant effect on the State's energy and decarbonization goals, report to the governor their effect on the energy program, and perform other services as may be required.

Considering HSEO's statutory focus placed on energy and transportation sector solutions to reduce carbon emissions, HSEO respectfully deems a measure focused on nature-based solutions, including strategies such as marine ecosystem restoration, to fall outside of HSEO's statutory scope and core responsibilities. HSEO believes such efforts may be more appropriately led by agencies or research institutions with primary expertise and authority in this area and would recommend replacing HSEO with a more appropriate governmental or academic unit.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.