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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 09, 2026
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 and Videoconference

Providing Comments on
SENATE BILL NO. 2905

RELATING TO ENERGY.

Chairs Gabbard and Wakai, Vice Chairs Richards and Chang, and Members of the Committees, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers the following comments on Senate Bill No. 2905, 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 with Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) as a key strategy as reported in HSEO's *Hawai'i Pathways to Decarbonization report*¹ submitted to the Legislature in December 2023 pursuant to Act 238 (2022). Expanding access to reliable EV charging is also an essential component of this strategy. Currently, Hawai'i has approximately 44 registered EVs per public charging port statewide², the second worst ratio in the nation.

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

All three mitigation scenarios in the Hawai'i Pathways to Decarbonization report assume Hawai'i will achieve 100% ZEV light-duty vehicle sales by 2035, with 21% of registered light-duty passenger vehicles needing to be ZEVs by 2030. While achieving these goals requires policies that remove barriers to EV adoption, including access to charging infrastructure for residents in affordable housing, HSEO defers to the Department of Budget and Finance on whether imposing a tax is an appropriate means of removing such barriers at this time, as well as the fiscal impacts of this measure to the State budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.