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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Monday, March 2, 2026
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308 and Videoconference

Providing Comments on
HB 1566, HD1

RELATING TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY.

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) respectfully offers comments on HB 1566, HD1, that requires each state agency to expeditiously use energy-efficient lighting and would require, HSEO, with assistance from the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS), to provide technical assistance, survey state agencies for compliance, prioritize first responder facilities, and report its findings to the Legislature.

HSEO supports the continued transition to energy-efficient lighting across state facilities. Converting to LED lighting remains one of the most cost-effective strategies for reducing energy consumption. In addition to lowering electricity use, LED upgrades improve lighting quality, reduce cooling loads, and significantly decrease maintenance costs due to longer lamp life.

HSEO staff currently meet with State of Hawai'i facilities managers to assess and support the implementation of energy-efficiency measures. Several efforts are underway or have been recently completed. Through a grant received by HSEO from the U.S. Department of Energy, over 500 state facilities greater than 10,000 square feet are undergoing benchmarking to better understand energy use and identify and prioritize improvement opportunities. Another effort provided technical assistance to

DAGS, the Department of Health, Public Libraries, and the Film Office to assess facility energy performance and identify strategies to improve energy efficiency and onsite renewable energy generation. Recommendations include leveraging incentives and rebates offered by Hawai'i Energy, when appropriate, to help offset the costs of lighting retrofits, ventilation improvements, and equipment commissioning.¹

Many first responder facilities, including fire stations and police headquarters, have been retrofitted with LED lighting. The City & County of Honolulu tracks progress on these efforts through its progress tracker.² In addition, the State of Hawai'i, the City and County of Honolulu, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, and other public entities have utilized Energy Performance Contracting (EPC) to advance energy efficiency improvements at larger facilities.³ DAGS, the Department of Education, and the University of Hawai'i John A. Burns School of Medicine are currently exploring EPC financing options, and the Hawai'i Department of Defense is assessing EPC for energy-efficiency and renewable energy projects.

HSEO will continue to coordinate with DAGS and state agencies to support compliance with Act 225, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2023, and implement the objectives of HB 1566, HD1. Updates on these and other energy-efficiency initiatives, including survey results and recommendations, will be made available through HSEO's website and reports to the Legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

¹ https://energy.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/HSEO-State-Facility-Energy-Strategy-Report_2026.pdf

² <https://www.sustainablehonolulu.com/tracker>

³ <https://energy.hawaii.gov/energy-performance-contracting/>