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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i

January 22, 2008

Rep. Hermina M. Morita, Chair
Rep. Mele Carroll, Vice Chair
And Members
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Hearing Scheduled for Thursday, January 24, 2008, 8:30 AM
Conference Room 312
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI

Re: HB 2330 RELATING TO ELECTRIC VEHICLES

I wholeheartedly support HB 2330. I urge the passage of HB 2330 which requires the department of transportation to adopt rules for the registration of electric vehicles, and to issue special license plates for electric vehicle. This bill waives parking fees, high occupancy vehicle restrictions, and vehicle registration fees for electric vehicles.

I urge you to pass HB 2330

Aloha,

Bob Jacobson

Statement of
YUKA NAGASHIMA
Executive Director & CEO
High Technology Development Corporation
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Thursday January 24, 2008
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

In consideration of
HB 2330 RELATING TO ELECTRIC VEHICLES.

Chair Morita, Vice Chair Carroll, and Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection.

The High Technology Development Corporation supports the intent of HB 2330, and offers the following for consideration. The intent of Act 290, Session Laws of Hawaii 1997, was to encourage the purchase and use of zero-emission vehicles. To that end, HB 2330 should further define a zero-emission vehicle as one that does not include an on-board combustion process to derive its motive power. Zero-emission vehicles would include: battery powered electric vehicles, fuel cell powered vehicles, and fuel cell hybrid vehicles that include batteries or ultracapacitors. However, the term electric vehicle should not extend to a hybrid vehicle that includes any internal combustion engine, regardless of the fuel used in the combustion process, to include plug-in hybrid vehicles.

HTDC, through its Hawaii Center for Advanced Transportation Technologies, has been involved in the development and demonstration of electric drive technologies since 1993. This

experience has afforded us the opportunity to stay current on evolving technologies and the status of the electric vehicle industry.

The development of electric vehicles in the 1990s was driven by the California Zero-Emission Vehicle Mandate, but battery technology did not develop rapidly enough to provide the consumer desired driving range. Consequently, hybrid vehicles became a popular means to reduce tailpipe emissions and improve fuel economy by taking advantages of the developments in electric drive technology. Today, lithium batteries are making the demand for electric vehicles a reality once again.

If this bill is enacted into law, the burden on the counties to provide free registration is no greater than what was anticipated in the 1990s as there are still few production zero-emission vehicles available for purchase by consumers. Although fuel cell vehicles are being demonstrated in various locales by all the major automobile manufacturers, they are no more readily available for purchase than electric vehicles were in the 1990s. Fuel cell vehicles are not expected to reach limited production until the year 2015, so they, too, will not have a major impact on the waiver of vehicle registration fees for some time to come.

For all the above reasons, HTDC supports HB 2330, but strongly recommends adding text similar to above that targets vehicles with no internal combustion engine and no tailpipe emissions.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2330.

Testimony before the House Committee on
Energy & Environmental Protection

H.B. 2330, Relating to Electric Vehicles

Thursday, January 24, 2008
8:30 a.m., Conference Room 312

By Carlos Perez Loriga
Director
Customer Technology Applications Division
Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.

Chair Morita, Vice Chair Carroll and members of the Committee:

My name is Carlos Perez Loriga and I am testifying on behalf of Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc., and its subsidiary utilities, Maui Electric Company, Ltd., and Hawaii Electric Light Company, Inc.

H. B. 2330 proposes to permanently exempt electric vehicles from payment of certain parking fees, high occupancy vehicle restrictions, and motor vehicle registration and licensing fees.

Hawaiian Electric Company strongly supports H.B. 2330, to promote the increased use of fuel efficient electric vehicles. We encourage the committee to consider an amendment to include plug-in hybrid electric vehicles as well. Increased consumer acceptance of electric and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles will help to achieve reductions in greenhouse emissions and fossil fuel use; it will also increase energy efficiency and conservation, promote the use of renewable resources and decrease our dependency on imported oil.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.