

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



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IN REPLY REFER TO:

February 25, 2008

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

HOUSE BILL NO. 2330, H.D. 2

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

We support the passage of this bill in the hopes that it will promote the use of fully electric motor vehicles and decrease the state's dependency on fossil fuel.

Statement of
YUKA NAGASHIMA
Executive Director & CEO
High Technology Development Corporation
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Monday February 25, 2008
4:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
HB 2330 HD2 RELATING TO ELECTRIC VEHICLES.

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the House Committee on Finance.

The High Technology Development Corporation supports the intent of HB 2330 HD2. However, a significant provision included in HD1 has been omitted in HD2, and it should be reinstated.

The purpose of HB 2330 is to promote the use of electric vehicles, which should include all electric vehicles. HB 2330 HD2 places a distinction within classes of electric vehicles by providing a waiver of registration fees for neighborhood electric vehicles only. Both Act 290 and HB 2330 HD1 provided a waiver of registration fees for all electric vehicles. This provision should also be included in HD2. Act 290 had a "sunset clause" of five years for waiver of the vehicle registration fees. Similarly, HB 2330 requires a review of these incentives for use of electric vehicles every five years, which provides adequate control over the registration fee waiver. Since the total number of electric vehicles in the state is currently very low, this bill should maximize the incentives for all electric vehicles and not distinguish based on additional definitions in section 291C-1.

Additionally, since all electric vehicles are entitled to an electric vehicle license plate upon registration, the actual processing for registration would be standardized and more efficient if the waiver of fees applied to all, as county offices will not have to determine whether or not the electric vehicle qualifies as a neighborhood electric vehicle.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2330 HD2.

Testimony before the House Committee on
Finance

H.B. 2330, HD2 Relating to Electric Vehicles

Monday, February 25, 2008
4:00 p.m., Conference Room 308
Agenda #6

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

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee 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 HD2 proposes to exempt electric vehicles from payment of certain parking fees and high occupancy vehicle lane restrictions. It also waives motor vehicle registration taxes and fees for neighborhood electric vehicles.

Hawaiian Electric Company strongly supports H.B. 2330 HD2, 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.