

**BEFORE THE**  
**COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**  
Rep. Hermina M. Morita, Chair  
Rep. Denny Coffman, Vice Chair

**SB2231, SD1**  
**RELATING TO ELECTIC VEHICLES**

March 9, 2010, 9:00 am  
State Capitol, Room 325

*Comments of*

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Chairs Morita and Members Of The Committees On Energy and Environmental Protection :

My name is Brian Goldstein of Better Place Hawaii. Better Place Hawaii coordinates with Hawaii utilities, automobile dealers, state and county governments and other stakeholders to deploy an electric vehicle charging network powered by renewable energy.

Better Place Hawaii **SUPPORTS** SB2231 SD1. Taxpayer incentives outlined in this measure provide consumers and businesses with tax incentives to purchase EVs for their home or business use as well as exemptions on the installation of EV charging infrastructure. By the year 2015 the DOE anticipates 10,000+ electric vehicles could be on Hawaii's roads and highways. As automakers throughout the world begin to refine, develop and produce electric vehicles for consumer use, it is imperative that Hawaii lead the efforts in transforming its transportation systems to support electric vehicles. With the State's goal of utilizing renewable sources for 70% of its energy by 2030, government action to further the use of electric vehicles is essential.

Electric vehicles are cleaner, quieter and more efficient than gasoline powered cars, and can reduce pollution, noise and particulate matter in the environment. Electric vehicles are "Zero Emission Vehicles." They don't have any tailpipe emissions to contribute to smog in urban areas. With about 1.1 million registered vehicles in Hawaii, the ultimate replacement from fossil fuel-based cars to electric vehicles can contribute significantly to the state's overall goal of energy independence for Hawaii.

Furthermore, today's internal combustion engines contribute very little towards the development of renewable energy sources. Because these cars draw their power from oil and gas, they offer minimal incentive for utility companies to invest in or develop solar, wind, or geothermal power plants. Alternatively, electric vehicles, with their powered grids and batteries, create an enormous new market for utilities. The power storage issues that hinder the growth of

renewable energy can be alleviated as the EV infrastructure becomes a repository for excess electricity. As the EV network grows, the market for renewable energy can grow with it.

**It is important to note that the purchase of electric vehicles is just one aspect of the electrification of transportation in Hawaii. To support electric vehicles, an integrated EV charging system must be in place.** This would consist of the installation of EV charge spots in parking lots of fleet operators, subscribers' home garages, office parking garages, and privately- and government-owned parking lots available to the general public. It is imperative that sufficient number of EV charging stations be available to support this new mode of transportation that will be available in Hawaii and throughout the globe.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of SB2231. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.