



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB1241, SD1
RELATING TO ENERGY DATA**

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: March 29, 2019

Room Number: 308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (Department) supports this bill that would
3 allow the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) and the
4 Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to share energy data in its original form with the Department
5 and its authorized representatives in order to develop the most accurate estimates of statewide
6 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

7 Chapter 342B-71, Hawaii Revised Statutes, specifies a statewide GHG emissions limit of
8 equal to or below the 1990 level by 2020 as part of Hawaii's commitment to reduce its
9 contribution to climate change. State measures to implement reductions include GHG emission
10 caps specified in state rules for large stationary sources. In accordance with §11-60.1-204,
11 Hawaii Administrative Rules, the caps would no longer apply if the statewide GHG emissions
12 limit is met prior to 2020 and projections indicate ongoing maintenance of the limit. The
13 accuracy of emission estimates for compiling statewide GHG inventories of emissions and sinks
14 (GHG removals) is critical for determining progress relative to the statewide limit, whether
15 emission caps would apply to the affected sources, and if the 2020 goal has been met.

16 The current statute prohibits DBEDT and the PUC from sharing energy data in its
17 original form with the Department and its authorized representatives. This data must be
18 aggregated by DBEDT to protect proprietary information or processes prior to sharing it with the
19 Department. The emission calculations from the aggregated data have a higher degree of

1 uncertainty than calculations using the original data which makes it difficult for the Department
2 to ascertain the accuracy of the inventories and the progress made relative to the state's GHG
3 reduction goal. Access to the energy data is essential since the energy sector is responsible for
4 approximately 90% of the statewide GHG emissions. Acquiring the energy data in its original
5 form would reduce uncertainty and enable the development of higher quality, more defensible
6 statewide GHG emissions inventories that will serve as the basis for decision making and
7 provide direction in future GHG reduction efforts.

8 **Offered Amendments:** None

9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



ELEMENTAL EXCELERATOR

Written Statement of Elemental Excelerator before the House Committee on Finance Friday, March 29, 2019

In consideration of SB 1241 SD1 RELATING TO ENERGY DATA

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

Elemental Excelerator respectfully submits our **support SB 1241 SD 1**, which permits the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) to share energy data with the Department of Health (DOH) for purposes of regulating greenhouse gas emissions.

Elemental Excelerator is a Honolulu-based growth accelerator program founded and operating in Hawai'i. We have awarded over \$30 million to 82 companies resulting in 56 demonstration projects in Hawaii & Asia Pacific. Elemental Excelerator is a Honolulu-based growth accelerator program founded and operating in Hawai'i. Each year, we select 15-20 companies that best fit our mission and fund each company up to \$1 million. We recruit innovative entrepreneurs from around the world to come to Hawai'i and find transformative solutions to help us achieve our 100% clean energy goals.

In April 2018, Elemental Excelerator commissioned a study entitled *Transcending Oil: Hawai'i's Path to a Clean Energy Economy*. The study found that in Hawai'i, transitioning to renewable energy is cheaper than sticking with fossil fuels like oil and coal. The faster we go, the cheaper it will be. The study also recommended creating an open data environment as an enabling tool to realign incentives with clean energy goals.¹

We support SB 1241 SD 1 because we believe shared energy data between DOH and DBEDT will enable increased coordination between state departments to regulate greenhouse gas emissions. About 15% of Elemental Excelerator's 82 portfolio companies, such as Kevala focus on clean energy-related data that is meaningful, transparent, and broadly accessible, demonstrating a growing opportunity to attract innovation with forward-thinking policies.²

Transcending Oil states that "[a]ccelerating the transition [to clean energy] could reduce oil consumption by 85 to 267 million gallons and spur as much as \$2.8 billion additional cumulative investment by 2030, compared to Business as Usual. It could also create up to 1,500 net new jobs per year, on average, between 2021 and 2030. To realize these outcomes, we find Hawai'i will need to build a more efficient and open electric grid equipped with AMI and implement regulatory frameworks that allow distributed PV, DR, and other flexible resources to provide an array of grid services. Increased energy efficiency investments can make the

¹ Transcending Oil, pg.3, Retrieved from <https://www.transcendingoil.com/>

² Kevala. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://elementalexcelerator.com/companies/kevala/>

*acceleration more attainable. **Data sharing and transparency** can make sure all of these resources and frameworks operate efficiently and cost-effectively.*¹³

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aki Marceau', written in a cursive style.

Aki Marceau
Managing Director, Policy & Community - Hawai'i

³Transcending Oil, pg.36, Retrieved from <https://www.transcendingoil.com/>

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SB-1241-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 8:40:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2019 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan P. Armstrong	Oahu County Democrats	Support	No

Comments:



Young Democrats of Hawaii
Democratic Party of Hawaii

Testimony presented before the Committee on Judiciary
Friday, March 29, 2019 at 2:30 p.m.
Conference Room 308

Senate Bill 1241, SD1

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee:

Senate Bill 1241, SD1 permits the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) to share data with the Department of Health (DOH) for purposes of regulating greenhouse gas emissions.

In January 2019 the Young Democrats of Hawaii (YDHI) conducted a member survey to identify and prioritize important issues facing young people today. Taking action on climate change was identified as one of the top three issues. YDHI members recognize that the impacts of climate change are already being felt throughout the world and in the State of Hawaii, and that actions must be taken immediately to ensure a viable future for all of Hawaii residents.

The Young Democrats of Hawaii **strongly supports** the passing of SB1241, SD1. The DOH is the lead agency to report Hawaii's greenhouse gas inventory. In order to report an accurate account of the state's carbon emissions annually, the Department of Health must have all available data, including primary data from DBEDT and the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). Current statute prohibits DBEDT and the PUC from sharing its energy data with the DOH.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Executive Committee
Young Democrats of Hawaii