



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
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WRITTEN  
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB1241  
RELATING TO ENERGY DATA**

SENATOR KARL RHOADS, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Hearing Date: February 26, 2019

Room Number: 016

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.



## DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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Statement of  
**MIKE MCCARTNEY**  
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

Tuesday, February 26, 2019  
9:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

In consideration of  
**SB 1241**  
**RELATING TO ENERGY DATA.**

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Committees. The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) **supports** SB 1241, which permits DBEDT to share energy data with the Department of Health (DOH) for the purposes of regulating greenhouse gas emissions.

DOH is the primary agency with regulatory oversight of Hawaii's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and compliance with Act 234, Session Laws of Hawaii, 2007. Act 234 requires that by January 1, 2020, Hawaii's GHG emissions be reduced below 1990 levels as estimated by DBEDT. To create this estimate DBEDT was privy to confidential information about Hawaii's fuel supply chain included in the energy data collection program outlined in Section 486J-5.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). Without this data, DOH is unable to comply with its statutory requirement under Section 342B-72, HRS, and Section 11-60.1-204(k), Hawaii Administrative Rules, to provide an annual evaluation of progress to achieve the statewide greenhouse gas emission limits in accordance with the method used by DBEDT to prepare the 1990 gas emissions estimates set out in Act 234.

To this end it is essential for "greenhouse gas emissions inventory reporting" to be added to the list of activities supported by the energy data collection program, and for DOH to be added to the list of state departments that have access to the corresponding database.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



# ELEMENTAL EXCELERATOR

## Written Statement of Elemental Excelerator before the Senate Judiciary Committee Tuesday, February 26, 2019

### In consideration of SB 1241 RELATING TO ENERGY DATA

#### **Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Wakai, and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:**

Elemental Excelerator respectfully submits our **support SB 1241** 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.<sup>1</sup>

**We support SB 1241** 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.<sup>2</sup>

*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*

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

<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>13</sup>

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this legislation.

Sincerely,



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

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



**Young Democrats of Hawaii**  
Democratic Party of Hawaii

**Testimony presented before the Committee on Judiciary**  
**Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.**  
**Conference Room 016**

**Senate Bill 1241**

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Committee:

Senate Bill 1241 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. 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



## O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities

### COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, February 26, 2019

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 016, State Capitol

RE: SB 1124, SD 1, Relating to Mental Health

To the Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair; the Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

I am Melodie Aduja, Chair of the O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"). Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony on SB 1124, SD 1. The O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities ("OCCLP") hereby submits its testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 1124, SD 1, Relating to Mental Health**.

SB 1124, S.D 1, facilitates the treatment of individuals with mental health issues. Provides that any interested party may file a petition for a mental health order for involuntary hospitalization or assisted community treatment alleging that another person has a mental illness and qualifies for assistance. SB 1124, S.D.1, requires the court to assess whether a person meets the criteria for assisted community treatment before discharging a person who has been involuntarily hospitalized. It authorizes the court to order a person to obtain assisted community treatment as an alternative to involuntary hospitalization; and clarifies the criteria for assisted community treatment.

DPH believes that we must treat mental health issues with the same care and seriousness that we treat issues of physical health, support a robust mental health workforce, and promote better integration of the behavioral and general health care systems. Recognizing that maintaining good mental health is critical to all people, including young people's health and development, DPH will work with health professionals to ensure that all children have access to mental health care. We must also expand community-based treatment of substance abuse disorders and mental health condition and fully enforce our parity law. *Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform (2018), p. 12, ln. 20-25.*

For the foregoing reasons, i.e., to expand community-based treatment of substance abuse disorders and mental health condition and fully enforce our parity law, OCCLP supports HB 1124, SD 1, and urges its passage out of Ways and Means.

Mahalo nui loa  
Me ka `oia`i`o

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja  
Chair, O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of  
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