

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

**FEBRUARY 13, 2020
8:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 325**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2701
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

Chairperson Lowen and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2701. This measure requires the departments who receive a portion of the Environmental Response, Energy, and Food Security Tax for distribution to their respective revolving and special funds to determine how the actions using their respective funds can assist the State in achieving the 'zero emissions clean economy target' (Section 225P-5(a)). This measure also requires each department's annual report to the legislature on their respective funds to explain how the expenditures made support the State's clean energy economy and climate change resilience. The Department offers comments specific to the requirements affecting the Agricultural Development and Food Security Special Fund and an amendment.

The Department of Agriculture understands and does not dispute the guidance contained in the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Initiative (Chapter 225P). Please note that the Department is a charter member of the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission and the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force, both functions established under Chapter 225P. In both organizations, the Department seeks to balance the needs of Hawaii's production agricultural operations and their potential role, within reason, to mitigate "...greenhouse gas emissions by sequestering more atmospheric carbon and greenhouse gases that the State produces." (Section 225P-1(2))



We are equally serious about our responsibilities to properly advance the nine purposes to which the Agricultural Development and Food Security Special Fund (hereinafter Food Security Special Fund) are to be applied (Section 141-10(c)). These purposes directly target agricultural production and processing such as agricultural resources, agricultural research, agricultural equipment, plant quarantine, promotion and marketing of agricultural products, water testing, and other activities "...intended to increase agricultural production or processing that may lead to reduced importation of food, fodder, or feed from outside the State." These purposes also directly support the doubling of local food production by 2030, and increasing food self-sufficiency, both initiatives of the Legislature (in Act 151 SLH 2019) and the Administration (though the Administration set a 2020 goal in the Sustainable Hawaii Initiative).

We point out that Section 225P-5(b) explains how agencies are to consider the 'zero emissions clean economy target' in their planning and decisions.

"(b) The Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission shall endeavor to achieve the goals of this section. After January 1, 2020, agency plans, decisions, and strategies shall give consideration to the impact of those plans, decisions, and strategies on the State's ability to achieve the goals in this section, weighed appropriately against their primary purpose."
(emphases added)

Supporting increased local agricultural production is the "primary purpose" of the Food Security Special Fund and that the extent to which agricultural producers and owners of agricultural lands can assist the State in achieving the zero emissions clean economy target as an outcome of the work of the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission and the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force should be sufficient evidence of overall effort, thus negating the need for Section 4 of the bill, as follows:

~~"SECTION 4. Section 141-10, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:~~

~~——— "(d) The department of agriculture shall submit a report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session on the status and progress of existing programs and activities and the status of~~

~~new programs and activities funded under the agricultural development and food security special fund. The report shall also include:~~

~~—— (1) The spending plan of the agricultural development and food security special fund[;], including an analysis of how the spending plan will support achieving the zero emissions clean economy target set forth in section 225P-5 and will increase the resilience of the State's food systems to the impacts of climate change;~~

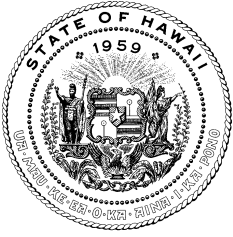
~~—— (2) All expenditures of agricultural development and food security special fund moneys[;], including an explanation of how these expenditures have supported achieving the zero emissions clean economy target set forth in section 225P-5 and increased the resilience of the State's food systems to the impacts of climate change;~~

~~—— (3) The targeted markets of the expenditures, including the reason for selecting those markets;~~

~~—— (4) The persons to be served using the expenditures; and~~

~~—— (5) The specific objectives of the expenditures, including measurable outcomes."~~

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SCOTT J. GLENN
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

(808) 587-3807

Testimony of **SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer**

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Thursday, February 13, 2020
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In SUPPORT of **HB 2701** **RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.**

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger and Members of the Committee, the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) supports HB 2701, which requires agencies receiving an allocation from the Environmental Response, Energy and Food Security Tax (Barrel Tax) to consider how use of these monies can also assist the State in achieving the zero emissions clean economy target and increase the resilience of the State's energy systems to the impacts of climate change. HB 2701 also requires annual reporting of how expenditures supported these objectives.

The HSEO's Energy Security Special Fund (ESSF) is allocated \$0.05 of the tax on each barrel of fossil fuel from the Barrel Tax. Having to consider the State's zero emissions clean economy target and climate change resilience in its ESSF expenditure decisions is entirely consistent with the mission of the HSEO. In addition, the allowable uses of the ESSF pursuant to section 201-12.8(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes include:

- (1) To fund, to the extent possible, the climate change mitigation and adaptation commission and the greenhouse gas sequestration task force; and
- (2) To support achieving the zero emissions clean economy target set forth in section 225P-5.

The annual report prepared by the HSEO for the Legislature, which provides the status and progress of existing programs and activities and the status of new programs and activities funded by the ESSF, could be augmented to address the new reporting requirements proposed by HB 2701.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented to the
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.

By

Richard Rocheleau, Director
Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute

And

Michael Bruno, PhD
Vice Chancellor for Research
University of Hawai at Mānoa

HB 2701– RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the committee:

The Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute (HNEI) supports HB 2701, which would require agencies allotted a portion of the environmental response, energy, and food security tax to consider actions in achieving the zero emissions clean economy target and climate resilience, and require reporting.

Currently, HNEI collaborates and coordinates much of the activity funded by the energy systems development special fund (ESDSF) with various energy stakeholders, including the State Energy Office, the Public Utilities Commission, the utilities, technology developers and others. Although a primary purpose of the ESDSF is to develop technologies and approaches to help reduce Hawaii's dependence on fossil fuels, HNEI has increasingly been doing so in the context of assessing emissions impacts and the resiliency of our power systems. We agree that it is important to coordinate as much as possible across sectors in order to have the greatest impact in advancing the State's policy goals with respect to emissions and climate resilience.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 2701.

HB-2701

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 12:55:25 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brodie Lockard	350Hawaii.org	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2701

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 6:05:15 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted Bohlen	Climate Protectors Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger and Energy and Environmental Protection Committee members:

The Climate Protectors Coalition **strongly supports HB 2701!**

The Climate Protectors Coalition is a new group inspired by the Mauna Kea Protectors but focused on reversing the climate crisis. As a tropical island State, Hawaii will be among the first places harmed by the global climate crisis, with more intense storms, loss of protective coral reefs, and rising sea levels.

We must do all we can to reduce our carbon footprint and become at least carbon neutral as soon as possible. This bill provides one way to achieve this--by requiring agencies that now receive "barrel tax" funding to consider actions to achieve the important zero emissions target and climate change resilience that Hawaii needs to begin addressing the climate crisis as soon as possible. Please pass this bill. Mahalo!

HB-2701

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 2:21:41 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Justin Salisbury	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2701

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 8:19:59 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I am a lifelong resident of Hawai'i on O'ahu. I am writing in to say I support this bill.

me ke aloha 'Ä• ina,

Nanea Lo

HB-2701

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 5:03:29 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Lowen and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I am writing in support of HB2701 which requires agencies allotted a portion of the environmental response, energy, and food security tax to consider actions in achieving the zero emissions clean economy target and climate change resilience. Requires these agencies to report on how expenditures from these special funds support achieving the zero emissions clean economy target and climate change resilience.

This is a progressive bill that will promote a zero emissions clean economy for Hawaii. We need government to commit to zero emissions as soon as possible to mitigate our carbon foot print.

Please pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

HB-2701

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 10:48:01 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victoria Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this important bill!

HB-2701

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 5:12:46 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Phaethon Keeney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha! Please SUPPORT HB2701!

Consider, Hawaii is due to be [hit harder](#) by impacts of Climate Change than any State in the Nation (quantified by the number of types of effects, the severity of the effects, and the percentage of a state's area affected).

Hawaii needs serious Climate targets in line with a livable future and planet. The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (UN IPCC) gives us 10 years to reduce global emissions by 50% (100% in Energy & Transport by 2030 is easiest) to hold to the Paris targets of [1.5C](#). This target pathway includes reliance on ambitious programs to drawdown existing atmospheric Greenhouse Gases (GHG), and while some have proposed expensive and unproven technology, others advocate Natural Climate Solutions like trees. While impacts showing at 1C global average temperature rise above pre-industrial levels are already extreme (consider fires in the Arctic, Amazon, Australia all in the last year), 1.5C is still deemed unsafe and is laid out by the IPCC as a best case scenario that threatens governmental collapse and unlivable heat index in some equatorial areas of the globe. 2C has been called "unconscionable" and "catastrophic" for people and planet by many Climate scientists. Beyond direct impacts laid out in detail in the IPCC report, 2C is a likely "tipping point" towards a "Hothouse Earth" beyond human control (please see 2018 PNAS paper "Trajectories of the Earth System in the Anthropocene"). On our current trajectory we will likely be at 1.5 C in the 2030's and 2C in the 2040's (see 2018 IPCC report on 1.5C) as we fly past these targets on the redline "worst case scenario" despite Paris ambitions towards a 4C (and more likely above, some current IPCC modeling indicates 7C) future by the end of the century. This IPCC redline is not factoring in Earth System tipping points given likely at 2C as mentioned in the PNAS paper, pretty much the the scariest science paper ever written.

So, we need to act quickly. The good news is that solutions to the Climate Crisis go hand in hand with targets for Social Justice and Economic Development given by the UN Sustainable Development Goals. It's a win win for everyone, except for those who profit most off of the inequality and suffering of people and planet.

HB2701 requires agencies allotted a portion of the environmental response, energy, and food security tax to consider actions in achieving the zero emissions clean

economy target and climate change resilience. HB2701 also requires these agencies to report on how expenditures from these special funds support achieving the zero emissions clean economy target and climate change resilience. This is a great bill that helps us get going on taking a zero emissions future seriously, mahalo!

Phaethon Keeney

Honoka'a Hawai'i

HB-2701

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 2:41:08 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support HB2701. Hawaii is considered a climate leader and targeting zero emissions will help in the fight against climate change, which is already occurring.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei, Maui