



# HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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

before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**  
Thursday, February 20, 2020  
1:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In SUPPORT of  
**SB 2325, SD1**  
**RELATING TO SCHOOL BUSES.**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee, the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) supports SB 2325, SD1, to require all school bus contracts to require contractor's vehicles to be propelled by electric power or a non-fossil fuel by July 1, 2050.

Emissions from transportation result from the combustion of fuel for ground, domestic marine, domestic aviation, military aviation, and military (non-aviation) transportation. Emissions from ground transportation such as passenger cars, light trucks, motorcycles, and heavy-duty vehicles still account for the largest share of energy sector emissions in the state. As noted in the 2016 Greenhouse Gas Inventory, transportation emissions in Hawaii were at 8.69 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents, accounting for 51 percent of energy sector emissions. Ground transportation accounted for 47 percent of transportation emissions. Using EPA's Diesel Emissions Quantifier (DEQ) online tool with baseline assumptions of a model year 1998 diesel bus, 7,800 annual vehicle miles traveled and 1,300 gallons of diesel annual usage, an electric school bus replacement would result in an annual nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions reduction of 0.13 short tons/year. For Hawaii to meet its target to sequester more greenhouse gases than we emit as soon as practicable but no later than 2045 (Hawaii Revised Statutes §201-12.8 Energy Security Special Fund), programs that support the adoption of cleaner transportation options are extremely important.

SB 2325, SD1, is in alignment with Hawaii Revised Statutes §196-7, which directs the HSEO to aid with the facilitation of clean transportation projects. One such activity is the HSEO administration of Hawaii's Volkswagen Settlement Beneficiary Mitigation Plan which includes the electrification of Class 4-8 School Buses, Shuttle Buses, or Transit Buses by distributing Volkswagen Trust Funds to eligible public and private sectors. The U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency's Diesel Emissions Reduction Program also offers annual funding to assist with vehicle replacements in the form of a state allocation and competitive school bus rebates. In addition to replacing school buses, special consideration should be given to the location, ownership, and maintenance of charging infrastructure that would support these vehicles.

The HSEO defers to the Department of Education on the budget considerations related to this bill as well as the State Procurement Office to understand current contract needs. We look forward to working with the Committee on this topic.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**Hawaiian  
Electric**

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON  
WAYS AND MEANS**

**S.B. 2325, SD1**

**Relating to School Buses**

Thursday, February 20, 2020

1:00PM Agenda # 11

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Michael Colón  
Manager, Electrification of Transportation  
Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members,

My name is Michael Colón and I am testifying on behalf of Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc. (Hawaiian Electric) in support of S.B. 2325, SD1, Relating to School Buses.

This bill establishes that future school bus contracts be powered by electric or no-fossil fuel and be equipped with seat belt assemblies. This bill will establish a bright line for future mass transit vehicles and help accelerate the transition to clean transportation. The Company applauds the legislature's continued and expanding acknowledgement that increased investments are needed across all sectors to successfully usher in a clean transportation transformation. In support of clean energy goals, both state and county policy mandate a transition away from imported fossil fuel in favor of alternative fuel, such as electricity, for ground transportation. The State's Mayors have agreed to support a 100% clean transportation future.

Hawaiian Electric supports the proliferation of zero-emission vehicles and recognize the importance and positive impact this bill can play. The Companies have developed an Electric Vehicle (EV) strategy that acknowledges the need for more public and private charging for this nascent technology to truly proliferate. In fact, Hawaiian Electric has undertaken several efforts to support the adoption of electric vehicles, such as the development of a growing DC Fast Charger network, with over 17 locations across the Company's service territory, continued development of rates tailored for EV charging including for electric buses, and education and outreach.

Providing increased access to EV charging is a key priority identified in the Companies' *Electrification of Transportation Strategic Roadmap*.<sup>1</sup> This bill will continue the tremendous progress that the state has made towards a cleaner and more sustainable transportation future. As the largest provider of electric vehicle fast charging in the state, the Hawaiian Electric Companies remain committed to an EV strategy that is sustainable and helps create a bridge to a cleaner future. Accordingly, the Hawaiian Electric Companies support S.B. 2325, SD1. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.hawaiianelectric.com/clean-energy-hawaii/electrification-of-transportation>