



# HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

SCOTT J. GLENN  
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

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

before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION**

Thursday, March 18, 2021  
9:15 A.M.

House conference room 325 via videoconference

in support of  
**SB 920 SD2**  
**RELATING TO STATE LIGHT DUTY VEHICLES.**

Chair Lowen and Vice Chair Marten and Members of the Committee, the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) supports SB 920 SD2, which establishes clean ground transportation goals for state agencies to achieve a one hundred per cent light-duty motor vehicles zero-emission fleet by December 31, 2030.

SB 920 SD2 aligns with the State's efforts to expand strategies and mechanisms to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the reduction of energy use, adoption of renewable energy, and control of air pollution among all agencies, departments, industries, and sectors, including transportation. Emissions from ground transportation 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 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents, accounting for 51 percent of total energy sector emissions. Ground transportation accounted for 47 percent of the transportation emissions. For Hawaii to meet its statutory target "to sequester more greenhouse gases than emitted as soon as practicable but no later than 2045", policies that support the adoption of cleaner transportation options are necessary and tremendously important.

Accelerating the deployment of electric vehicles is an area of focus of the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative Transportation Energy Analysis, prepared for HSEO by the International Council on Clean Transportation. It is important that the State take actions within its power to advance and align with the decarbonization policies of the State and the 2045 time frame identified in Chapter 225P, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS).

Adopting targets for the conversion of the state fleet will be a material contribution to bolster the number of existing zero emission vehicles (ZEV) in Hawaii and sends a clear signal to the market on Hawaii's commitment to the decarbonization of the ground transportation sector. HSEO suggests that goals or targets for specific actions that support the achievement of energy and environmental goals of the State be set in the relevant statute for the lead agency of the tactic. Section 196-72, HRS, states the Hawaii State Energy Office shall "Lead efforts to incorporate energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy resiliency, and clean transportation to reduce costs and achieve clean energy goals across all public facilities". Establishing the goal for State fleet conversion such as in Section 196-9, HRS, entitled "Energy efficiency and environmental standards for state facilities, motor vehicles, and transportation fuel," would align the goal with HSEO statutory responsibilities. A new section of Chapter 225P, HRS, explicitly identifying the need to decarbonize the ground transportation sector in Hawaii could point to goals set in section 196-9, HRS, as supportive of achieving a net-negative carbon economy.

Fundamental to achieving the decarbonization of the State's fleet is for procurement of new vehicles to be ZEVs when cost-effective models are readily available in the market. Light duty passenger cars are vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating under 8,500 pounds such as four-door sedans. Cost-effective models for ZEV light duty passenger cars are readily available in the market. Requiring approval for

an exemption for the procurement of any light duty passenger cars<sup>1</sup> that are not a ZEV<sup>2</sup> will ensure that objective is met. Procurement of ZEV's for light duty passenger cars will result in material progress towards the goals of decarbonizing the State's fleet.

Approximately one third of the State's light duty fleet, or approximately 1,000 vehicles, are passenger cars. Currently 28% of the State's light duty passenger cars are 16 years or older. Over 50% of light duty passenger cars are 11 years or older. By 2025 those percentages grow to 44% and over 70% respectively. The requirement for approval could be added to Section 26-6, HRS, by amending subsection (b) to add a new bullet addressing the approval of State fleet acquisitions with provisions that all new light duty passenger cars purchased for the State's fleets shall be ZEVs and that exemptions must be expressly authorized for new fleet vehicle procurements if ZEVs are demonstrated to be cost-prohibitive on a lifecycle basis or unsuitable for the vehicle's planned purpose.

For definitions, HSEO believes it would be helpful to be consistent with the Code of Federal Regulation. This will ensure Hawaii statutes track federal definitions as they are updated over time and provide for apples-to-apples comparisons when benchmarking and tracking Hawaii's progress against other states and national averages. HSEO is ready to work with agency and legislative staff on specific language for the suggested amendments as well as definitions.

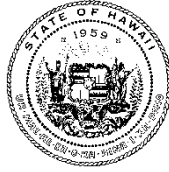
Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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<sup>1</sup> "Passenger car" has the same meaning as contained in 49, Code of Federal Regulations, part 571.3.

<sup>2</sup> "Zero Emissions Vehicle (ZEV)" has the same meaning as contained in 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 88.102-94

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



BONNIE KAHAKUI  
ACTING ADMINISTRATOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE**  
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96810-0119  
Tel: (808) 586-0554  
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TESTIMONY  
OF  
BONNIE KAHAKUI, ACTING ADMINISTRATOR  
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE  
ON  
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
MARCH 18, 2021, 9:15 A.M.

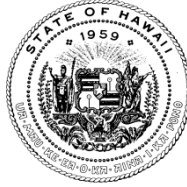
SENATE BILL 920 SD2  
RELATING TO STATE LIGHT DUTY VEHICLES

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB920 SD2.

The State Procurement Office (SPO) appreciates that the Senate Draft 2 of this bill reflects comments we made in previous testimony.

Thank you.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY  
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN  
DEREK J. CHOW  
ROSS M. HIGASHI  
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 18, 2021  
9:15 A.M.  
State Capitol, Teleconference

**S.B. 920, S.D. 2  
RELATING TO STATE LIGHT DUTY VEHICLES**

House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** this bill that requires State owned transportation fleets to transition to one hundred percent clean ground transportation by establishing a goal to transition all light duty vehicles powered by renewable energy source by December 31, 2030.

The DOT, Highways Division is currently in the process of converting light duty vehicle to electric through a lease agreement that has recently been executed with an electric vehicle provider who will also be providing supporting electrical charging equipment. The agreement is available for all State agencies, Counties, and University of Hawaii to utilize for their electric vehicle conversion needs. Highways Division has taken steps to reduce its carbon footprint by converting all highway and building lighting to energy efficient devices, installing photovoltaic systems at all baseyard facilities, utilizing higher quality AC with longer life, requiring that all concrete on our system be CO2 entrained, using cementitious epoxy coatings to extend the life of our structures, moving away from building new roads and using technology to improve the system we have, and piloting new technologies like plastics in pavements.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



40 Hobron Avenue  
Kahului, Hawaii 96732  
(808) 877-3144  
[www.biodiesel.com](http://www.biodiesel.com)

March 15, 2021

COMMENTS IN SUPPORT OF SB 920

RELATING TO STATE LIGHT DUTY VEHICLES

Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection  
Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten

Pacific Biodiesel offers the following comments on SB 920

We strongly support the intent of SB 920 to convert the State fleet to a clean energy fleet. That said, it seems reasonable to include locally produced biodiesel in the formula. Biodiesel has the lowest life cycle greenhouse gas impact of all fuel sources today. When produced in Hawaii, biodiesel also has the most job creation and support for local agriculture. As such, for the benefit of Hawaii and the world, we suggest the following changes:

- **Section 2. Chapter 105 Clean ground transportation goal.** All state fleet light-duty motor vehicles shall be one hundred per cent ~~zero-emission~~ renewable energy vehicles by December 31, 2030
- Same change for **Section 3. Chapter 225P**

Please also consider that the term “alternative fuel vehicle” is not the same as “renewable fuel vehicle”. The stated goal is the reduction or elimination of greenhouse gas production, which is sometimes different than converting to electricity or some other technologies. Unless modified, this bill could have the unintentional consequence of the elimination of biodiesel fuel, the lowest life cycle GHG transportation fuel.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert O. King".

Robert King, President  
Pacific Biodiesel Technologies, LLC

## Hawaii Electric Vehicle Association

PO BOX 6310  
Hilo, HI 96720  
hawaiidrivedelectric@gmail.com



March 16, 2021

**STRONG SUPPORT** for **SB920 SD2** (ESTABLISHES CLEAN GROUND TRANSPORTATION GOALS FOR STATE AGENCIES TO ACHIEVE A ONE HUNDRED PERCENT LIGHT-DUTY MOTOR VEHICLES ZERO-EMISSION FLEET BY 12/31/2030.)

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Marten, and Energy and Environmental Committee members,

Hawaii EV Association is in strong support of SD 920 SD2 with amendments.

To achieve Hawaii's sustainability and climate action goals, we must electrify our ground transportation ASAP. Automakers are heeding the demand for zero-emission vehicles and anticipating more bans<sup>1</sup> on the sales of new gas-powered vehicles. They are expanding their electric vehicle offerings or have announced plans to do so.

Importantly, major auto manufacturers have announced plans to deprecate their fossil-fuel-powered vehicles by the 2030s<sup>2</sup>. There are many other reasons to consider prompt electrification of our transportation, e.g.,

- EVs reduce air pollution, a leading cause of health issues and mortality across the globe. ([academic.oup.com/circulation/article/116/2/279/5579822](https://academic.oup.com/circulation/article/116/2/279/5579822); [lung.org/clean-air/outdoors/who-is-at-risk/highways](https://www.lung.org/clean-air/outdoors/who-is-at-risk/highways))
- EVs reduce our greenhouse gas emission footprint, and they get better at it as our grid is decarbonized, something Hawaii is making good progress at ([greentechmedia.com/articles/read/hawaii-is-ahead-of-schedule-for-renewable-power-adoption](https://greentechmedia.com/articles/read/hawaii-is-ahead-of-schedule-for-renewable-power-adoption)).
- EVs cost less to maintain. ([consumerreports.org/car-repair-maintenance/pay-less-for-vehicle-maintenance-with-an-ev/](https://www.consumerreports.org/car-repair-maintenance/pay-less-for-vehicle-maintenance-with-an-ev/))
- EVs can be over 90% efficient – most of the stored energy makes it to the wheels, and regenerative braking allows for the capture of kinetic energy. In contrast, it is around 25% for conventional internal combustion engine vehicles ([fueleconomy.gov/feg/atv-ev.shtml](https://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/atv-ev.shtml)).

Our state should now find electric vehicle replacements for many of the gas-powered vehicles in the fleet. Given the increasing availability of electric vehicles and the various benefits they offer operators and the public, making this shift is feasible and responsible.

Our state must lead our effort to decarbonize and can set the example for other fleet owners. **SD 920 SD2** establishes clean transportation goals that will help us contribute to a meaningful reduction in emissions and inspire individuals, businesses, and governments to do the same.

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<sup>1</sup> Countries that have announced bans on gas cars - [worldatlas.com/articles/countries-that-will-ban-gasoline-cars.html](https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/countries-that-will-ban-gasoline-cars.html)

<sup>2</sup> GM to Phase out Gas and Diesel-Powered Vehicles by 2034 - [wsj.com/articles/gm-sets-2035-target-to-phase-out-gas-and-diesel-powered-vehicles-globally-11611850343](https://www.wsj.com/articles/gm-sets-2035-target-to-phase-out-gas-and-diesel-powered-vehicles-globally-11611850343)

Our **recommended amendments**:

- Mandate that the state's new car fleet purchases are zero-emission starting in 2022.
- Narrow the definition of 'zero-emission' – the options must be non-emitting vehicles that are not dependent on gas or diesel fuel or fuels that include a blend of fossil fuels. Plug-In Hybrid EVs and Hybrids emit and perpetuate our fossil fuel dependence.
- Ensure that our definition of alternative fuels excludes natural gas and hydrogen sourced from fossil fuel reformation.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Sincerely,  
Noel Morin – President

**Hawaii EV Association** is a grassroots non-profit group representing electric vehicle owners in Hawaii. Our mission is to accelerate the electrification of transportation through consumer education, policy advocacy, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure expansion. For more information, please visit [hawaiiev.org](http://hawaiiev.org).





## **Sustainable Energy Hawai'i**

sustainableenergyhawaii.org

421 Lama St.

Hilo, HI 96720

March 16, 2021

### **STRONG SUPPORT for SB920 SD2**

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Marten, and Energy and Environmental Committee members,

I am Richard Ha, Chair of Sustainable Energy Hawai'i, a coalition of concerned citizens dedicated to improving the quality of life of Hawaii residents through affordable renewable energy. **We are in strong support of SD 920 SD2.**

We need to transition away rapidly from fossil-fuel vehicles to contribute our part in reducing planet-harming carbon emissions and to eliminate our dependency on imported energy sources. We have access to abundant renewable energy resources – solar, wind, geothermal - that will allow us to achieve a sustainable energy future. An aggressive goal to decarbonize our transportation will help us focus our resources to make this happen sooner than later.

We have the opportunity to lead in this area and influence other states and nations to do the same. We owe our future generations a world that is better than what we're experiencing now.

I urge you to support SD 920 SD2.

Mahalo,  
Richard Ha  
Chair - Sustainable Energy Hawai'i



# SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

March 18, 2021 9:15 AM

In **SUPPORT** of **SB920 SD2**: Relating to State Light Duty Vehicles

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Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and members of the committees,

On behalf of our 27,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **supports SB920 SD2**, which seeks to reduce and eliminate carbon-based ground transportation in state light-duty fleets.

Since adopting our 100% renewable energy goal, Hawai'i has made considerable progress in fostering collaborative efforts to reform electricity policy. We have seen that setting such a high standard has accelerated the transition of our electric sector to clean, renewable energy. However, transportation accounts for approximately two-thirds of the state's fossil fuel consumption and more focus must be placed on reducing the use of fossil fuels for ground transportation in order to achieve 100% carbon neutrality by 2045, and to reduce air and water pollution, increase our energy independence, and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

The Sierra Club supports SB920 to transform the state's light duty fleet to zero-emission vehicles by 2030. This bill begins to set targets for Hawai'i's vehicles to convert to zero-emission vehicles and indicates that our agencies are willing to lead by example in this commitment. As we move forward, it will also be important to provide funding to the agencies, as well as adopt other EV charging infrastructure and vehicle incentives to achieve these goals.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony in **support of SB920 SD2**.



Email: [communications@ulupono.com](mailto:communications@ulupono.com)

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
Thursday, March 18, 2021 — 9:15 a.m.

**Ulupono Initiative supports SB 920 SD 2, Relating to State Light Duty Vehicles.**

Dear Chair Lowen and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food; renewable energy and clean transportation; and better management of freshwater and waste.

**Ulupono supports SB 920 SD 2**, which establishes clean ground transportation goals for state agencies to achieve a one hundred per cent light-duty motor vehicles zero-emission fleet by December 31, 2030.

Ulupono supports Hawai'i's reduction of fossil fuel use as we strive to meet the State's 100% renewable goal by 2045. This measure seeks to make a large impact on the renewable energy goal by transitioning State and public light-duty vehicles to vehicles powered by renewable energy sources.

Ulupono finds that zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) are an important avenue to address Hawai'i's pressing climate issues and align with the State's energy and environmental goals. ZEVs currently offer an effective option to advance clean, renewable ground transportation and provide immediate benefits to Hawai'i.

EV sales grew by more than 40% in 2020, but ZEVs still only represent about one percent of all passenger vehicles in the state. We strongly support the State setting goals to transition State-owned light-duty vehicles. We believe this is an important market signal as the State competes in the global vehicle market and further showcases Hawai'i's commitment to decarbonize our economy.

Furthermore, this bill begins to align the State with stronger prohibitions and commitments made around the globe.

In fact, the Governor of California recently signed an executive order to eliminate the sale of new gas cars and trucks by 2035. California joins a multitude of countries and cities across Europe, as well as China and British Columbia, who have taken similar measures to eliminate

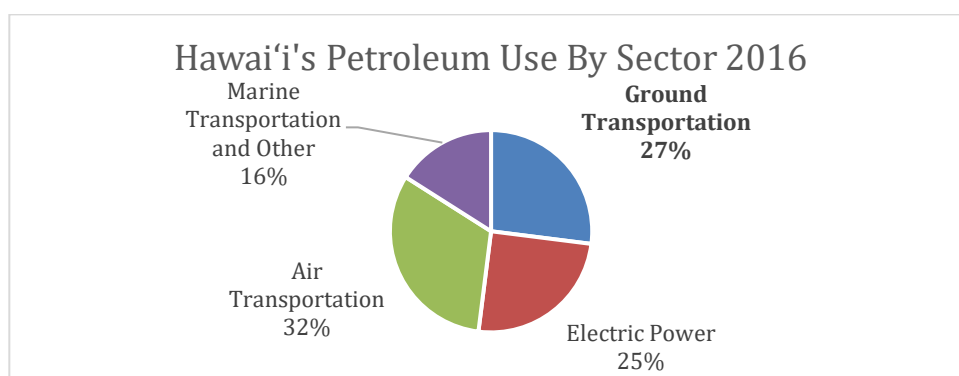
*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*

the sale of new fossil fuel vehicles with target dates ranging from as soon as 2025 to 2040.

Auto manufacturers are also making similar commitments. Most recently, Nissan committed to having every new vehicle in major markets (including the US) be electrified by the early 2030s, and General Motors (GM) committed to stop making gasoline and diesel cars, vans and SUVs by 2035.

### **EVs Provide Immediate Energy and Environmental Impact**

Ground transportation alone utilizes more than a quarter of the state's imported petroleum. Electrifying ground transportation will reduce our demand for imported fossil fuels, keeping millions of dollars in the state and cutting harmful pollution.



*Source: Hawai'i State Energy Office – Hawai'i Energy Facts & Figures*

Converting from petroleum-based vehicles to EVs immediately reduces greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, helping combat climate change and its impacts on our islands. EVs produce zero-emissions at the tailpipe, and even when full lifecycle emissions (from manufacturing through disposal) are considered, EV emissions are approximately 50 percent lower than internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles.

EVs can also support the integration of more renewables on the electric grid with smart charging technology and rate structures. Thus, proliferating EVs throughout Hawai'i can help accelerate progress towards the State's 100 percent RPS goal, as well as contribute to the State's Paris Agreement commitments and carbon neutral goal.

This bill is an important measure for the State to push for the decarbonization of our economy, while continuing to show the world that Hawai'i is a clean energy leader.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata  
Director of Government Affairs

**SB-920-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 8:47:53 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steve Parsons	Kauai Climate Action Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha TRUSTED Lawmakers,

I Strongly support this bill, but want Medium duty to be included and not sure what the 2050 dates is about. Transferring Fleets to EV have a huge influence on EV <https://www.utilitydive.com/news/fleet-electrification-can-have-outsized-influence-on-ev-adoption-rmi-ana/593755/>

A bigger reason is it will save the state Millions of dollars over time. For example, a recent study shows Nevada will save 20 Billion switching to EVs <https://cleantechnica.com/2021/02/05/new-report-electric-vehicles-can-save-nevada-20-billion/>, so how much savings does Hawaii lose if they don't pass this now.

Lastly, a MUCH bigger reason is to help the health of Hawaii's people and visitors. Forbes recently reported Fossil Fuel Pollution Kills 8.7 Million People a year, TWICE AS MANY AND PREVIOUSLY

THOUGHT!!! <https://www.forbes.com/sites/scottcarpenter/2021/02/10/fossil-fuel-air-pollution-kills-nearly-as-many-as-cancer-study-finds/?sh=51e4c6c31dba> I'm NOT ok with this! I want you to be ANGRY about this too and ACT, PLEASE ACT!!! Oh, if you're looking for ways to save money: Ford's CEO recently explained how the All-Electric F-150, starting production next year, will save Fleet owners over 40%!!! Any fleet, Rentals, State, County, Police, Lifeguards, etc. In a budget shortfall? Here's a 40% savings you can put into motion, today!

<https://cleantechnica.com/2020/09/17/electric-ford-f150-is-a-game-changer-for-fleets-with-a-40-lower-cost-of-ownership/> Thank you for your time in considering this great bill! It's a GREAT way to fight climate change that is currently Kicking our Okole: Big Time!!!

Imua>>>

Steve Parsons, Kauai Resident, Wailua





[KauaiEV.org](http://KauaiEV.org)  
302 Makani Rd.  
Kapaa, HI 96746  
808-652-0591

**KauaiEV**  
Kauai Electric Vehicle Association

February 9, 2021

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and EEP Committee members,

On behalf of KauaiEV, a grassroots organization with over 100 members on Kauai, I write **in strong support of SB920 SD2 with amendments.**

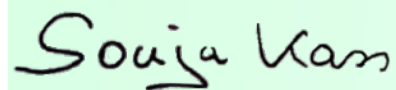
Our members are electric vehicle drivers, and we believe that EVs are the personal transportation of the future. EVs are very efficient, and several of our members get 170 - 180 miles per gallon equivalent, so EVs are far less polluting and cheaper over their lifetime. As our island grids are powered by more and more renewables EVs get even cleaner! A recent consumer report also found EV maintenance costs are half as much as a gas car's.

Electric Vehicles are quiet and smooth to drive and we believe the fleet drivers will enjoy them as much as we do.

To reach Hawaii's climate goals and in order to combat climate change and sea level rise we need to move away from burning fossil fuels as soon as possible. The state must take the lead and consumers will follow.

Please support **SB920 SD2** and vote to electrify the state agencies' fleet!

Mahalo



Sonja Kass, President KauaiEV

**SB-920-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 9:39:30 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

To: The Honorable Nicole Lowen, Chair, the Honorable Lisa Marten, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

From: Climate Protectors Hawaii (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing SB920 SD2 RELATING TO THE STATE LIGHT DUTY VEHICLES.

Hearing: Thursday, March 18, 2021, 9:15 a.m., by videoconference

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection:

Position: **SUPPORT** SB920 SD2, BUT WITH AN AMENDMENT RE ALTERNATIVE FUELS DEFINITION

The Climate Protectors Coalition is a group 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, food insecurity, and rising sea levels destroying our shorelines. We must do all we can to reduce our carbon footprint and become carbon negative as soon as possible.

This bill would begin transitioning ground transportation to one hundred per cent zero-emission vehicles in the State by establishing goals in HRS c. 105 for the reduction and ultimate elimination of the use of fossil fuels for ground transportation, **including a goal for the State to lead by example by transitioning one hundred per cent of its light-duty motor vehicles by 2030.**

One part of the bill is inconsistent with the bill's purpose. The definition of "Alternative fuel":

"means alcohol fuels, mixtures containing eighty-five per cent or more by volume of alcohols with **gasoline** or other fuels, **natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas**, hydrogen, biodiesel, mixtures containing twenty per cent or more by volume of biodiesel



with **diesel** or other fuels, other fuels derived from biological materials, and electricity provided by off-board energy sources."

We strongly urge this bill's definition of "alternative fuels" be **amended to remove all fossil fuels, such as ethanol containing gasoline, natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas, and mixtures containing diesel**, and list only nonclimate-harming fuels. Gasoline, liquified petroleum gas, and diesel are petroleum fossil fuels, and natural gas is basically methane, which is actually a far more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. These fossil fuels should not be included as alternative fuels in our clean energy future.

Please pass this bill with this amendment! Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawaii (by Ted Bohlen)



To: The House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection  
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org  
Date: Thursday, March 18, 2021, 9:15am

**In support of SB920 SD2**

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Energy and Environmental Protection Committee members,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org **supports SB920 SD2 with some suggested amendments.**

Establishing clean ground transportation goals for state agencies to achieve a one hundred per cent light-duty motor vehicles zero-emission fleet by December 31, 2030 would reduce carbon emissions and increase the number of zero-emission vehicles entering the secondary market, making them more affordable to more Hawaii residents. This is a good start, however, Hawaii can and should do more. 350Hawaii strongly urges that the measure be amended to include a target for *all light-duty vehicles* in the state to be powered by renewable energy sources, not just state agency vehicles. Scientists are warning that major and unprecedented reductions in emissions are needed **now** for us to have a chance to avoid untold suffering from climate breakdown. We must have bold leadership if we are to preserve a livable climate.

Further, the definition of "zero-emission vehicle" should not include plug-in hybrid electric vehicles. The legislature has the opportunity—and the power—to mandate very significant use of **real** zero-emission vehicles with this bill. Vehicles should be fully electric or hydrogen ones, not ones that will perpetuate our importation of fossil fuels.

Next, the definition of "fuel cell electric vehicle" should specify hydrogen made from renewable sources. Hydrogen can be produced in many ways, including by burning fossil fuels.

Last, we strongly urge this bill remove all fossil fuels, such as natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas, and list only nonclimate-harming fuels under the definition of 'alternative fuels.' Natural gas and liquified petroleum gas, for example, are dirty fossil fuels that contain methane which is actually a far more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide and have no place in our clean energy future. As previously stated, the legislature has the opportunity and the power to mandate very significant use of **real** zero-emission vehicles with this bill. These times require strong and decisive leadership.

Zero-emission vehicles are better for the environment and the economy. They are the future for Hawaii. A future we must begin now.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this very important bill.  
Sherry Pollack  
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org



## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

March 18, 2021, 9:15 A.M.

Video Conference

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 920 SD2, SUGGESTED AMENDMENT

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and members of the Committee:

Blue Planet Foundation **supports SB 920 SD2**, which sets a planning goal to transition 100% of state light-duty fleets to zero-emission vehicles by the end of 2030. This measure is a needed and important first step to ensure that Hawai'i is taking meaningful action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the ground transportation sector. This bill will help the state lead by example and promote alignment and collaboration in ongoing and future planning efforts.

Blue Planet recommends that the measure be amended to include a target for all light-duty vehicles in the state to be powered by renewable energy sources by at least 2045. Unlike several other states and countries across the globe, Hawai'i lacks a strong policy framework for shifting our lingering dependence on imported fossil fuel to power our ground transportation sector. The steady but incremental pace of clean vehicle adoption currently in the state is a result of this void. **To meet the challenge of climate change with the pace and scale required, Hawai'i must not continue along the business-as-usual trajectory. We need bold leadership to change course.**

### Existing policies and initiatives have failed to reduce carbon emissions from Hawai'i's cars and trucks

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While Hawai'i has made substantial progress on policies, programs, and actions to reduce burning fossil fuels in the electricity sector, **we are falling short on decarbonizing our ground transportation sector**. Greenhouse gas emissions from transportation have been climbing steadily for years prior to the coronavirus pandemic. In 2019, more gasoline was sold in the islands than in 2018.<sup>1</sup> Without deliberate and forward-thinking leadership, we risk accelerating this trend of increased transportation emissions as Hawai'i residents go back to school and the office and as tourists return, especially with lower than usual oil prices. In addition, the quicker we turn our private and public fleets over to electric, the faster we turn the spigot off that leaks billions out of our economy annually to buy gasoline. Mobility should be powered by homegrown power, not imported carbon.

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<sup>1</sup> "Monthly Energy Trends," DBEDT, <http://dbedt.hawaii.gov/economic/energy-trends-2>.

Even today, over one million gasoline-powered vehicles are on the roads in Hawai'i—and from them comes nearly five million metric tons of climate-changing carbon pollution. Although we now have over 13,000 electric vehicles (EVs) on the state's roads, they still only make up a mere 1% of all registered vehicles in the state.<sup>2</sup> Hawai'i drivers are increasingly choosing larger, heavier vehicles, which are often less fuel efficient. According to the Hawaii Auto Dealers Association, pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles—still largely powered solely by fossil fuels—accounted for 69.2% of Hawai'i vehicle sales in 2019, a sharp increase from 48.7 per cent in 2012.<sup>3</sup> Without a shift in policy, Hawai'i's reliance on fossil fuel for its transportation needs won't change. Senate Bill 920 can help Hawai'i shift this trajectory by setting planning targets for transitioning state fleets to zero-emission vehicles.

## Others have already committed to a clean transportation future

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In September 2020, California made headlines when Governor Gavin Newsom signed an executive order directing the state to require **all new cars and passenger trucks sold in California to be zero-emission vehicles by 2035**, after a summer of devastating wildfires fueled by climate-change-induced extreme weather. California joined the ranks of several countries who have also recognized that fossil fuel-powered ground transportation needs to end. **France** plans to phase out gas-powered car sales by 2040. **Britain announced in November that it will ban the sale of new gasoline and diesel cars by 2030**, a decade earlier than its previous commitment of 2040. **India, Netherlands, Israel, and Denmark** have set a similar goal for 2030. And **Norway** plans to have all new cars, buses, and light commercial vehicles be zero emission vehicles by 2025.

Auto manufacturers are similarly making bold commitments to phase out fossil-fuel-powered vehicles. **General Motors—one of the world's largest automakers**—announced in January 2021 that it would phase out petroleum-powered cars and trucks and **sell only vehicles that have zero tailpipe emissions by 2035**. As a mere sampling of other examples, Ford is launching all-electric versions of its popular Mustang (launching 2021) and F-150 (expected in 2022), and Volkswagen is targeting electric options for all of its vehicle models by 2030.

## Conclusion

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Through SB 920, the state government is leading by example and taking an important step forward by setting a goal to transition 100% of state light-duty fleets to zero-emission vehicles. Blue Planet recommends that the measure be amended to include a target for all light-duty vehicles in the state to be powered by renewable energy sources by at least 2045.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Hawaii Dealer, "Hawaii Auto Dealers Association, 2020 Spring Edition, [https://issuu.com/traveler-media/docs/hawaiidealer\\_2020\\_spring\\_edition](https://issuu.com/traveler-media/docs/hawaiidealer_2020_spring_edition).



John Uekawa, President  
Dave Rolf, Executive Director



HADA Testimony with SUPPORT for SB920 SD2  
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Presented to the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

at the Public Hearing 9:15 a.m. Thursday, March 18, 2021 in Rm 325

VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE  
Hawaii State Capitol

by David H. Rolf for the members of the Hawaii Automobile Dealers Association

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

HADA dealers offer support for the provisions in this bill which seek to establish clean ground transportation goals for state agencies to achieve a one hundred per cent light-duty motor vehicles zero-emission fleet by December 31, 2030. (SB920 SD2)

The goal for state agencies achieving a light-duty vehicle clean fleet by 12/31/2030 continues to follow the purchasing priorities set for state agencies through the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative in 2010.

The bill also endorses the goals including the carbon sequester provisions in Hawaii Revised Statutes 255-P\_\_\_ and endorses the procurement procedures found in Hawaii Revised Statutes 264-P\_\_\_.

HADA dealers thank you for the opportunity to provide support testimony on this bill.

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Respectfully submitted,

David H. Rolf for the Hawaii Automobile Dealers Association

**68 new car dealerships, 4,383 direct jobs, \$5.8 billion total sales, \$269 million State Gross Excise Taxes paid**



**Hawaiian  
Electric**

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**SB 920, SD2**

**Relating to State Light Duty Vehicles**

March 18, 2021

9:15 AM, Agenda Item # 4

State Capitol, Conference Room 224 / VIDEO CONFERENCE

June Chee

Program Manager, Electrification of Transportation  
Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Committee Members,

My name is June Chee and I am testifying on behalf of Hawaiian Electric Company **in support of and providing suggested amendments for SB920, SD2**, Relating to State Light Duty Vehicles. Hawaiian Electric Company supports this measure because it would be a significant step in implementing Hawaii's commitment to clean ground transportation and result in quantifiable emissions reductions. Specifically, the Company supports the legislature's proposed commitment to decarbonizing the ground transportation sector by transitioning the State's light duty vehicle fleet to one hundred per cent zero-emission vehicles by December 31, 2030.

Facilitating the electrification of transportation in Hawaii is a top Company strategic objective. Consistent with our *Electrification of Transportation Strategic Roadmap*, the Company is providing support and momentum for electrification of transportation through programs and initiatives such as EV-specific rates to encourage daytime charging, an electric bus make ready infrastructure pilot, our proposed Charge Ready Hawaii pilot to provide make ready infrastructure support to commercial properties and multi-unit

dwellings, and is seeking to expand our public charging network. These initiatives will be supportive of the State's transition to a zero-emission motor pool.

The Company proposes that Page 6, line 10 be amended to read (underscore added): "Promote efficient operation of vehicles including efficient planning of charging station locations and efficient utilization of renewable energy for charging electric vehicles;" and on Page 6, section 8 and Page 7, section 9 be amended to also include the data collection of "Electric vehicle charger use".

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



March 17, 2021

**STRONG SUPPORT for SB920 SD2**

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Marten, and Energy and Environmental Committee members,

On behalf of the Big Island Electric Vehicle Association, I testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **SB920 SD2**.

We must accelerate the decarbonization of our ground transportation if we are to make meaningful and timely emissions reductions.

There are many other reasons to make a serious pivot towards zero-emission transportation:

- Manufacturers are now providing affordable long-range electric vehicles in all shapes and sizes. Several manufacturers have even announced plans to stop producing internal combustion engine cars.
- Lower total-cost-of-ownership (lower maintenance and fueling costs)
- Greater efficiency (most of the energy is used to propel the car)
- Contribution to cleaner air (no toxic exhaust)

The state can lead the transition to a zero-emission transportation fleet and set the example for fleet owners across the state. **SB 920 SD2** sets goals that will create the tension to accelerate the transition across the state. It will create a ‘halo’ that will trigger the expansion of needed charging infrastructure. It will inspire businesses and county governments to do the same.

I’d like to magnify the recommendations submitted on behalf of a parent organization (Hawaii EV):

- *“Mandate that the state’s new car fleet purchases are zero-emission starting in 2022.*
- *Narrow the definition of ‘zero-emission’ – the options must be non-emitting vehicles that are not dependent on gas or diesel fuel or fuels that include a blend of fossil fuels. Plug-In Hybrid EVs and Hybrids emit and perpetuate our fossil fuel dependence.*
- *Ensure that our definition of alternative fuels excludes natural gas and hydrogen sourced from fossil fuel reformation.”*

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Please support SB 920 SD2.

Sincerely,  
Noel Morin  
President





**SanHi**

GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

DATE: March 16, 2021

TO: Representative Lowen  
Chair, Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

FROM: Tiffany Yajima

RE: **S.B. 920, S.D. 2 – Relating to State Light Duty Vehicles**  
**Hearing Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2021 at 9:15 a.m.**  
**Conference Room: 325**

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Dear Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Marten, and Members of Committee:

On behalf of the Alliance for Automotive Innovation (“Auto Innovators”) we submit this testimony in support of S.B. 920, SD2.

The Alliance for Automotive Innovation is the singular, authoritative and respected voice of the automotive industry. Focused on creating a safe and transformative path for sustainable industry growth, the Alliance for Automotive Innovation represents the manufacturers producing nearly 99 percent of cars and light trucks sold in the U.S. Members include motor vehicle manufacturers, original equipment suppliers, technology, and other automotive-related companies and trade associations.

The Alliance supports state efforts to transition public fleets to zero-emission vehicles. Government support for ZEVs, EV charging infrastructure, and alternative fuel deployment is essential to the state’s overall transition to cleaner transportation. In the transition to 100 percent ZEV government fleets, state agencies can facilitate opportunities for private fleet electrification and can accelerate broader EV adoption among consumers. In addition, a statewide charging network would need to be built to fuel these vehicles and with government support could transform the state’s ZEV landscape by offering widespread access and compatibility in charging stations across the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

**SB-920-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 4:01:16 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janet Pappas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear EEP Chair, EEP Vice Chair and EEP Committee members,

We are in strong support of SB920 to transition the State's fleet of light-duty vehicles to clean energy fuels as soon as possible. Hawaii imports fossil fuel to the tune of \$5 billion per year and two thirds of that is for transportation. Decarbonizing Hawaii's transportation sector needs to be one of the State's major goals.

A majority of car manufacturers across the U.S. are building at least one model of electric vehicle, while other carmakers are planning all-electric fleets. In other words, Hawaii must prepare for the EVs that will begin to flood the market--and our roadways--within the next five years (Hawaii currently stands at 1% EV adoption).

Having purchased solar panels in 2008 and owning a Nissan Leaf EV since 2011 (which we charge at home), our family realizes the savings available in energy costs and car maintenance for anyone who takes this path. There is just no reason to continue with fossil-fueled electricity and gas-guzzling cars--especially for entire fleets. Simultaneously, the infrastructure for EV charging stations (or for other alternate fuel vehicles) must be put in place.

We agree that Hawaii should:

- transition to clean ground transportation, leading by example with the State's light-duty vehicles, 100% by Dec. 31, 2030;
- require that Hawaii's DOT and State Energy Office develop strategies to transition all State-owned light-duty vehicles to meet the clean transportation goals; and
- require that all State agencies promote efficient planning of charging locations and day-time charging for electric vehicles

Trucks and other specialty vehicles are not yet available for transition, but we should not hesitate once hybrid or fully electric vehicles are available for purchase. Shenzhen, China, has 16,000 (*not* a typo) electric buses in their fleet and are now transitioning their taxis (World Economic Forum, "Shenzhen just made all its buses electric, and taxis are next").

For even faster progress, we suggest amending "light-duty State vehicles" to "all light-duty Hawaii-owned vehicles" be 100% electric or renewably fueled by Dec. 31 2030. The car manufacturers have begun pushing us in that direction.

We must do better for our planet AND we can save money doing so. Please give these forward-looking ideas strong consideration. Please pass SB920 SD1. Thank you for listening and for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas/Ronald Yasuda - Aiea, Hawaii

**SB-920-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 7:42:15 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Scott Kidd	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill

**SB-920-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:02:14 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nanette Vinton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong SUPPORT of SB920 SD2 which establishes clean ground transportation goals for state agencies to achieve a 100% light-duty motor vehicles zero-emission fleet by 12/31/2030.

Transitioning from fossil fuel vehicles to electric vehicles is one of the biggest things we can do to reduce our dependence on oil and lessen the damaging effects of air pollution.

As a long-time EV owner, I am happy to see the significant EV growth in our state over the past few years. But even with that growth, electric vehicles only amount to about 1.3% of the total vehicle population. We need to do better.

Setting specific clean ground transportation goals for the state agencies sets a clearer path to achieve a zero-emmission fleet by 2035. My only comment would be to only have 100% electric vehicles as the preferred vehicle type to meet these goals. This should be achievable considering the growing number of EV models available or coming soon to the marketplace.

Respectfully submitted,

Nanette Vinton

Mililani, HI

**SB-920-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:33:23 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stephanie Hall Morin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The state needs to lead by example.