



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 FINANCE

Wednesday April 7, 2021
1:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room #308 & Videoconference

in Support of
SB 1353 SD1 HD 1
RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE.

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee, the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) supports SB 1353 SD1 HD 1, which expands the duties of the Hawaii State Energy Office and transfers certain duties relating to energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy resilience, and clean transportation related incentives, programs, and goals from the Chief Energy Officer to the Hawaii State Energy Office.

HSEO appreciates the intent behind expanding and clarifying its responsibilities. SB 1353 SD1 HD1 moves the duties assigned to the Chief Energy Officer in Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) §196-72 to the list of activities that HSEO shall undertake in HRS §196-71. In moving the language from one section to the other, the bill proposes numerous substantive and technical amendments to the activities that HSEO shall undertake. Changes involve clarifying the direct connection of HSEO's activities to achieving the zero emissions clean economy target, which HSEO understands achieving a clean energy economy to be economic development; restoring provisions relating to providing analysis and planning; providing renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy resiliency, and clean transportation project deployment facilitation; and engaging the private sector to achieve renewable energy and clean transportation goals; ensuring that all of the duties of the Chief Energy Officer are transferred to the HSEO; and assigning HSEO additional responsibilities relating to advocacy and

program recommendation, providing technical assistance, and facilitating workforce development.

HSEO notes that expanding and clarifying HSEO's responsibilities, as well as any potential federal stimulus for energy-related infrastructure, would require additional staffing and funding as HSEO continues to face shrinking resources -- four staff positions were eliminated in FY20, three positions were unfunded in FY21, and the Executive Biennium Budget includes additional reductions of positions and reduced funding for contracts to carry out our current statutory work. Additionally, without an adequate expenditure ceiling for the Energy Security Special Fund (ESSF), HSEO is restricted from expending ESSF monies for activities to carry out its current mission and responsibilities. The Executive Biennium Budget proposes an expenditure ceiling for the ESSF to address immediate needs to carryout priority areas of HSEO's mission as identified in our 2020 Annual Report: to continue the electric vehicle (EV) charging system rebate program created by Act 142, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019; to provide funds to be able to receive and be reimbursed for a FEMA energy hazard mitigation grant; and to continue paying Special Fund Assessments.

HSEO notes that the Legislature has proposed \$2.4 million of the ESSF be transferred to the General Fund and there are measures under consideration that would fund the EV charging systems rebate program through a re-allocation of the Environmental Response, Energy, and Food Security Tax (aka the "barrel tax") and an appropriation from the ESSF.

HSEO continues to need an ESSF expenditure ceiling for \$600,000/\$400,000. HSEO has been awarded an Advanced Assistance subgrant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HiEMA) in which HSEO requires working capital to expend \$800,000 then request reimbursement for up to 75% of eligible project costs. HSEO plans to contribute up to \$200,000 of project personnel costs as cost match; however, the recent and proposed reductions in staff positions further limit HSEO's ability to contribute cost-match for competitive federal grants. An ESSF expenditure ceiling of \$600,000 is

needed in Fiscal Year 2022 to provide working capital to contract for the development of prioritized energy mitigation strategies for critical Oahu facilities to help Oahu communities become more energy resilient to hazards. Expenditures from the ESSF would then be reimbursable with federal funds from HiEMA. Without the upfront expenditure of ESSF monies, HSEO risks not receiving the federal contribution of \$600,000 and consequently makes Hawaii less competitive for future rounds of federal funding for disaster preparedness regarding energy security and resiliency, such as with FEMA's approximately \$1 billion Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) competitive grants, for which Advanced Assistance grants are heavily factored in its evaluation criteria.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-1353-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2021 7:06:52 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted Bohlen	Climate Protectors Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair, The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing **SB1353 SD1 HD1 RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE.**

Hearing: Thursday, April 7, 2021, 1:30 p.m., CR 308 and by videoconference

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

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i is a group focused on reversing the climate crisis and encouraging Hawai'i to lead the world towards a safe and sustainable climate and future. **The Climate Protectors Hawai'i strongly supports SB1353 SD1 HD1!**

As a tropical island State, Hawai'i 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. Hawai'i can and should be a leader in showing the world how to achieve a safe and sustainable climate and future. The sooner we lead by example and inspire others to take action, the better off the future will be for our children. We must do all we can to reduce our carbon footprint and become carbon negative as soon as possible.

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i were strongly opposed to the Senate version, SB1353 SD1, because, by emphasizing identifying and pursuing opportunities for economic development and eliminating the Hawaii State Energy Office's key focus on decarbonizing our economy, the bill threatened the State's goal of transitioning to carbon negativity as soon as possible. That transition is critical to Hawaii's leadership in mitigating the climate crisis.

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i **STRONGLY SUPPORTS the HD1 version** of the bill because it clarifies that the purpose of the Hawai'i State Energy Office shall be to

promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy resilience, and clean transportation, and to facilitate the achievement of a zero emissions clean economy. HD1 clarifies the responsibilities of the Hawai'i State Energy Office by:

(A) Restoring provisions relating to providing analysis and planning; providing renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy resiliency, and clean transportation project deployment facilitation; and engaging the private sector to achieve renewable energy and clean transportation goals;

(B) Ensuring that all of the duties of the Chief Energy Officer are transferred to the Hawai'i State Energy Office; and

(C) Assigning the Office additional responsibilities relating to advocacy and program recommendation, providing technical assistance, and facilitating workforce development.

SB1353 SD1 would be a setback for Hawaii's efforts to become carbon negative. SB1353 SD1 HD1 will help ensure that Hawai'i is able to lead in showing the world how to achieve a safe and sustainable climate and future.

Please pass SB1353 SD1 HD1! Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

Citizens' Climate Lobby Hawaii
hi.ccl.lobby@gmail.com



April 6, 2021

STRONG SUPPORT for **SB1353 SD1 HD1**, RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE

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

Citizens' Climate Lobby Hawaii - representing over 800 members statewide, **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** the HD1 version of SB 1353. This bill clarifies the Hawai'i State Energy Office's purpose to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy resilience, and clean transportation and facilitate a zero-emissions economy.

Citizens' Climate Lobby's primary focus is on building the political will for effective and fair national carbon pricing legislation. We are greatly encouraged by the recent April 1st reintroduction of the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (H.R. 2307) in the 117th Congress by Representative Ted Deutch. While passage of national legislation remains pending, CCL works to encourage states to enact necessary climate legislation. **SB1353 SD1 HD1** is one such measure.

SB1353 SD1 HD1 will help ensure that Hawai'i can demonstrate to the nation and the world how to achieve a safe and sustainable climate and future.

Please pass **SB1353 SD1 HD1**!

Respectfully,

Citizens' Climate Lobby Hawaii State Coordinator and Maui Chapter Leader - Molly Whiteley

Honolulu Chapter Leaders - Paul Bernstein, Charles Cox, Susan Gorman-Chang, and Virginia Tincher

Hawaii Island Chapter Leaders - Noel Morin and Ron Reilly

Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy organization focused on national policies to address climate change solutions. CCL Hawaii's 800+ members are part of a 180,000+ global organization. For more information, visit citizensclimatelobby.org.



To: The House Committee on Finance
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021, 1:30pm

In strong support of SB1353 SD1 HD1

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Finance committee,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org strongly supports **SB1353 SD1 HD1** which clarifies the core responsibilities of the Hawaii State Energy Office.

To be clear, 350Hawaii is strongly opposed to the **Senate version**, SB1353 SD1, because, by emphasizing identifying and pursuing opportunities for economic development and eliminating the Hawaii State Energy Office's key focus on decarbonizing our economy, the bill threatened the State's goal of transitioning to carbon negativity as soon as possible. That transition is critical to Hawaii's leadership in mitigating the climate crisis.

350Hawaii **STRONGLY SUPPORTS the HD1 version** of the bill because it clarifies that the purpose of the Hawaii State Energy Office to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy resilience, and clean transportation, and to facilitate the achievement of a zero emissions clean economy.

**SB1353 SD1 HD1 will help advance our efforts toward a safe and sustainable climate and future.
Please pass SB1353 SD1 HD1.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of this important legislation.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org



Testimony to the Committee on Finance

Wednesday, April 7, 2021

1:30 PM

VIA Video Conference

Conference Room 308, Hawaii State Capitol

SB 1353 HD1

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the committee,

Hawaii Clean Power Alliance (HCPA) supports the intent of SB 1353 HD1, which expands the duties of the Hawaii State Energy Office. Transfers certain duties relating to energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy resilience, and clean transportation related incentives, programs, and goals from the Chief Energy Officer to the Hawaii State Energy Office.

Hawaii Clean Power Alliance is a nonprofit alliance organized to advance the development and sustainability of clean energy in Hawaii. Our goal is to support the state's policy goal of 100 percent renewable energy by 2045. We advocate for utility-scale renewable energy, which is critical to meeting the state's renewable energy and carbon reduction goals.

We offer these comments on SB1353 HD1.

Utility-scale renewable projects are vitally important in the achievement of clean, renewable energy by 2045. Yet the reality is that the development of these utility-scale projects is getting more difficult as the state moves to higher RPS requirements.

Renewable energy development in Hawaii is lengthy and complex, with many moving parts involving planning, permitting, stakeholder communications, and outreach within government channels and the community. Any assistance, facilitation, and advocacy by the HSEO to shorten, simplify, or expedite this process is welcome.

Hawaii is at the cusp of exhausting the low hanging fruit of renewable projects and transitioning to the more difficult and complex development of projects. The need to balance the resources of intermittent technology with long lasting storage, the retirement or conversion of fossil fuel generators, and installation of other innovative technologies will require coordination of resources. There are conflicting policy goals or stakeholder views, such as use of land and natural resources.



Utility-scale renewable energy offers the opportunity for significant economic development, not just in local long- and short-term jobs, but also in the ancillary industries that these projects support — including agriculture, the local acquisition of materials, supplies, and the multiplier impact on the local economy. It also offers the ability to provide renewable energy at very affordable rates to the consumer that might otherwise never be able to afford their own renewable generation.

As the pursuit of renewable energy moves ahead, so will the needs for more innovation, research, and intellectual property unique to our island grids, which will also contribute to the global advancement of renewables.

Independent power producers rely on transparent and timely decision making, consistency, and expediency to effectively stand up their projects and contribute to our renewable goals. When we can count on those factors, we can effectively drive down costs, ultimately resulting in sustained renewable energy development and lower rates for the ratepayer. We support focus and clarity that can assist in achieving the state's energy goals

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

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

Frederick Redell, PE

Executive Director

(949) 701-8249

www.hawaiiicleanpoweralliance.org



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

April 7, 2021

LATE

To: House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Committee on Finance

Re: SB 1353, SD1, HD1– RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE ENERGY
OFFICE

Meeting: Wednesday, April 7, 2021, 1:30 p.m., Room 308 via videoconference

Position: **OPPOSITION**

Aloha, Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee on Finance:

The Health Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i is in **OPPOSITION** to SB 1353, SD1, HD1 which expands the duties of the Hawaii State Energy Office. This bill transfers certain duties relating to energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy resilience, and clean transportation related incentives, programs, and goals from the Chief Energy Officer to the Hawaii State Energy Office. This measure has an effective date of 7/1/2050.

This bill would:

- (1) Expand the duties of the Hawaii State Energy Office to include identifying and pursuing opportunities for economic development; and
- (2) Transfer certain duties relating to energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy resilience, and clean transportation related incentives, programs, and goals from the Chief Energy Officer to the Hawaii State Energy Office.

The effect of this measure would be to distract the Chief Energy Officer and the Hawaii State Energy Office from their critical energy and climate agenda of reducing dependency on fossil fuels and increasing efficiency measures, to achieve 100% clean energy by 2045. Hawaii must lead on how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the climate crisis; the Chief Energy Officer and the State Energy Office cannot be as effective if their focus also must be on economic development.

After reviewing the testimony of the Chief Energy Officer, Scott Glenn, we do not see a concurrence with this transfer of duties and responsibilities but rather we see a need for additional



April 7, 2021

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staffing, additional funding, and additional time to include responsibilities, such as economic development, outside of the Chief Energy Officer's current statutory duties.

We **oppose** this transfer of duties and responsibilities delineated in SB 1353, SD1, HD1 which expands the duties of the Hawaii State Energy Office. It transfers certain duties relating to energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy resilience, and clean transportation related incentives, programs, and goals from the Chief Energy Officer to the Hawaii State Energy Office.

Please defer this measure.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify on this key issue.

Respectfully yours,

Respectfully yours,

Alan B. Burdick
Co-Chair, Environmental Caucus
Co-Chair, Natural Resources Committee
Democratic Party of Hawai'i
Email: burdick808@gmail.com

Melodie R. Aduja
Co-Chair, Environmental Caucus
Co-Chair, Human Environmental Impacts Committee
Democratic Party of Hawai'i
Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com

SB-1353-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2021 7:03:35 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i is a group focused on reversing the climate crisis and encouraging Hawai'i to lead the world towards a safe and sustainable climate and future. **The Climate Protectors Hawai'i strongly supports SB1353 SD1 HD1!**

As a tropical island State, Hawai'i 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. Hawai'i can and should be a leader in showing the world how to achieve a safe and sustainable climate and future. The sooner we lead by example and inspire others to take action, the better off the future will be for our children. We must do all we can to reduce our carbon footprint and become carbon negative as soon as possible.

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i were strongly opposed to the Senate version, SB1353 SD1, because, by emphasizing identifying and pursuing opportunities for economic development and eliminating the Hawaii State Energy Office's key focus on decarbonizing our economy, the bill threatened the State's goal of transitioning to carbon negativity as soon as possible. That transition is critical to Hawaii's leadership in mitigating the climate crisis.

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i **STRONGLY SUPPORTS the HD1 version** of the bill because it clarifies that the purpose of the Hawai'i State Energy Office shall be to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy resilience, and clean transportation, and to facilitate the achievement of a zero emissions clean economy. HD1 clarifies the responsibilities of the Hawai'i State Energy Office by:

(A) Restoring provisions relating to providing analysis and planning; providing renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy resiliency, and clean transportation project deployment facilitation; and engaging the private sector to achieve renewable energy and clean transportation goals;

(B) Ensuring that all of the duties of the Chief Energy Officer are transferred to the Hawai'i State Energy Office; and

(C) Assigning the Office additional responsibilities relating to advocacy and program recommendation, providing technical assistance, and facilitating workforce development.

SB1353 SD1 would be a setback for Hawaii's efforts to become carbon negative. SB1353 SD1 HD1 will help ensure that Hawai'i is able to lead in showing the world how to achieve a safe and sustainable climate and future.

Please pass SB1353 SD1 HD1! Mahalo!

Mahalo for your consideration

Tlaloc Tokuda

Kailua Kona HI 96740

SB-1353-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2021 7:47:04 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2021 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

The State Energy Office has taken a strong lead in defining the implications and response to the Climate Crisis. This office must not be subsumed under an administrative structure which prioritizes Economic Vitality as the standard for action. It is such short sighted Economy oriented perspective which had led to 30 years of inaction in dealing with fast approaching Civilizational catastrophe. The HD1 amendment would allow the Energy Office the freedom for unabridged focus on the problem and its possible solutions, wherever those avenues might lead and whatever the hardship in the development of real, instead of sham, answers.

Tawn Keeney MD

SB-1353-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2021 9:34:45 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roberta Baker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT the HD1 version of the bill because it clarifies that the purpose of the Hawai'i State Energy Office shall be to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy resilience, and clean transportation, and to facilitate the achievement of a zero emissions clean economy. HD1 clarifies the responsibilities of the Hawai'i State Energy Office

SB-1353-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2021 10:42:35 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Gorman-Chang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

I am in strong support of **SB 1353 HD1 version** because it makes clear the Hawaii State Energy Office's purpose to promote renewable energy, energy efficiency and resilience, clean transportation and to facilitate achieving a zero emissions clean economy. **I am opposed to the SD1 version** of the bill because it is a step backwards in climate change legislation, using an outdated paradigm of putting economic health above climate change concerns, when we know that we can achieve both economic health and work towards a zero carbon future if done with proper, thoughtful legislation. Climate change has already impacted Hawaii with hotter summers, increased erosion of our beaches exacerbated by rising sea level, and flooding from increasingly more violent storms. Our legislation needs to reflect the serious considerations and actions we must take, starting now, to lessen the worst impact of climate change. Please pass **SB 1353 HD1**.

Mahalo.

Susan Gorman-Chang

SB-1353-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2021 2:45:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2021 1:30:00 PM



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

Comments:

Dear FIN Chair Luke, FIN Vice Chair Cullen and FIN Committee members,

We strongly support SB1353 SD1 HD1 which transfers State climate change planning and coordination to the Hawaii State Energy Office.

We believe HSEO has the personnel, background and mindset to provide excellent leadership on the existential issue of our time—the ongoing climate emergency.

The next 10 years have been called the “Climate Decade” because, based on our late start, it is our best chance to resolve the climate issue without catastrophic consequences for the world. Just this past week the carbon index reached 420 parts per million (ppm) in the atmosphere for the first time, far above the 350 ppm it should never surpass. The longer we wait, the more precarious the climate becomes in its ability to support human (and other) life. Hawaii, as a microcosm of the planet and in very grave danger of climate consequences (insidious sea level rise; more powerful storms; rain bombs and droughts; extinction of native flora, fauna and sea life) needs to lead by example, if for no other reason than to save itself!

What is required is a full-on, coordinated effort to eliminate the *causes* of pollution (eliminating existing pollution will not be enough): a complete transformation of our transportation system from fossil fuels to clean energy; clean electricity through wind and solar (offshore if possible); energy efficient buildings; and carbon sequestering agriculture and forestry. A sustainability mindset is required on all levels. We also hope that an ongoing dialogue keeping kama’aina informed and involved will be a fundamental part of the plan.

Please pass SB1353 SD1 HD1 this session so the difficult job ahead can get started. P.S. Please coordinate with the Honolulu climate office and other forward-looking cities and organizations for cutting edge ideas and support when possible. Hawaii can and must lead, not follow.

Thank you for listening to our concerns and for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas, Ronald Yasuda – Aiea, Hawaii