



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented to the  
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce  
Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

By  
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And  
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### HB 1242 HD1 – RELATING TO REWEWABLE ENERGY

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and members of the committee:

The Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute (HNEI) supports this bill and provides the following comments.

HB 1242 HD1 would require gas utility companies to meet a renewable portfolio standard (RPS) of 100 per-cent by 2045, and appropriate funds to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to contract with HNEI to conduct a gas RPS study to include, among other things, quantifying the potential and cost of in-state renewable gas production.

HNEI is currently conducting assessments of the potential for producing renewable natural gas (RNG) in the state. These assessments will include an inventory of existing and potential feedstocks, conversion technologies, a review of incentives in other locations, and greenhouse gas emissions impacts of RNG production.

The study contemplated by the bill is both broader than HNEI's current assessments and includes more specific factors to consider. This will help to better understand the range of impacts associated with the 100 per-cent gas RPS requirement, and help identify reasonable interim targets. However, HNEI believes that some of the listed factors such as those listed in section 3(c)(10)(F) effects on the economy, (G) balance of trade, culture, community, environment, land, and water, and (I) demographics, are unclear or overly broad. HNEI requests that these factors be clarified or left for the PUC to determine their practicality and relevance to the study.

Finally, a bill proposing a similar study (SB 2818) was amended in the Senate to change the agency contracting with HNEI to perform the study from the PUC to the Hawai'i State Energy Office. If the committee is considering it, HNEI would support that same change in this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 1242 HD1.