



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented to the
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
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HB 1242 – RELATING TO REWEWABLE ENERGY

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

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

HB 1242 would require gas utility companies to meet the same renewable portfolio standards as electric utilities, starting with the benchmark of twenty-five percent of its sales by 2025.

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.

While the bill's initial requirement that 25% of gas utility sales be met with RNG by 2025 could potentially be achieved with in-state production, the cost and timing necessary for acquiring the feedstock and production plant capabilities are highly uncertain. To better understand the range of impacts associated with such a requirement, it would be reasonable to require that the gas utility provide a plan for its transition to RNG, before a renewable portfolio standard for gas utilities is adopted.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 1242.