



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented to the  
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection  
Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.

By  
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And  
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### HB 2653 – RELATING TO TAXATION

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 2653 would replace the environmental response, energy, and food security tax with a carbon emissions tax.

HNEI notes that the amount of the tax proposed would be a significant increase over the current level, and could result in some unintended consequences and inequities.

HNEI also notes that few if any available energy sources are “carbon free” when full life-cycle emissions are considered. Although they have lower GHG emissions than fossil fueled generation; technologies like wind and solar especially when combined with battery storage, can have a significant GHG footprint. The entire life-cycle carbon impacts of the fully integrated energy system used to power our islands should be assessed, considered, and balanced to make informed decisions that impact our economy and climate.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 2653.