



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented to the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
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By
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And
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HB 2701 HD1 – RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee:

The Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute (HNEI) supports HB 2701 HD1, which would require agencies allotted a portion of the environmental response, energy, and food security tax to consider actions in achieving the zero emissions clean economy target and climate resilience, and require reporting.

Currently, HNEI collaborates and coordinates much of the activity funded by the energy systems development special fund (ESDSF) with various energy stakeholders, including the State Energy Office, the Public Utilities Commission, the utilities, technology developers and others. Although a primary purpose of the ESDSF is to develop technologies and approaches to help reduce Hawaii's dependence on fossil fuels, HNEI has increasingly been doing so in the context of assessing emissions impacts and the resiliency of our power systems. We agree that it is important to coordinate as much as possible across sectors in order to have the greatest impact in advancing the State's policy goals with respect to emissions and climate resilience.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 2701 HD1.