



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism
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SB 2559 – RELATING TO ENERGY

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) is in support of SB 2559, which authorizes the Hawai'i State Energy Office to (HSEO) enter into contracts with certain non-profit organizations to create a plan to administer monies in the energy security special fund, and increases the amount of funds deposited into the fund from the State environmental response, energy and food security tax.

The proposed measure is the first step to help the HSEO to successfully navigate and lead the state toward its Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative goals, including the shift to 100 percent renewable energy in the electrical sector by 2045 – by stimulating public-private partnerships that fund innovative clean energy technologies.

An increase in public investment into innovative, clean energy technologies made possible by this measure, will not only contribute to help mitigate the environmental effects of climate change, but at the same time -- will help to attract outside investment in these technologies to boost the state's economy.

As an active proponent and participant in clean energy and climate change mitigation research, as well as research innovation and commercialization, the University of Hawai'i supports SB 2559.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.