



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented to the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
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By

Richard Rocheleau, Director
Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute

And

Michael Bruno, PhD

Provost

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2818 SD1 – RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee:

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

SB 2818 SD1 would require the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) to contract with HNEI to conduct a study to determine the economic and technical feasibility of the use of renewable gas by gas utilities, and would appropriate funds for the study.

HNEI is currently conducting preliminary 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 be assessed, which may be appropriate before requiring gas utilities to meet specific renewable targets. However, HNEI believes that some of the listed factors such as those listed in section 3(a)(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 HSEO to determine their practicality and relevance to the study.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 2818 SD1.