



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
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By
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Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Araran, and members of the Committee:

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

SB 243 SD1 requires the following:

1. Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute to develop a strategic plan that outlines benchmarks to achieve a 100% renewable energy portfolio standard and to submit the strategic plan to the Legislature before the Regular Session of 2023; and,
2. Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute to conduct a feasibility study on the State's ability to achieve its renewable energy goals by 2045 and to submit its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2023.

Firstly, HNEI believes the development of a strategic plan by the Hawaii State Energy Office with the participation and validation of feasibility by HNEI is an appropriate sharing of responsibility but if tasked by the legislature in accordance with the current language, HNEI will of course work to meet this requirement.

Secondly, HNEI welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the planning and evaluation of the feasibility of the State achieving its 100% renewable electricity goal by 2045. HNEI currently conducts, at five-year intervals, an assessment of the likelihood of the utility to meet the State's RPS goals that, as required by prior legislation, is reported to the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission. Additionally, HNEI conducts ongoing studies to identify the major barriers to continued progress toward the State's goals that are included in HNEI's Annual Report to the legislature. While this legislation expands that effort, HNEI currently has adequate funding from the Energy Systems Development Special Fund (ESDSF) to complete this task, contingent on continuation of funding under ESDSF.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony on SB243 SD1.