



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
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By

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### SB 987 SD1– RELATING TO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

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

SB 987 SD1 proposes to convene a Sustainable Aviation Fuel Task Force within the Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute (HNEI) to develop a state action plan to reduce the greenhouse gas (GHG) intensity of international air transportation from Hawai'i.

While HNEI agrees that emissions associated with aviation fuel must be included in efforts to reduce GHG emissions, and that there is urgency to GHGs from all sources, we are concerned that this bill, in its current form, would not achieve the desired goals.

Specifically, while aviation fuel comprises a significant fraction of our fossil fuel usage; and contributes a significant fraction of Hawai'i's GHG emissions; and is, arguably, the area for which the fewest market-ready solutions are available; the potential innovations to reduce GHG from aviation are intrinsically linked to all other energy sectors.

HNEI also comments that the subject matter to be requested from the task force overlaps with other proposals the Legislature is considering, such as for HNEI, Hawai'i State Energy Office, and others named in this task force to undertake and participate in a statewide strategic energy plan. HNEI believes that the development of alternatives for sustainable aviation fuel, is more likely to result in actionable recommendations if included as part of an overall statewide energy plan. If further work is required upon completion of the statewide plan, such a task force focused on aviation fuel could be convened to build on the outcome of the plan.

HNEI stands ready to assist in the development of the overall statewide plan that addresses all the state's energy sectors to achieve a resilient, clean energy, decarbonized economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.