



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism and
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Monday, April 4, 2022 at 3:05 p.m.

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SCR 94/SR 84 REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE TO ENGAGE THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT PRESENCE WITHIN THE STATE OF HAWAII

Chairs Wakai and Nishihara, Vice Chairs Misalucha and DeCoite, and members of the committees:

SCR 94/SR 84 requests that the Hawai'i State Energy Office engage the U.S. Department of Energy to establish a permanent presence within the State of Hawaii; and further requests that the Governor, Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, as well as all departments and agencies with energy—related duties and responsibilities, are requested to support the Chief Energy Officer in this endeavor.

The Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute **supports** SCR 94/SR 84 and looks forward to working with the Hawai'i State Energy Office on this endeavor.

In its efforts to engage the USDOE to establish a permanent presence in Hawaii, HNEI respectfully encourages HSEO to work with the USDOE to ensure that any efforts to establish a permanent USDOE presence in Hawai'i fully support and are not duplicative of place-based applied research and technical assistance by Hawai'i-based entities. Critical needs that could be fostered by USDOE in a permanent local presence should include workforce development and capacity building within the state to support Hawai'i Innovation Initiative objectives.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of SCR 94/SR 84.