UNIVERSITY OF HAWAIʻI SYSTEM
Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Submitted to the
House Committee on Finance
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By
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SB 909 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO ENERGY ASSURANCE

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the committee:

My name is Richard Rocheleau, Director of the Hawaiʻi Natural Energy Institute (HNEI) at the University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa. While we spend much time in the design of innovative solutions for energy policy and technology necessary to drive Hawaii's clean energy transformation agenda, an often understated objective is to ensure the resiliency, safety and security of Hawaii's critical energy infrastructure. Energy assurance planning for natural and man-made disasters and disturbances remains one of the most important tasks of key energy stakeholders. HNEI supports SB 909 SD2 HD1 because it appropriately addresses a number of housekeeping and substantive improvements to Hawaii's statutes regarding fuel storage and response and energy emergency management.

SB 909 SD2 HD1 effectively establishes chapter 125C to clarify the State's roles in energy assurance for overseeing all forms of energy shortage, disruption and emergencies. While the existing plan is heavily focused on petroleum, SB 909 provides a broader view that affords residents and critical energy consumers with greater coverage and protection potential.

Also addressed in SB 909 SD2 HD1 is a greater alignment of state policies on energy assurance with applicable federal, state, county and private sector energy resources, emergency management and energy assurance plans and programs. It brings stark attention to access and confidentiality of crucial energy data essential for energy assurance and response teams to effectively perform, particularly those with Emergency Support Function #12 (energy) responsibilities. The bill also incorporates recommendations found in the most recent federal Quadrennial Energy Review and other federal and state strategic and operational guidance documents.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 909 SD2 HD1.