



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
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HB 1937– RELATING TO THE HAWAII HYDROGEN STRATEGIC PLAN

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and members of the committee:

HB 1937 requires the Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute (HNEI) to conduct a study to examine the State's ability to advance hydrogen production from local renewable energy resources and develop the Hawaii Hydrogen Strategic Plan utilizing the results of its study, which shall be reviewed and updated every four years. HB 1937 also requires a report to the Legislature and appropriates funds.

HNEI supports the need to more fully evaluate the potential for hydrogen to contribute to Hawaii's energy system or other economic sectors but has concerns that developing a hydrogen plan that is not fully integrated into the overall energy planning that is taking place would not allow costs, benefits, and impacts to be adequately assessed; nor would it lead to actionable items.

To resolve this HNEI respectfully suggests the following changes:

SECTION 1. Move the following elements of Section 1 to Section 2a (1).

(3) Cost, benefits, and impacts;

(6) Use of hydrogen as a transportation fuel and grid-level resource;

(7) Technical and economic feasibility and environmental benefits of using hydrogen in key areas to resolve resiliency issue; and

(11) Economic impact as an export commodity or other revenue generating opportunity.

SECTION 2. Change 2a(1) to read:

“Develop a long-term hydrogen plan for 2024 through 2050 that is clearly integrated with other long term energy planning in the state. This plan shall include:

- (a) Costs, benefits, and impacts;
- (b) An evaluation of the use of hydrogen as both a transportation fuel and grid-level resource;
- (c) Technical and economic feasibility and environmental benefits of using hydrogen in key areas to resolve resilience issues; and
- (d) Economic impact as an export commodity or other revenue generating opportunity.”

SECTION 4. HNEI is also concerned that a report of this magnitude cannot be completed in time to meet the 2023 legislature deadline and requests the schedule be extended to the 2024 legislature with an Interim Progress Report be submitted to the 2023 legislature.

SECTION 5. HNEI has sufficient funds from its Barrel Tax allocation to conduct this study and does not need a separate appropriation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony on HB 1937.