



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
AND
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

Thursday, January 30, 2025
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225 and Videoconference

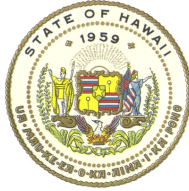
Providing Comments on
SB 635

RELATING TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY.

Chairs Wakai and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Chang and Gabbard, and Members of the Committees, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) respectfully offers comments on SB 635 that requires each state agency to expeditiously use energy efficient lighting and requires the Hawaii State Energy Office to provide technical assistance, survey state agencies for compliance and submit the survey to the legislature via a report to the 2026 legislature.

HSEO staff in collaboration with Hawaii Energy has and will continue to meet with State of Hawaii facilities managers to assess, survey and support their implementation of energy efficiency measures to include recommendations regarding their conversion to LEDs. In addition to eliminating mercury from the environment, converting to LEDs is one of the most cost-effective means of achieving energy savings, delivering higher quality lighting, reducing air conditioning bills and benefiting from much longer lamp lives.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION
COMMISSION
POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809**

Co-Chairs:
Chair, DLNR
Director, OPSD

Commissioners:
Chair, Senate AEN
Chair, Senate WTL
Chair, House EEP
Chair, House WAL
Chairperson, HTA
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CEO, OHA
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Director, DBEDT
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Director, DOH
Chairperson, DOE
Director, C+C DPP
Director, Maui DP
Director, Hawaii DP
Director, Kauai DP
The Adjutant General
Manager, CZM

**Testimony of
LEAH LARAMEE
Climate Change Coordinator on behalf of
Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission Co-Chair Mary Alice Evans and
Co-Chair Dawn N.S. Chang**

**Before the Senate Committees on
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
and
ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

**Thursday, January 30, 2025
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225 & Videoconference**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 635
RELATING TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

Senate Bill 635 requires each state agency to expeditiously use energy efficient lighting. Requires the Hawaii State Energy Office to provide technical assistance, survey state agencies for compliance, and submit the survey to the Legislature and requires a report to the Legislature. **The Hawaii'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) supports this measure.**

As part of the 25-governor US Climate Alliance, Hawai'i has committed to High-Impact Actions that will accelerate greenhouse gas emission reductions and drive the real, impactful implementation and results needed to make the US climate targets a reality including 100% net-zero operating emissions government buildings by 2030.

Fluorescent tube light bulbs use far more energy than LEDs which are now available in all needed shapes and sizes and cost less to own and operate. Transitioning all new fluorescent bulbs to LEDs in the United States would cut annual carbon dioxide emissions in 2030 by an amount equal to the emissions from 4 million typical passenger cars over a year. The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE), the Appliance Standards Awareness Project (ASAP), CLASP, and the Clean Lighting Coalition recommend that state, federal, and international policymakers should now phase out fluorescent bulbs to reduce mercury while cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

Additionally, the 2023 Hawai‘i State Energy Office report, Pathways to Decarbonization found that demand or load reductions resulting from aggressive energy efficiency measures are the most cost-effective measures to reduce emissions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



To: The Senate Committee on Government Operations (GVO)
and
The Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs (EIG)
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Thursday, January 30, 2025, 3pm

In support of SB635

Aloha Chairs McKelvey and Wakai, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Chang, and members of the GVO and EIG committees,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org **supports SB635** that requires each state agency to expeditiously use energy efficient lighting. This measure further requires the Hawai'i State Energy Office to provide technical assistance, survey state agencies for compliance, and submit the survey to the Legislature.

One of the areas where the State can **lead in reducing greenhouse gas emissions** while at the same time **maximizing savings of taxpayer dollars**, is by installing energy efficient lighting. Taking energy efficiency measures, such as installing energy efficient lighting, is a simple, common-sense step to strategically manage our resources to minimize energy consumption patterns.

If we are to solve the climate crisis, it will require **all of us** working together. The State can and should be a leader towards a safe and sustainable climate and future. Reducing our greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency is an effective means to put us on track to achieve this goal.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important legislation.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org



Before the Senate Committees on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs, and Government Operations
Thursday, January 30, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.

Testimony in Support of SB635: Relating to Energy Efficiency

Chairs Wakai and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Chang and Gabbard, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support and provide comments on Senate Bill 635.

Hawai'i Energy works to empower island families and businesses on behalf of the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to make smart energy choices to reduce energy consumption, save money, and pursue a 100% clean energy future. Energy efficiency – the energy we do not use – is the cheapest option to help us achieve our 100% clean energy goal by eliminating waste and being more efficient.

The bill would require our state agencies to “expeditiously” make use of energy efficient lighting and, in the process, replace any existing fluorescent fixtures and bulbs. It would also require the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) to provide technical assistance to the agencies to facilitate the process, complete a survey of all state agencies by November 1 of this year, and submit a report of the survey and any recommendations to the legislature before the 2026 session convenes.

Hawai'i Energy applauds the legislature's efforts to continue to build on the momentum from Act 225, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023 (Act 225), which made it unlawful to sell fluorescent lighting in Hawai'i as of January 1 of this year. Requiring our state agencies to efficiently transition their own lighting away from fluorescents is a logical, pragmatic step on the path to meeting the State's Clean Energy Initiative, which calls for Hawai'i to achieve 100% clean energy by 2045.

Our program offers a robust array of programs available to both residents and businesses designed to provide low-to-no cost lighting retrofits to replace existing lighting, including mercury-containing fluorescents, with energy-efficient light-emitting diodes (LEDs). To that end, we are available as a resource for both the state agencies and HSEO as they go forward with the requirements set forth in this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 635.

Sincerely,
Caroline Carl
Executive Director
Hawai'i Energy

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**SENATE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
And GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

JANUARY 30TH, 2025

SB 635, RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION

POSITION: SUPPORT

Coalition Earth **supports** SB 635, relating to transportation, which requires each state agency to expeditiously use energy efficient lighting. Requires the Hawai'i State Energy Office to provide technical assistance, survey state agencies for compliance, and submit the survey to the Legislature. Requires a report to the Legislature.

According to a report produced by the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, global sea levels could rise more than three feet by 2100, with more recent projections showing this occurring as early as 2060. In turn, over the next 30 to 70 years, approximately 6,500 structures and 19,800 people statewide will be exposed to chronic flooding. Additionally, an estimated \$19 billion in economic loss would result from chronic flooding of land and structures located in exposure areas. Finally, approximately 38 miles of coastal roads and 550 cultural sites would be chronically flooded, on top of the 13 miles of beaches that have already been lost on Kaua'i, O'ahu, and Maui to erosion fronting shoreline armoring.

As we work to reduce carbon emissions and stave off the worst consequences of climate change, we must begin preparing for the adverse impact of sea level rise on our shores. We are now quantifying the speed at which we must act. We cannot continue to develop the 25,800-acre statewide sea level rise exposure area—one-third of which is designated for urban use—without risking massive structural damage and, potentially, great loss of life.

Just two years ago, we witnessed the impact of the climate emergency on our shores. On August 8, 2023, wildfires swept across Maui and killed at least 100 people, making it one of the nation's deadliest natural disasters. The spread of the fires has been attributed to climate change conditions, such as unusually dry landscapes and the confluence of a strong high-pressure system

to the north and Hurricane Dora to the south. The wildfires destroyed over 2,200 structures, including numerous residential buildings, historic landmarks, and school facilities. In September 2023, a report from the United States Department of Commerce estimated the total economic damage of the wildfires to be roughly \$5.5 billion. Investing in renewable energy generation could not be more urgent, given the growing threat of climate catastrophes to our island home.

Therefore, **our state should take steps to accelerate our transition to a clean energy economy and continue our fight against climate change, including by adopting clean energy infrastructure at state facilities.** As the preamble to this bill notes, light-emitting diodes (LEDs) are up to 80 percent more energy efficient than fluorescent bulbs. They can also last three to five times longer than fluorescent bulbs and thirty times longer than incandescent bulbs.

In 2023, the legislature passed Act 225, which asserted the value of LEDs because they do not contain any mercury, are energy efficient, and are cost-effective. Act 225 makes it unlawful to sell, offer for sale, or distribute for sale any new manufactured screw and bayonet base type compact fluorescent lamps effective this year and pin-base type compact fluorescent lamps and linear fluorescent lamps effective January 1, 2026.

To meet the legal requirements of Act 225 and our clean energy standards, we should pass this measure and transition our state facilities to more energy-efficient lighting systems.

Coalition Earth is a nongovernmental organization that works to preserve the well-being of people and our planet. We champion policies that advance climate resilience, clean energy, public health, and economic fairness for working families. Contact us at info@coalitionearth.org.