Testimony before the House Committee on Finance

S.B. 2231 SD1, HD1 Relating to Electric Vehicles

Wednesday, March 31, 2010 7:00 p.m., Conference Room 308

By Carlos Perez Loriga
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Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and members of the Committee:

My name is Carlos Perez Loriga and I am testifying on behalf of Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc., and its subsidiary utilities, Maui Electric Company, Ltd., and Hawaii Electric Light Company, Inc.

S. B. 2231 SD1, HD 1 exempts from the general excise tax the sale or lease of electric vehicles and electric vehicle charging systems that are purchased or placed in service after July 1, 2010, and before January 1, 2015. The HD 1 also includes language which prohibits binding agreements that prevent the owner of a parking stall in a multi-family residential dwelling or townhouse project from installing an electric vehicle charging system at or near the owner's parking stall.

Hawaiian Electric Company supports S.B. 2231 SD1, HD1, with a suggested amendment. Rule 15 of our tariff states, "The customer shall not resell any of the electric energy received by him from the Company." SB 2231, SD1, HD1 currently requires that "the private entity may require fair payment for electricity used by such electric vehicle charging system." To avoid violating our Rule 15, we thus offer the following clarifying language to the bill at page 3, lines 4-6 (changes stricken and bolded):

"; provided that the private entity may require fair payment for reimbursement for the cost of electricity used by such electric vehicle charging system."

Increased consumer acceptance of electric and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles will aid in the reduction of greenhouse emissions and fossil fuel use and will help enable the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative's goal of 70% clean, renewable energy by 2030.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.