



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: www.hawaii.gov/dbedt

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
LUIS P. SALAVERIA
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Tuesday, February 27, 2015

1:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of

SB 1051, SD1

RELATING TO FUEL CELL ELECTRIC VEHICLES.

Chair Tokuda; Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT) supports SB 1051, SD1, Relating to Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles. This legislation would expand the definition of an electric vehicle (EV) to include “fuel cell electric vehicle” and offer the same exemptions from HOV lane restrictions and the payment of state and county parking fees that are granted to EVs.

Fuel cell EVs convert hydrogen and oxygen gas into electricity to charge their onboard batteries and power the vehicle. Further, fuel cell EVs would help to reduce gasoline consumption and assist in our efforts in achieving Hawaii’s clean energy goals. While passenger vehicles are not yet commercially available in Hawaii, it is in our State’s interest to encourage their sale by offering the same exemptions.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments regarding SB 1051, SD1.



COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
HAWAII ENERGY POLICY FORUM
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT MĀNOA

Hawaii Energy Policy Forum

Jeanne Schultz Afuvai, HI Inst. for Public Affairs
Joseph Boivin, Hawai'i Gas
Warren Bollmeier, HI Renewable Energy Alliance
Albert Chee, Chevron
Elizabeth Cole, The Kohala Center
Leslie Cole-Brooks, HI Solar Energy Assn
Kyle Datta, Ulupono Initiative
Mitch Ewan, UH HI Natural Energy Institute
Jay Fidell, ThinkTech HI, Inc.
Carl Freedman, Haiku Design & Analysis
Sen. Mike Gabbard, HI State Senate
Dan Giovanni, Hawaiian Electric Company
Mark Glick, State Energy Office, DBEDT
Justin Gruenstein, City & Co. of Honolulu
Dale Hahn, Ofc of US Sen Brian Schatz
Michael Hamnett, Research Corp. of the UH
Randy Iwase, Public Utilities Commission
Rachel James, Ofc of US Rep. Tulsi Gabbard
Jim Kelly, Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative
Darren Kimura, Energy Industries
Kelly King, Sustainable Biodiesel Alliance
Rep Chris Lee, HI House of Representatives
Gladys Marrone, Building Industry Assn of HI
Doug McLeod, Maui County
Stephen Meder, UH Facilities and Planning
Sharon Moriwaki, UH So. Sci. Public Policy Ctr
Ron Nelson, U.S. Defense Energy Support Center
Tim O'Connell, U.S. Dept of Agriculture
Jeffrey Ono, Division of Consumer Advocacy, DCCA
Darren Pai, Hawaiian Electric Company
Melissa Pavlicek, Hawaii Public Policy Advocates
Randy Perreira, HI Government Employees Assn
Rick Rocheleau, UH HI Natural Energy Institute
Will Rolston, Hawai'i County
Riley Saito, SunPower Systems Corp
Joelle Simonpietri, U.S. Pacific Com. Energy Ofc
H. Ray Starling, Hawaii Energy
Ben Sullivan, Kaua'i County
Lance Tanaka, Hawaii Independent Energy
Maria Tome, Public Utilities Commission
Alan Yamamoto, Ofc of Sen Mazie Hirono
Ah Linn Yamane, HI Government Employees Assn

Testimony of Mitch Ewan
Chair, Transportation Working Group
Hawaii Energy Policy Forum

Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

February 27, 2015 at 1:00 pm in Conference Room 211

IN SUPPORT OF SB1051 SD1 Relating to Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles

Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee,

I am Mitch Ewan, Chair of the Transportation Working Group of the Hawaii Energy Policy Forum (Forum). The Forum, created in 2002, is comprised of over 40 representatives from Hawaii's electric utilities, oil and natural gas suppliers, environmental and community groups, renewable energy industry, and federal, state and local government, including representatives from the neighbor islands. Our vision and mission, and comprehensive "10 Point Action Plan" serves as a guide to move Hawaii toward its preferred energy goals and our support for this bill.

SB1051 SD1 clarifies that fuel cell powered vehicles are "electric vehicles" by amending: (1) Section 103D-412, HRS, to define a fuel cell electric vehicle as a zero-emission electric vehicle that uses a fuel cell to convert hydrogen gas and oxygen into electricity to charge the vehicle; and (2) Section 291-71, HRS, to add "fuel cell electric vehicle" under the definition of electric vehicle.

The Forum supports this measure that would provide fuel cell electric vehicles with the same "market pull" incentives as those enjoyed by battery electric vehicles, i.e., parking fee exemptions and HOV lane use. It also directs all state and county agencies, when purchasing new vehicles, to consider fuel cell electric vehicles.

The Forum supports SB1051 SD1, and respectfully urges passage of the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

This testimony reflects the position of the Forum as a whole and not necessarily of the individual Forum members or their companies

SB1051

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 27, 2015 13:00PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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