

Bill 8, CD2
Early Testimony

**Testimony before the City Council
City and County of Honolulu
Committee on Budget**

**By Brennon Morioka
General Manager, Electrification of Transportation Department
Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.**

**September 12, 2018
10:00 am
Committee Hearing Room**

**Bill 8 (2018)
Relating to Buses**

Chair Martin, Vice Chair Pine, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Brennon Morioka, and I am testifying on behalf of Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc. ("Hawaiian Electric" or "Company"). Hawaiian Electric strongly supports Bill 8's intent to require the Director of Transportation Services to consider using zero emissions buses to service routes with at least one bus stop at or within 100 yards of a Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project rail station or a multi-modal transit center.

Encouraging and enabling the electrification of transit buses is one of the Company's top priorities established in our *Electrification of Transportation Strategic Roadmap*, filed with the Public Utilities Commission in March, 2018. In our *roadmap*, the Company identifies the electrification of buses as a tremendous opportunity to both reduce operational costs for transit operators, but also aligns with utility pricing incentives to make better use of renewable energy production. Through partnerships with State and County agencies, schools, and private bus operators, we are providing technical expertise and developing solutions to reduce costs and ease the transition to electric buses. For example, we are already working closely with the City on its LowNo Grant project to begin the implementation process of an electric transit bus fleet, including the planning of charging infrastructure and charging opportunities to assist the City in managing and saving on its operational costs. We are also currently developing a new bus tariff with discounted time-of-use rates, to further incentivize such transitions.

Engaging bus fleet operators and electric bus providers early in the electrification transition will allow the utility to plan for cost-effective integration of this new electric load. Understanding bus fleet operators' needs and plans will also inform Hawaiian Electric's development of tariffs to maximize contributions to renewable integration from this load. Hawaiian Electric can help ensure a positive experience for early adopters by supporting them through the process of installing and interconnecting

chargers, and by providing a single point of contact as they encounter concerns and issues in electrifying.

In short, this bill supports the momentum and progress already achieved in transforming all modes of Hawaii's ground transportation, especially that of the City's efforts to transition to a clean transportation transit bus fleet.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.