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Natural Foods
Hilo

Kim Coco Iwamoto
Enlightened Energy
Honolulu

Chamber of
Sustainable
Commerce
P.O. Box 22394
Honolulu, HI
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Sen. Lynn Decoite, Chair
Sen. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Comm. on Energy, Economic Dev. & Tourism

Sen. Mike Gabbard, Chair
Sen. Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair
Comm. on Agriculture & Environment

Tuesday, January 30, 2024
1:01 pm, EET
Conference Room 229 or via Zoom

RE: SB2525 Carbon Cashback - Conditional Support with Amendments

Dear Chairs Decoite & Gabbard, Vice Chairs Wakai & Richards, and
Members of the Committees,

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce represents over 100 small businesses across the State of Hawaii that strive for a triple bottom line: people, planet and prosperity; we know we can strengthen our economy without hurting workers, consumers, communities or the environment. This is why we conditionally support SB2525 with amendments.

According to the International Monetary Fund, the global subsidies for fossil fuels were estimated between \$5.4-7 trillion in 2022. According to the U.S. Senate Committee on the Budget, the U.S. taxpayers handed over about \$20 billion in 2022 to the fossil fuel industry to make fossil fuels artificially cheaper. These subsidies undermine the viability of investing in energy sources that produce less green house gas (GHG) emissions.

The challenge for Hawaii becomes, how do we capture those federal tax dollars our residents are paying, expose the true costs of fossil fuels and invest those monies locally in non-GHG fuel sources and social enterprises that support equitable participation in GHG reduction efforts.

CSC supports the carbon tax and the refundable credit to the lower 75% income households; but acknowledge the top 25% would experience less financial hardship by the carbon tax; instead, that portion of the tax revenue should be directed to social benefit programs that will have direct and immediate reductions of GHG emissions, such as, but not limited to:

- Making bus transportation on all the islands free, with more robust routes, express lanes, broader schedules and larger fleet of electric-solar buses
- Providing electric car sharing programs, like biki bikes, for families who cannot afford to buy an electric car and/or install a charging station
- Subsidize more locally grown organic produce for school meals

Additionally, please add a section to the bill that requires an honest evaluation of the volume of green house gases emitted by trash and biomass incineration and tax those accordingly to the true costs to global warming and climate change.