

January 30, 2023



Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
Committee on Transportation and Culture & Arts
Tuesday, January 31
3:00pm
via Video Conference

RE: SB973 Relating to Transportation (STRONG SUPPORT)

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye & Committee Members,

Chamber of SUSTAINABLE Commerce testifies in STRONG SUPPORT of SB973. As business owners who believe we can strengthen our economy without hurting employees, consumers, communities or the environment, we urge this committee to vote in favor of passing SB973, which will reduce the release of carbon into our environment by requiring lessors of rental motor vehicles to incorporate zero-emission vehicles or plug-in hybrid electric vehicles, or both, into the lessor's rental motor vehicle fleets.

Hawaii will not be able to reach its carbon reduction goals if we do not enact policies that support these outcomes. The rental car industry has had ample time to reduce the amount of carbon by product its business model generates. Unfortunately, there has only been minimal action to increase its fleet of zero-emission cars. Decisions regarding the purchasing of rental car fleets and calculating their loss of value will need some lead time; Hawaii cannot put off giving these rental car companies clear notice of the mandates they must conform to if they are to continue to profit by doing business in Hawaii.

Hawaii is the perfect geography for speeding up this mandate as our islands provide a natural limitation on the maximum distance a vehicle can travel. The shift in energy needs for recharging the increased number of zero-emission vehicles will stimulate greater investment in PV, micro-wind and other alternative energy projects on each island.

Furthermore, the purchasing power of the rental car industry is so immense that it could bring down the price of zero-emission vehicles for individual consumers across the country and have an exponential effect on bringing down carbon emissions.

**Hawaii
Legislative
Council**

Maile Meyer
Na Mea Hawaii
Honolulu

Russel Rudderman
Island Naturals
Hilo / Kona

Tina Wildberger
Kihei Ice
Maui

Joell Edwards
Wainiha Country Market
Kauai

Kim Coco Iwamoto
AQuA Rentals, LLC
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