PACIFIC BIODIESEL TECHNOLOGIES

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February 5, 2026

TESTIMONY ON HB 2423, RELATING TO BIODIESEL

SUPPORT

Representative Darius K. Kila, Chair
Representative Tyson K. Miyake, Vice Chair
Committee on Transportation
Hearing: Feb. 5, 2026, 9:30am, Conf Room 430 and via Videoconference

Aloha Chair Kila, Vice Chair Miyake and Members of the Committee,

Pacific Biodiesel **strongly supports** **HB 2423**, which establishes a 5% biodiesel blending requirement for all highway diesel fuel sold in Hawaiʻi.

Biodiesel is an energy-dense renewable fuel source that promotes energy security in Hawaiʻi, supports USA national security and benefits the local circular economy. Biodiesel has one of lowest carbon footprints of any fuel, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 86% compared to fossil diesel.
Pacific Biodiesel produces our biodegradable, non-toxic fuel with used cooking oil recycled from Hawaiʻi's restaurants, keeping that potentially hazardous waste out of local landfills. With our carbon negative regenerative farming operation, we also locally produce biodiesel from virgin oils, like sunflower oil and canola oil. Our model also contributes culinary oils and high-protein meal for livestock feed to the local food system. Pacific Biodiesel's "ag and energy" model today is demonstrating a "net carbon negative" renewable fuel system that's a beneficial circular economy model for Hawaii.

B5 will support continued expansion of biodiesel production for our state – urgent now more than ever.

Pacific Biodiesel is acutely aware of the important role our biodiesel production plays in supporting military readiness and energy resilience in our state. Given Hawaiʻi's strategic location, our biodiesel ensures a reliable, readily available local supply of biofuel at key Department of Defense locations in Hawaiʻi and the Indo-Pacific region to help protect United States national security and military preparedness and further reduce reliance on imported crude oil, especially from dangerous sources like Russia-backed Libya.

Current biodiesel production in Hawaiʻi is 6 million gallons annually. Biodiesel produced from Hawaiʻi-sourced feedstock can feasibly scale to 16 million gallons annually by 2040 – *this total vertical integration to locally grow and produce biodiesel epitomizes energy security!*

B5 is a proven, low-risk policy to achieve immediate reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

- B5 is 5% biodiesel blended with 95% petroleum diesel.
- B5 is a minimal blend (considered a benign fuel additive).
- B5 is universally accepted by ALL vehicle manufacturers for use in any diesel engine (no warranty or maintenance issues).
- B5 is quickly deployable:
    - It can be used in Hawaiʻi's existing liquid fuel infrastructure.
    - Hawaiʻi currently has in-state production capacity to provide B5.
    - A high-volume fuel blending rack is online at the in-state diesel refinery.
    - It requires no special labeling at the pump.

Several states have a successful track record with B5 and other high biodiesel blends. For example, Minnesota is the first and longest-running biodiesel mandate in the nation (continuous since 2005). It uses a seasonal minimum biodiesel blending strategy – currently B5 in winter, B10 early spring and B20 in summer. And in California, 100% Renewable Biofuel is the on-road standard: Biodiesel + Renewable Diesel (B20/R80) now comprises nearly 75% of California's diesel fuel supply.

As Hawaiʻi embraces electric vehicles, it is important to recognize that a large portion of our transportation infrastructure will remain dependent on traditional fossil fuel, leading to an electrification gap. Biodiesel can help to fill that gap and bring immediate greenhouse gas emission reductions for the hard-to-electrify sectors – like large trucks, buses, and boats where new electric vehicle technology is extremely expensive, not widely available and lacks the same payload as diesel engines.

In, Hawaiʻi, B5 may add only pennies to the price of local fuel, similar to the typical fluctuations in diesel fuel prices. But it will quickly translate to significant positive environmental impact. For example:

- In 2024, 44 million gallons of fossil diesel highway fuel was used statewide.
- Of that amount, 5% biodiesel (B5) would equate to 2.2 million gallons of biodiesel.
- 2.2 million gallons of biodiesel prevents 46.2 MILLION LBS of CO_2/year or 20,952 metric tons of CO_2

For power generation, biodiesel is a critical component of the State's renewable energy portfolio.

Biodiesel is a 100% renewable fuel that provides a firm renewable source for power generation that is a reliable backup to intermittent renewables like solar and wind that fluctuate in availability. In Hawaii's electric utilities, fast-start diesel engines — increasingly fueled with clean biodiesel — are enabling higher penetration of intermittent PV and wind assets while maintaining grid stability.

We cannot and should not sit back and wait for a 100% zero emission future.

The further we move towards our goal of 100% renewable, the more critical liquid biofuel sources will become. We must expand the use of biofuels today and support additional local production now to meet the needs later. B5 for our highway fuel is a significant step to get that started.

Mahalo,

Robert O. King

Bob King
Founder and President
Pacific Biodiesel