



STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

P.O. Box 119
Honolulu, Hawaii 96810-0119
Tel: (808) 586-0554
email: state_procurement_office@hawaii.gov
<http://spo.hawaii.gov>

TESTIMONY
OF
BONNIE KAHAKUI, ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
FEBRUARY 6, 2025, 9:00 AM

HOUSE BILL 787
RELATING TO DECARBONIZATION

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 787. The State Procurement Office (SPO) supports the intent bill, which requires the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption Commission to study the feasibility of implementing to incorporate emissions data from the supply chain and product life cycle into procurement decisions and provides comments and recommendations.

Challenges and Recommendations:

Implementation Complexity: Ensuring compliance across various agencies may require additional training and administrative oversight.

Recommendation: Establish a phased implementation strategy with clear benchmarks and provide training sessions for procurement officers.

Cost Considerations: Initial investment in sustainable practices may raise concerns about budget impacts.

Recommendation: Conduct a cost-benefit analysis demonstrating long-term savings and economic benefits through sustainability measures.

Stakeholder Engagement: Some agencies and vendors may resist change due to unfamiliarity or perceived burden.

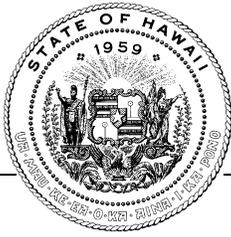
Recommendation: Develop an outreach program that includes workshops, incentives for compliance, and a platform for feedback to ensure smooth adoption.

Monitoring and Accountability: Ensuring compliance with the new provisions will require oversight.

Recommendation: Establish performance metrics and reporting requirements to track progress and impact.

HB 787 represents a critical step toward integrating sustainability into state procurement, and SPO stands ready to support its successful implementation. We respectfully urge the Committee to pass this measure with our recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**STATE OF HAWAI'I
OFFICE OF PLANNING
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DIRECTOR

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846
Fax: (808) 587-2824
Web: <https://planning.hawaii.gov/>

Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS, Director

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Thursday, February 6, 2025, 9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of
HB 787
RELATING TO DECARBONIZATION.

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **offers comments** on HB 787, which requires the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption Commission to study the feasibility of implementing a "buy clean" decarbonization policy and program in Hawai'i. Requires administrative and substantive support from the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Since 2018, the OPSD has worked closely with the State Procurement Office (SPO) to advance Hawai'i's commitment to environmental stewardship, sustainability, and climate resilience. Together, we have successfully modernized state purchasing practices, focusing on environmentally preferable, green, and decarbonizing policies that align with Hawai'i's long-term climate goals.

Through this partnership, OPSD and SPO have offered multiple annual trainings on sustainable procurement practices. The SPO has also been a proactive participant in the National Association of State Procurement Officials' (NASPO) sustainable purchasing initiatives. Notably, the State Procurement Office has invested in the comprehensive membership of all state and county entities in the Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council—demonstrating a clear commitment to sustainability across the entire state.

Given this established expertise, the State Procurement Office, rather than the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, is best positioned to lead the study on the feasibility of a "buy clean" policy and program in Hawai'i. The OPSD stands ready to assist as a key sustainability and climate partner to the SPO, providing support and expertise to ensure the success of this initiative.

We strongly encourage you to consider the SPO as the lead agency on this matter, and we are confident that, with their expertise and our continued partnership, SPO can drive meaningful progress toward a cleaner, more sustainable, and climate resilient future for Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION
COMMISSION
POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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Director, OPSD

Commissioners:
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Director, Maui DP
Director, Hawaii DP
Director, Kauai DP
The Adjutant General
Manager, CZM

Testimony of
LEAH LARAMEE
Climate Change Coordinator on behalf of
Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission Co-Chair Mary Alice Evans and
Co-Chair Dawn N.S. Chang

Before the House Committee on
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Thursday, February 6, 2025
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 787
RELATING TO DECARBONIZATION

House Bill 787 requires the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption Commission to study the feasibility of implementing a "buy clean" decarbonization policy and program in Hawai'i. Requires administrative and substantive support from the Department of Land and Natural Resources. **The Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request and provides comments.**

The Commission consists of a multi-jurisdictional effort between 20 different departments, committees, and counties to protect the lives and livelihoods of the people of Hawai'i through accelerate climate action. As part of the 25-governor US Climate Alliance, Hawai'i has committed to High-Impact Actions that will accelerate greenhouse gas emission reductions and drive the real, impactful implementation and results needed to make the US climate targets a reality. This includes taking actions to align building sector utility resource planning and procurement policies with state climate goals.

Additionally, the Hawaii State Energy office identified adopting a "buy clean" state policy as a key action to achieve a carbon-negative economy in their Hawaii Pathways to Decarbonization report. Approximately 15% of annual global GHG emissions are from embodied carbon of building materials and construction. To address the lifecycle emissions associated with construction materials, multiple states and the federal government have already adopted "buy clean" policies to require disclosure and limits on embodied carbon of materials used in state procured projects. Given the additional embodied carbon associated with materials shipped to

Hawai‘i, the Commission recognizes the unique opportunity to develop a state “buy clean” program that will deeply decarbonize by addressing all embodied carbon including transportation emissions.

This measure will align state actions with our state goals for decarbonization.

The Commission respectfully recommends non-substantive edits to include changing the commission from the “Hawai‘i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption Commission” to the “Hawai‘i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission.”

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

HB-787

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:04:37 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Climate Protectors Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Climate Protectors Hawaii **SUPPORT** joining California, Colorado, Oregon, and Washington in considering a "buy clean" program to reduce carbon emissions from construction of capital public projects to prioritize bids that use materials with the lowest global warming potential.

Please pass this bill!

Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawaii (by Ted Bohlen)



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

FEBRUARY 6th, 2025

HB 787, RELATING TO DECARBONIZATION

POSITION: SUPPORT

Coalition Earth **supports** for HB 787, relating to decarbonization, which requires the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption Commission to study the feasibility of implementing a "buy clean" decarbonization policy and program in Hawai'i; and requires administrative and substantive support from the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

According to a report produced by the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, global sea levels could rise more than three feet by 2100, with more recent projections showing this occurring as early as 2060. In turn, over the next 30 to 70 years, approximately 6,500 structures and 19,800 people statewide will be exposed to chronic flooding. Additionally, an estimated \$19 billion in economic loss would result from chronic flooding of land and structures located in exposure areas. Finally, approximately 38 miles of coastal roads and 550 cultural sites would be chronically flooded, on top of the 13 miles of beaches that have already been lost on Kaua'i, O'ahu, and Maui to erosion fronting shoreline armoring.

As we work to reduce carbon emissions and stave off the worst consequences of climate change, we must begin preparing for the adverse impact of sea level rise on our shores. We are now quantifying the speed at which we must act. We cannot continue to develop the 25,800-acre statewide sea level rise exposure area—one-third of which is designated for urban use—without risking massive structural damage and, potentially, great loss of life.

Just two years ago, we witnessed the impact of the climate emergency on our shores. On August 8, 2023, wildfires swept across Maui and killed at least 100 people, making it one of the nation's deadliest natural disasters. The spread of the fires has been attributed to climate change conditions, such as unusually dry landscapes and the confluence of a strong high-pressure system to the north and Hurricane Dora to the south. The wildfires destroyed over 2,200 structures,

including numerous residential buildings, historic landmarks, and school facilities. In September 2023, a report from the United States Department of Commerce estimated the total economic damage of the wildfires to be roughly \$5.5 billion. Investing in renewable energy generation could not be more urgent, given the growing threat of climate catastrophes to our island home.

Therefore, **our state should take steps to accelerate our transition to a clean energy economy and continue our fight against climate change, including by aligning our procurement processes with our climate change mitigation and decarbonization goals.** Incorporating emissions data from the entire supply chain and product life-cycle into procurement decisions will allow the state to ensure that public funding spent in a manner that uplifts our efforts to catalyze a clean economy and protect our islands from the growing public health risks associated with the climate emergency.

A “buy clean” procurement program will account for scope one through three greenhouse gas emissions. Scope one greenhouse gas emissions encompass direct emissions from sources owned or controlled by the reporting entity; scope two greenhouse gas emissions encompass indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, heat, or steam consumed by a reporting entity; and scope three greenhouse gas emissions encompass indirect emissions along the value chain, such as emissions produced by travel and consumer activity. Understanding an accounting for the breakdown of direct versus indirect carbon emissions in Hawai’i is critical to developing public policy plans that fully encompass the state’s carbon footprint in a manner that empowers public and private sector entities to collaborate on clean economy goals.

Coalition Earth is a nongovernmental organization that works to preserve the well-being of people and our planet. We champion policies that advance climate resilience, clean energy, public health, and economic fairness for working families. Contact us at info@coalitionearth.org.