

TESTIMONY OF
JAMES P. GRIFFIN, Ph.D.
CHAIR, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
STATE OF HAWAII

TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE

March 1, 2022
12:30 p.m.

Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

MEASURE: H.B. No. 1800, HD1

TITLE: RELATING TO CLIMATE MITIGATION.

DESCRIPTION: Establishes a goal for the statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit to be at least seventy per cent below 2005 levels by 2030. Requires the Hawaii state energy office to conduct a study to determine Hawaii's pathway to decarbonization and identify challenges, opportunities, and actions that will be needed to achieve those goals. Appropriates funds out of the energy security special fund for the study. Effective 7/1/2100. (HD1)

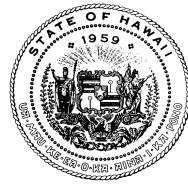
POSITION:

The Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") offers the following comments for consideration.

COMMENTS:

The Commission supports the intent of this measure to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions and study Hawaii's pathway to decarbonization. Should this measure pass, the Commission will coordinate with the Hawaii State Energy Office on implementing these goals as they pertain to the state's energy utilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 1800, HD 1
RELATING TO CLIMATE MITIGATION**

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: 3/1/2022

Room Number: Via Videoconference

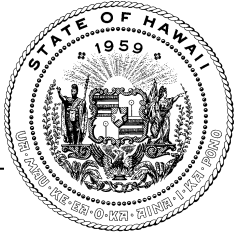
1 **Fiscal Implications:** The fiscal implications of this measure are unknown at this time”

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (Department) supports this measure that
3 proposes to establish a 2030 statewide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions limit under Hawaii
4 Revised Statutes, Section 225P, to help ensure that the State can meet its 2045 zero emissions
5 clean economy target.

6 Tracking Hawaii’s progress in GHG reductions and the need for the State to plan ahead
7 and understand the steps that need to be taken are critical components towards achieving success
8 in combatting climate change. We support the bill’s directives to have the Department determine
9 the 2005 statewide GHG emissions level, which establishes the baseline for reductions, and to
10 continue to produce GHG inventory reports that will be widely accessible. We also support the
11 proposed Hawaii State Energy Office study to determine Hawaii’s pathways to decarbonization.

12 **Offered Amendments: None.**

13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SCOTT J. GLENN
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

235 South Beretania Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone:
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(808) 587-3807
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Testimony of
SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Tuesday, March 1, 2022
12:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

**SUPPORT
HB 1800 HD1
RELATING TO CLIMATE MITIGATION.**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports HB 1800, HD1, which establishes a goal for the statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit to be at least seventy per cent below 2005 levels by 2030; requires HSEO to conduct a study to determine Hawaii's pathway to decarbonization and identify challenges, opportunities, and actions that will be needed to achieve those goals; and appropriates funds out of the energy security special fund for the study.

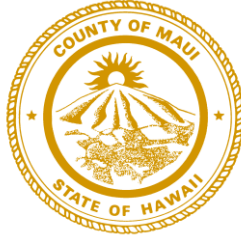
HSEO believes that setting an interim target, including all emissions, measuring progress (Part II of the bill), and identifying pathways to decarbonization (Part III of the bill) will build on the success of Act 234, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2007, and ensure progress towards Hawai'i's clean economy target set forth in Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Section 225P-5.

HSEO defers to the appropriate agencies for comment on matters specific to them. HSEO notes that the Department of Health's Greenhouse Gas Inventory has been a critical tool for decarbonizing the economy and appreciates the Department's continual improvement of it.

HSEO supports this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

MICHAEL P. VICTORINO
Mayor
ERIC A. NAKAGAWA, P.E.
Director
SHAYNE R. AGAWA, P.E.
Deputy Director
MICHAEL KEHANO, P.E.
Solid Waste Division
SCOTT R. ROLLINS, P.E.
Wastewater Reclamation Division
TAMARA L. FARNSWORTH
Environmental Protection &
Sustainability Division



**COUNTY OF MAUI
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

2145 KAOHU STREET, SUITE 102
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793

February 28, 2022

TESTIMONY OF TAMARA L. FARNSWORTH
MANAGER, COUNTY OF MAUI, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION & SUSTAINABILITY
DIVISION

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Tuesday, March 1, 2022, 12:30 p.m.
Via Videoconference

In consideration of **HOUSE BILL 1800 HD 1 RELATING TO CLIMATE MITIGATION**
Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Committee on Finance

The County of Maui Department of Environmental Management stands in **SUPPORT of HB1800 HD 1** which would establish a goal for the statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit to be at least seventy percent below 2005 levels by 2030. This bill would also require the Hawai'i state energy office to conduct a study to determine Hawai'i's pathway to decarbonization and identify challenges, opportunities, and actions needed to achieve those goals.

The build-up of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions poses a serious threat to the environment, to lives and to livelihoods. Currently, the County of Maui is facing urgent and significant challenges as a result of climate change including severe drought, wildfires, floods and temperature swings. At the State level, drought alone has cost Hawai'i millions of dollars in agricultural losses. Careful planning and active management can help reduce the impacts. Two years ago, the Maui County Council declared our recognition of the climate emergency by unanimously adopting Resolution 19-209. Setting decarbonization targets would allow for a coordinated effort to reduce emissions and carbon footprint of the state and so help protect our unique island system from further loss and damage.

Maui County recognizes the critical nature of preparing for the effects of climate change. Therefore, we also support Hawai'i state energy office in conducting a study to determine Hawai'i's pathway to decarbonization and identify challenges, opportunities, and actions to achieve those goals.

We respectfully urge this committee to pass HB1800 HD 1.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

March 1, 2022, 12:30 P.M.

Video Conference

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1800 HD1

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Committee members:

Blue Planet Foundation **strongly supports HB 1800**, which establishes a goal to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions 70% below 2005 levels by 2030, and requires a decarbonization pathways analysis to help identify specific and actionable steps to help us reach the goal. **At a minimum, Hawai'i should align with the target set at the federal level by the Biden-Harris Administration, which aims to achieve a 50% emissions reduction by 2030.**¹

The Climate Emergency Requires Deep Decarbonization

In August 2021, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued its loudest wake-up call on climate to date. The nearly 4,000-page report on climate science leaves no room for debate: human's activities are unequivocally changing our planet's climate. Our fossil fuel use is responsible for the dramatic unnatural disasters we've been witnessing worldwide—from the firestorms on the West Coast to the flooding in Europe and Asia, to the slipping away of Hawai'i's beaches. The report makes clear what we must do now: we must put an expiration date on burning fossil fuels and make deep decarbonization efforts economy-wide, not only in the electricity sector.

In a time where many of us are experiencing “disaster fatigue,” the UN report did share one silver lining. While some consequences are irreversible, we can still prevent the very worst effects of climate change. But only if we act now.

Last year, Hawai'i lawmakers took an inspiring step by passing a resolution (SCR 44) declaring a “climate emergency.” **House Bill 1800 offers a critical opportunity to transform the words of the climate emergency resolution into meaningful and measurable actions that match the scale and urgency of the challenge we face.**

¹ *FACT SHEET: President Biden Sets 2030 Greenhouse Gas Pollution Reduction Target Aimed at Creating Good-Paying Union Jobs and Securing U.S. Leadership on Clean Energy Technologies*, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/22/fact-sheet-president-biden-sets-2030-greenhouse-gas-pollution-reduction-target-aimed-at-creating-good-paying-union-jobs-and-securing-u-s-leadership-on-clean-energy-technologies/>.

House Bill 1800 takes an important step by updating our economy-wide emissions reduction goals to match what science tells us about the climate emergency. In Act 234, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2007, the Hawai'i legislature set a policy to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 (and no stated target beyond that date). In Act 234, the legislature recognized that "climate change poses a serious threat to the economic well-being, public health, natural resources, and the environment of Hawaii." Yet nearly fifteen years later, the potential for deep decarbonization remains untapped. While our emissions have slowed, they have not dropped at the speed and scale necessary to avoid climate catastrophe. This measure would codify the urgency and commitment articulated in the legislature's 2021 climate emergency resolution by setting a target to reduce carbon emissions economy-wide in the state by 70% over 2005 levels no later than 2030. What's more, this **70% reduction goal and deadline matches the target that Hawaiian Electric publicly set in 2021** for reducing emissions in power generation.²

Blue Planet strongly supports HB 1800. It is time to update our statewide greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets and identify specific pathways to achieve those goals while also ensuring we are consistently measuring our progress with annual reporting.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

² See *Hawaiian Electric Climate Change Action Plan*, https://www.hawaiianelectric.com/documents/about_us/our_vision_and_commitment/climate_change_action_flyer.pdf

HB-1800-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 6:15:07 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Christopher Dean	Recycle Hawaii and Clean the Pacific	Support	No

Comments:

This bill strives to limit greenhouse gas emissions to seventy percent of 2005 levels. Seventy is an interesting number, because the permafrost is melting in a self sustained and accelerating process that threatens to release an estimated amount of 70 TRILLION tons of methane into the atmosphere, which as you may have heard, is 80 times more effective at trapping heat. If that were to happen, it would be a Permian level extinction event, wiping out all life on Earth down to the microbial level. Humanity has created this disaster, only humanity can correct it.

To be fair, Hawaii is a small state. On a global scale, our emissions are pretty small, more than many undeveloped countries though. The point is, every drop in the bucket matters now. Think of Hawaii's beaches. Look at all that sand. Nearly all of it was created by Uhu, and other reef fish that bite off tiny pieces of coral and then poop out a little quarter teaspoon of sand; it adds up. Humanity is stuck in this mindset of saying, I'm just one little person, town, state, it's not that much, but when you combine it with eight billion other people, well you get the picture. Everyone, has to do everything they can. Other states won't do their share, there's nothing we can do about that, but we can and should. Let's be a shining example for the rest of the world and show them what it means to be a responsible and conscientious community. Please pass HB1800

Support for HB1800 HD1

Aloha, I am writing on behalf of the Kauai Climate Action Coalition, a group of engaged citizens of diverse ages and backgrounds who recognize the urgency needed to combat the climate crisis. HB1800 HD1 takes an important step towards climate mitigation and recognizes that 70% reduction by 2030 is necessary if we are to escape the worst effects of climate change. Please support HB1800 HD1. Mahalo.

Helen A Cox, Chair

Kauai Climate Action Coalition.

HB-1800-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 4:20:01 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ted Bohlen	Climate Protectors Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair, The Honorable Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing **HB1800 HD1 RELATING TO CLIMATE MITIGATION.**

Hearing: Tuesday, March 1, 2022, 12:30 p.m., CR 308 and by videoconference

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i is a group focused on reversing the climate crisis and encouraging Hawai'i to lead the world towards a safe and sustainable climate and future. The Climate Protectors Hawai'i **STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB1800 HD1** because it would help Hawai'i lead in mitigating the climate emergency.

The bill would set a goal for a statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit that is at least seventy percent below the 2005 base level by 2030. It also charges the State Energy office (and appropriates funding) to study Hawaii's path to decarbonization and identify challenges, opportunities and actions needed to achieve these goals.

This bill is absolutely critical if Hawai'i is to mitigate the climate emergency we are facing. As a tropical island State, Hawai'i will be among the first places harmed by the global climate crisis, with more intense storms, loss of protective coral reefs, food insecurity, and rising sea levels destroying our shorelines. We must do all we can to reduce our carbon footprint and become carbon negative as soon as possible. Hawai'i can and should be a leader in showing the world the way forward towards a safe and sustainable climate and future. The sooner we inspire others to take action and lead by example, the better off the future will be for ourselves, our keiki and succeeding generations.

Hawai'i especially needs this bill because it currently has no milestone effective decarbonization targets until 2045. The latest science, including frightening feedback loop data, indicates that 2045 will be too late. Hawai'i must decarbonize in this decade in order to lead and help mitigate the climate emergency!

The 70% reduction target is ambitious, but feasible through greenhouse gas emission reductions in all aspects of our life, e.g., buildings, transportation, agriculture and food, and waste. We need to set this ambitious goal and implement changes soon in order to meet it, or we and our progeny will face a darker future!

Please pass this bill! Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

HB-1800-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 5:48:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
laurel brier	Kauai women's caucus	Support	No

Comments:

Determining Hawaii's pathway to a fully decarbonized economy is the crucial task before our leaders and our people. And if we are to be honest and true to this discovery the inclusion of air travel, shipping and the military in Hawaii must be included. Let's determine the pathway AND follow it NOW



To: The House Committee on Finance
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Tuesday, March 1, 2022, 12:30pm

In support of HB1800 HD1

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the Finance committee,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org **supports HB1800 HD1** that would establish a goal for the statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit to be at least 70% below 2005 levels by 2030. This bill would also require the Hawaii state energy office to conduct a study to determine Hawaii's pathway to decarbonization and identify challenges, opportunities, and actions that will be needed to achieve those goals.

350Hawaii supports and encourages the efforts of the legislature to move towards a fully decarbonized economy. We applaud the inclusion of emissions associated with air travel and shipping in the analysis and development of recommendations to be made from the Hawaii State Energy Office. These industries, and the associated greenhouse gas emissions, must be addressed for Hawaii to achieve its goal to sequester more atmospheric carbon and greenhouse gases than emitted.

Regarding air travel, we suggest that it is specified in the language of this bill that measures include the entirety of air travel both in and out of the islands to more fully and accurately support the goals and intention of this legislation. Current reporting of greenhouse gas emissions for our state only includes inter-island flights and flights departing from Hawaii to the US continent. Emissions from arrivals and international flights are not included, which provides an inaccurate picture of our state's contribution to climate-destabilizing greenhouse gas emissions.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important legislation.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org



**Hawaiian
Electric**

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE**

H.B. 1800 HD1

Relating to Climate Mitigation

Tuesday, March 1, 2022
12:30 pm, Agenda Item #18
State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

Marc Asano
Director, Integrated Grid Planning
Hawaiian Electric

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Marc Asano and I am testifying on behalf of Hawaiian Electric Company **in support of H.B. 1800 H.D. 1**, Relating to Climate Mitigation, **with comments in opposition to Section 2.**

H.B. 1800 H.D. 1 amends HRS Section 225P-5 to achieve a statewide greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) limit by 2030 that is at least 70 percent below statewide GHG emissions in 2005. This bill also requires the State Energy Office to conduct a study to determine Hawaii's pathway to decarbonization and actions that will be needed to achieve these goals.

Hawaiian Electric is committed to reducing carbon emissions in 2030 by as much as 70 percent below 2005 levels within the electric sector. Our ambitious Climate Change Action Plan for the next eight years anticipates a steady pace of cost-effective renewable energy resources coming online to reduce the use of fossil fuels to generate electricity. Key elements of the Company's 2030 plan include:

- Shutting down the state's last coal plant in 2022;

- Adding nearly 50,000 rooftop solar systems to the 90,000 now online;
- Retiring at least 6 fossil-fueled generating units and significantly reducing the use of others as new renewable resources come online;
- Adding renewable energy projects capable of generating a total of at least 1 gigawatt, including shared solar (community-based renewable energy);
- Using more grid-scale and customer-owned energy storage;
- Expanding geothermal resources; and
- Creating innovative programs that provide customers incentives for using clean, lower-cost energy at certain times of the day and using less fossil-fueled energy at night.

By 2030, Hawaiian Electric's renewable portfolio standard is targeted to exceed 70%, with renewable resources available to provide close to 100% of the electricity generated on Hawaii Island and in Maui County.

For these reasons, Hawaiian Electric supports Section 3 of this bill to provide a measurement of the 2005 statewide emissions, and to complete on-going statewide inventory and tracking of emissions. However, the actual statewide emissions reduction target of 70 percent by 2030 as amended in Section 2, should not be set until a study as outlined in Section 4 of the bill is completed. At the national level, the United States Climate Alliance states that to achieve the Paris Agreement's goal of keeping temperature increases below 1.5 degrees Celsius, states must reduce collective net GHG emissions by at least 50-52 percent by 2030 below 2005 levels, which exceeds the proposed 70 percent. However, even this goal will be extremely challenging to accomplish in Hawaii. The transportation sector represents a large portion of the current emissions in the State. Setting the proposed 70 percent emissions target by 2030 in

ground transportation alone will be challenging to achieve without significantly more investment and resources in this sector. Even with an aggressive adoption of electric vehicles, the long lifetime of vehicles (i.e., average 15 years) means that the stock share of electric vehicles will grow at a relatively slow rate. The Company's Electrification of Transportation Strategic Roadmap forecasts, 55 percent of personal light-duty vehicles on Oahu roads will be fully electric in 2045, supported by approximately 2,200 public charging ports. The Company recently filed a \$79 million electric vehicle public charging station application, which will address only 14 percent of the aforementioned 2045 charging forecast. The aviation sector will also be challenged to accomplish the interim target due to the lack of commercially available zero emissions fuel and technologies for air transportation. We are also concerned with the economic impacts aggressive policies might have on underserved communities. These issues should be comprehensively examined as outlined in Section 4, before setting any GHG limits, and should be based on emission reduction measures that are practically and technically feasible and cost-effective.

Accordingly, we recommend that the amendment proposed in Section 2 that states, "provided that the statewide target includes a greenhouse gas emissions limit, to be achieved no later than 2030, of at least seventy per cent below the level of the statewide greenhouse gas emission in 2005" be deleted until the study described in Section 4 is completed.

Hawaiian Electric looks forward to further discussions on this very important topic as it will truly take a statewide effort of collaboration.

Accordingly, Hawaiian Electric supports H.B. 1800 H.D. 1, with comments in opposition to Section 2. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

House Committee on Finance
Tuesday, March 1, 2022
Conference Room 308 via videoconference

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1800 HD 1

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita and Committee Members:

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide my testimony in strong support of HB 1800 HD 1, which establishes a goal to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions to be at least 70% lower than 2005 levels by 2030.

In order to achieve our 100% clean energy goal by the year 2045, it will be critical to establish short term goals as well as the development of action steps to achieve incremental reductions in our greenhouse gas emissions. Identifying the challenges and opportunities will direct the planning process for the public and private sectors to achieve a cleaner and sustainable place for our future generations.

Establishment of this short-term goal will also send a clear message to companies in the clean and renewable energy sector that Hawaii is serious and fully committed to making strides to meet the climate challenge. This could result in economic growth and new employment opportunities for our Island State and residents.

I respectfully ask the House Committee on Finance to advance HB 1800 HD 1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Ernest K. Nishizaki
Principal, Acumen Advisor LLC
Chair, Blue Planet Foundation
Honolulu, Hawaii 96825



HB 1800, HD 1, RELATING TO CLIMATE MITIGATION

MARCH 1, 2022 · HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE ·
CHAIR REP. SYLVIA LUKE

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: Imua Alliance supports HB 1800, HD 1, relating to climate mitigation, which establishes a goal for the statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit to be at least seventy percent below 2005 levels by 2030; and requires the Hawai'i state energy office to conduct a study to determine Hawai'i's pathway to decarbonization and identify challenges, opportunities, and actions that will be needed to achieve those goals.

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, like seawalls.

Furthermore, according to research conducted by Michael B. Gerrard from Columbia Law School, modern-day slavery tends to increase after natural disasters or conflicts where large numbers of people are displaced from their homes. In the decades to come, says Gerrard, climate change

will very likely lead to a significant increase in the number of people who are displaced and, thus vulnerable, to human trafficking. While the Paris Climate Agreement of 2015 established objectives to limit global temperature increases and several international agreements are aimed at combating modern-day slavery, it is highly uncertain whether they will be adequate to cope with the scale of the problem that is likely to occur as a result of climate change.

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.

Therefore, we should take steps to accelerate Hawai'i's efforts to address climate change and develop a clean economy, including by accelerating goals to limit greenhouse gas emissions. This is especially important in light of the islands' carbon-intensive visitor industry. **In 2019, for example, Civil Beat reported that flights to and from Hawai'i from all over the world produced approximately 6.3 million tons of carbon, which is the equivalent of the CO2 produced by generating electricity for almost 1.1 million homes in a year.** For the sake of our keiki, we must take quick action to preserve climate for generations to come.

Kris Coffield · Executive Director, Imua Alliance · (808) 679-7454 · kris@imuaalliance.org

HB-1800-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 12:27:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Liliana Ciraulo	CTL Clean Future	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Committee members,

We are testifying in support of House Bill 1800, which establishes a goal to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions 70% below 2005 levels by 2030, and requires a decarbonization pathways analysis to help identify specific and actionable steps to help us reach the goal.

CTL *Clean Future* is a team from Center for Tomorrow's Leaders (CTL), a local nonprofit that engages, equips, and empowers young leaders for Hawaii. *Clean Future* is a team comprised of four youth and a coach, and our goal is to increase youth civic engagement and education regarding clean energy. We have worked with community stakeholders – for example, *Blue Planet Foundation* – and Hawaii high schools in order to reach our goals and assist our community. Hawaii is our home, and it is important to us that Hawaii takes renewable energy seriously so that the future generations can continue to enjoy our beautiful island home.

In order for Hawaii to reach our goal of 100% renewable energy future by 2045, and prevent the very worst impacts of climate change, our state needs to take specific and measurable actions now. While our greenhouse gas emissions have decreased in recent years, they have not dropped at a rate fast enough to avoid total catastrophe in our islands.

The 70% reduction goal and deadline outlined in HB 1800 would provide more structure in decarbonizing our state and is in alignment with the target that Hawaiian Electric publicly set in 2021 for reducing emissions in power generation.

Please pass HB 1800 to support Hawaii's clean energy future.

Thank you for considering our testimony.

CTL Clean Future

Honolulu, HI 96813



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

March 1, 2022 12:30 PM Conference Room 308

In **SUPPORT** of **HB1800 HD1**: Relating to Climate Mitigation

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Finance Committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **supports HB1800 HD1**, which provides critical stepping stones needed to achieve our carbon emissions and climate resiliency goals in a timely and equitable manner.

Hawai'i's continued dependency on fossil fuels not only contributes to the climate change crisis that has already reached our islands' shores – in the form of historic floods, droughts, wildfires, coral bleaching events, the proliferation of invasive species, and the extinction of native species, among others – but also subjects our residents and businesses to the ever-increasing costs of fossil fuels, exacerbating the financial stability challenges faced by so many who call these islands home. Notably, the environmental and public health costs of fossil fuel-based energy generation has also disproportionately impacted the health and well-being of certain rural and Native Hawaiian communities to a far greater degree than the urban communities that contribute most significantly to our energy consumption rates.

By setting clear milestones and resources for our transition to a fossil-fuel free future, this measure will help to ensure that we meet our decarbonization goals in a timely and equitable manner, and thereby contribute our part to addressing the climate crisis while also ensuring greater resiliency for our islands going forward. The Sierra Club particularly appreciates the proposed role of the Hawai'i State Energy Office (“HSEO”) in analyzing and developing recommendations for pathways to achieve these goals; we are happy to commit to working with the office to facilitate any needed stakeholder consultation, including with respect to dialogue with and input from communities who may be asked to bear any disproportionate burdens from potential decarbonization initiatives. The Sierra Club does defer to the HSEO as to what resources may be needed to carry out its responsibilities under this measure and believes that the provision of such support would represent a highly worthwhile investment in our islands, our planet, and our future.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** HB1800 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

Re: **HB 1800 HD 1 – RELATING TO CLIMATE MITIGATION**
Hearing: Tuesday, March 1, 2022, 12:30 p.m., Conference Room 308 and
Via Videoconference

Position: **Strong support**

Aloha, Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committees on Finance:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i stands in strong support of HB 1800 HD 1. This measure would establish a goal for the statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit to be at least seventy per cent below 2005 levels by 2030. It also requires the Hawaii state energy office to conduct a study to determine Hawaii's pathway to decarbonization and identify challenges, opportunities, and actions that will be needed to achieve those goals. It also calls for appropriations out of the energy security special fund for the study.

The climate crisis poses immediate and long-term threats to Hawaii's economy, public health, natural resources, environment and way of life. Act 97 (2015), calls for a 100% renewable portfolio standard for electric utilities, requiring 100% of the State's electricity to be generated from renewable energy sources by 2045, making Hawaii the first state to set out to eliminate fossil fuels from the electric grid. Milestones have been met previously; however, we need to set another interim goal to assure that the 100% renewable energy goal will be met by 2045. This is the vehicle to set such goal.

For these reasons, the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports HB 1800 HD 1 as it sets the goal to limit statewide greenhouse gas emissions to be at least 75% below 2005 levels by 2030 and it requires the Hawaii state energy office to study the challenges, opportunities, and actions needed to meet this goal.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Melodie Aulija

Alan Burdick

Co-Chairs, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com

HB-1800-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 10:37:20 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I strongly support climate mitigation measures. Do you? If you do I urge you to pass this bill.

HB1800 HD1 establishes the goal of limiting statewide greenhouse gas emissions to 70% below 2005 levels by 2030.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT? This bill will help determine Hawaii's pathway to decarbonization and identify actions that will be needed to achieve this goal.

Respectfully,

Diane Ware, 99-7815 Kapoha Pl, Volcano Hi

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Committee members,

I am testifying in support of House Bill 1800, which establishes a goal to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions 70% below 2005 levels by 2030, and requires a decarbonization pathways analysis to help identify specific and actionable steps to help us reach the goal.

I am a mother of a 3 and 4 year olds writing to you to please do all that you can to transition our state away from fossil fuels by pushing this legislation through.

I have known and noticed the effects of climate change for almost 20 years now. The first times were as a 20 something year old staying on Oahu's north shore and experiencing incredibly unusual cold nights. I had already known about climate change because my dad was a marine scientist and i had learned about it at school.

I imagine there will be numerous benefits to this legislation, other than the most obvious reducing the chance of ecological catastrophe. New sectors of business and jobs and a shift in the way peoples perspective of the planet under their feet. Traditional Hawaiian ways and traditions across the globe point towards respecting the earth as the most important pillar above even oneself or ones family.

I want to thank you in advance for leading Hawaii and In turn the entire country maybe even the world in making staunch legislation go through on climate mitigation. It is important, and it is imperative. Please do what is right. We are counting on you and your committee!

Mahalo nui loa,
Emily Dudley
Papa'ikou, Moku o Keawe

HB-1800-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 1:08:50 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mark Hixon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha: I support efforts by the legislature to implement a clear pathway towards a fully decarbonized economy. I fully support the inclusion of air travel and shipping emissions when analyzing our progress towards decarbonization and when developing recommendations to achieve our emissions reduction goals. These industries, and the associated greenhouse gas emissions, must be addressed for Hawaii to achieve our goal to sequester more atmospheric carbon and greenhouse gases than emitted. Regarding air travel, I suggest that this bill specify that measures include **the entirety of air travel both in and out of the islands** to more fully and accurately support the goals and intention of this legislation. Current reporting of greenhouse gas emissions for Hawaii includes only inter-island flights and flights departing from Hawaii to the US continent. Emissions from arrivals and international flights are not included, which provides an inaccurate picture of our state's contribution to climate-warming greenhouse gas emissions. Mahalo--Mark Hixon

HB-1800-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 1:11:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support!

HB-1800-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 1:15:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Denise Boisvert	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha. I am in FULL SUPPORT of HB1800.

Our state urgently needs to go on a "low carb" diet!

Mahalo for your consideration to pass this bill.

HB-1800-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 1:17:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kim Jorgensen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I FULLY SUPPORT HB1800 HD1.

Please pass it today for the sake of the future.

HB-1800-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 2:34:08 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support of House Bill 1800, which establishes a goal to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions 70% below 2005 levels by 2030, and requires a decarbonization pathways analysis to help identify specific and actionable steps to help us reach the goal.

In order for Hawaii to reach our goal of 100% renewable energy future by 2045, and prevent the very worst impacts of climate change, our state needs to take specific and measurable actions now. While our greenhouse gas emissions have decreased in recent years, they have not dropped at a rate fast enough to avoid total catastrophe in our islands.

The 70% reduction goal and deadline outlined in HB 1800 would provide more structure in decarbonizing our state and is in alignment with the target that Hawaiian Electric publicly set in 2021 for reducing emissions in power generation.

Please pass HB 1800 to support Hawaii's clean energy future.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

HB-1800-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 3:26:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Fin Chair and Committee, I support this bill and hope you pass it and send on quickly.

I support efforts by the legislature to determine a pathway towards a fully decarbonized economy.

I fully support the inclusion of air travel and shipping emissions when analyzing our progress towards decarbonization and when developing recommendations to achieve our emissions reduction goals. These industries, and the associated greenhouse gas emissions, must be addressed for Hawaii to achieve its goal to sequester more atmospheric carbon and greenhouse gases than emitted.

Regarding air travel, I suggest that it is specified in the language of this bill that measures include **the entirety of air travel both in and out of the islands** to more fully and accurately support the goals and intention of this legislation. Current reporting of greenhouse gas emissions for our state only includes inter-island flights and flights departing from Hawaii to the US continent. Emissions from arrivals and international flights are not included, which provides an inaccurate picture of our state's contribution to climate-warming greenhouse gas emissions.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Tlaloc Tokuda

Kailua Kona, HI 96740

HB-1800-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 4:08:06 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michael Koster	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I urge you to pass this bill as a critical measure in the fight against climate change. It will also contribute to a healthier citizenry and a cleaner Hawaii by phasing out dirty fossil fuels. Hawai'i needs to take specific and measurable actions in order to reach our 100% clean energy goal by 2045.

HB-1800-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 4:20:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Forest Frizzell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TO: House Committee on Finance

SUBJECT: Support for HB 1800, RELATING TO CLIMATE MITIGATION, March 1, 2022, 12:30 PM hearing

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Committee members,

I am testifying in support of House Bill 1800, which establishes a goal to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions 70% below 2005 levels by 2030, and requires a decarbonization pathways analysis to help identify specific and actionable steps to help us reach the goal.

Hawaii has been a tremendous leader in pushing for decarbonization and this bill is necessary to continue to build frameworks for businesses, residents, and guests to continue playing a roll in reaching our clean energy goals. This work is not easy, it might cost more in the short term, but that is not a reason to wait.

In order for Hawaii to reach our goal of 100% renewable energy future by 2045, and prevent the very worst impacts of climate change, our state needs to take specific and measurable actions now. While our greenhouse gas emissions have decreased in recent years, they have not dropped at a rate fast enough to avoid total catastrophe in our islands.

The 70% reduction goal and deadline outlined in HB 1800 would provide more structure in decarbonizing our state and is in alignment with the target that Hawaiian Electric publicly set in 2021 for reducing emissions in power generation.

Please pass HB 1800 to support Hawaii's clean energy future.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Forest Frizzell, Waimanalo HI 96795

HB-1800-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 5:09:36 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB 1800 HD1.

HB-1800-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 5:13:52 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB 1800 to chart a path towards the de-carbonized economy that is essential to our future.

HB-1800-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 7:38:15 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

THE Government has lied to the people for Decades about Emission and now they have prof that this was all made up . Your time is coming to and END!!!

HB-1800-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 10:51:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ruth Robison	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Climate change is the most important issue of our time. This bill proposes to move the state forward in our efforts to significantly reduce CO2 emissions. The 70% reduction goal and deadline outlined in HB 1800 would provide more structure in decarbonizing our state and is in alignment with the target that Hawaiian Electric publicly set in 2021 for reducing emissions in power generation. Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of this bill.

HB-1800-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 2:15:48 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Janet L Pappas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear FIN Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita and committee members,

From Bill HB1800 SD1:

"The legislature finds that climate change is the overriding challenge of the twenty-first century. Climate change poses immediate and long-term threats to Hawaii's economy, public health, natural resources, environment, and way of life."

Pretty scary. So what must we do?

Although the State of Hawaii has established long-range goals around climate change, we have yet to lay out a definitive plan with clear, interim goals dealing with all emissions.

HB1800 SD1 establishes the goal of limiting statewide greenhouse gas emissions to 70% below 2005 levels by 2030. To accomplish this, we must include all air travel emissions in and out of Hawaii. Only then can we determine Hawaii's pathway to decarbonization and identify challenges we will face.

I support this bill in its attempt to limit emissions to the above levels and to formulate a detailed plan leading to zero emissions.

Please pass this bill (HB1800HD1) so the work can get started.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas

Aiea, HI 96701

HB-1800-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 5:56:58 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

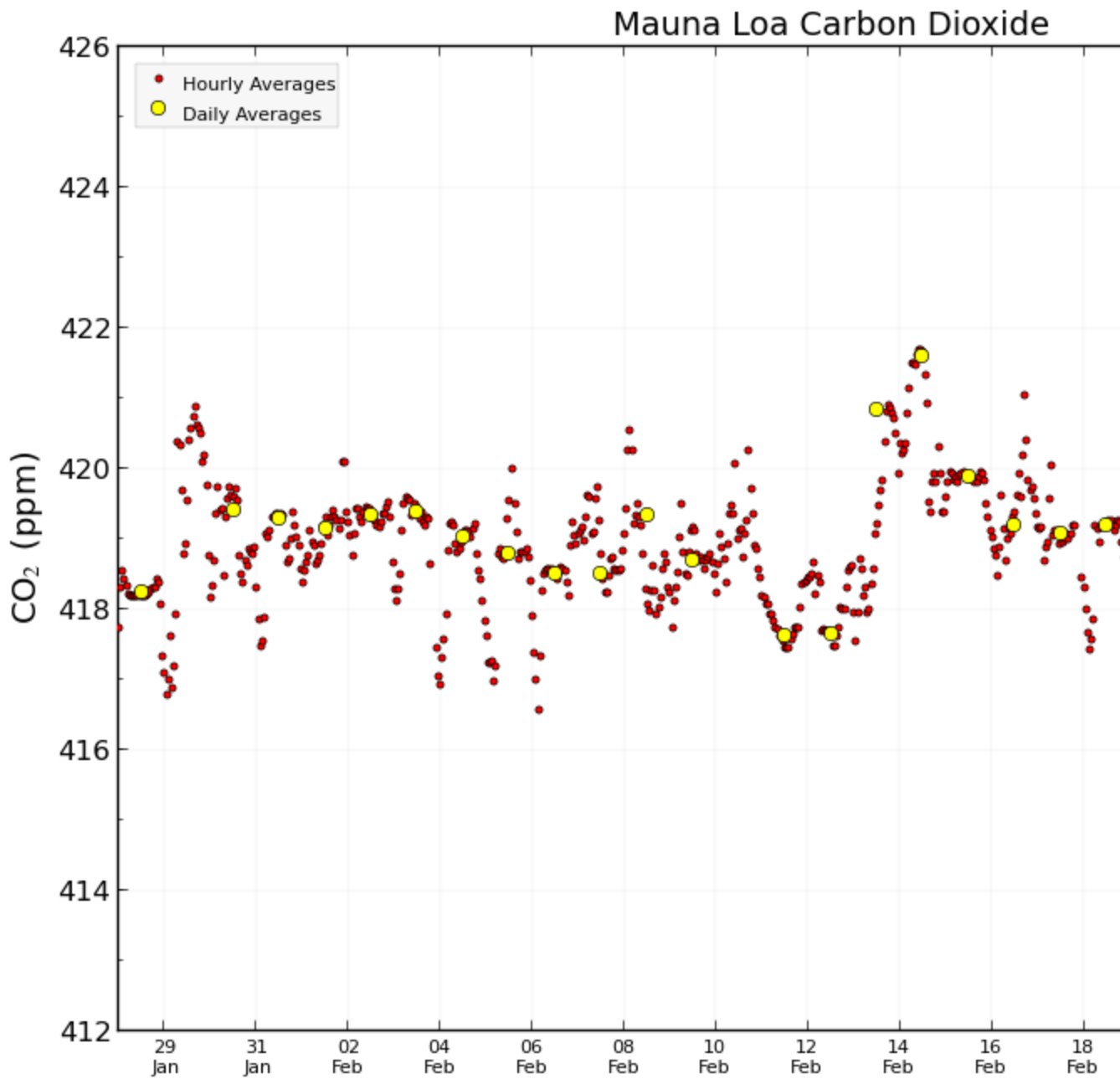
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Noel Morin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-chair Yamashita, and members of the committee,

I am in strong support of HB1800 HD1.

We are not doing enough globally to reduce planet-destroying emissions. The most recent atmospheric CO2 readings have been over 420PPM. The trend continues, and we must do more to cut emissions.



HB 1800 HD1 sets a bold goal of 70% below 2005 levels by 2030 and supports an analysis of decarbonization pathways to help us achieve this goal.

There are many strategies needed to reduce emissions. Understanding the relative contribution of sectors across our state will help us focus our resources and attention even more surgically. This will allow us to prioritize our efforts on things that will accelerate decarbonization.

70% by 2030 is aggressive (the US administration's goal is [50% by 2030](#)), but this is the nature of the goal-setting required to solve climate change.

We need to act with the urgency that an emergency requires. HB18011 HD1 will create tension for action and help us confirm and focus on the right levers. Please pass HB1800 HD1.

Sincerely,

Noel Morin - Hilo

HB-1800-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 9:37:20 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gerrit B Osborne	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

One of the reasons we have elections is to choose people to make the tough decisions the electorate is somehow unprepared to make, typically because "we" are weak or uninformed or both. Clearly, addressing climate change is something that no one can do on his or her own, so we need legislation to make that tough choice for us. Politicians have a difficult time making decisions that reduce their chances of reelection. But that comes with the territory.

Few still doubt that "climate change " exists, but I, like most others, am reluctant to make the sacrifices necessary to address it. I don't want to sell my Porsche but, in my own self interest, I have solar panels and photovoltaic panels at my home.

Legislation is needed to convince me to sell my Porsche.

HB-1800-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 12:18:42 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Adriann Gin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Committee members,

I am testifying in support of House Bill 1800, which establishes a goal to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions 70% below 2005 levels by 2030, and requires a decarbonization pathways analysis to help identify specific and actionable steps to help us reach the goal.

Legislation like this is critical to address the very real existential crisis that climate change confronts humanity with. The UN just released their report - written by 270 researchers from 67 countries - on climate change today with the take-home message: **Climate change is likely going to make the world sicker, hungrier, poorer, gloomier and way more dangerous by 2040, with an "unavoidable" increase in risks.** 2040 is in our lifetime, just 18 years away from today. I implore you, please act now, we must do everything we can, as quickly as we can, to change our course, as we are fast-approaching the point of no return. As an island community, we can't afford the luxury of time - we couldn't afford in 20 years ago, and we certainly can't afford it now. Please act now.

In order for Hawaii to reach our goal of 100% renewable energy future by 2045, and prevent the very worst impacts of climate change, our state needs to take specific and measurable actions now. While our greenhouse gas emissions have decreased in recent years, they have not dropped at a rate fast enough to avoid total catastrophe in our islands.

The 70% reduction goal and deadline outlined in HB 1800 would provide more structure in decarbonizing our state and is in alignment with the target that Hawaiian Electric publicly set in 2021 for reducing emissions in power generation.

Please pass HB 1800 to support Hawaii's clean energy future.

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

Adriann Gin; Honolulu, HI 96821

HB-1800-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 3:15:25 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
anne zellinger	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need to do more, not less. I am also concerned that the military presence here in the islands is not calculated into our carbon foot print. Please clarify in this bill.

Thank you,

Anne Zellinger



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

March 1, 2022, 12:30 P.M.

Room 308

Offering comments on HB 1800 HD1

Aloha Chair Luke and members of the Finance Committee:

My name is Jeff Mikulina, and I am submitting this testimony as a local resident who cares deeply about our state and the future of our shared planet. Mahalo for considering HB 1800, which ostensibly establishes a goal to reduce Hawaii's statewide greenhouse gas emissions. *Unfortunately, this measure will not accomplish its stated purpose as currently drafted.* Amendments made in the HD1 removed the establishment of binding, enforceable greenhouse gas limits (in HRS §342B) and instead simply created a nonbinding, unenforceable goal in the state's planning statutes (HRS §225).

I respectfully ask this committee to amend HB 1800 HD1 back to its original form, which included a binding greenhouse gas emissions limit in §342B and a mechanism for the Department of Health to develop rules to achieve the target. This is necessary to move our climate policy from aspiration to accountability.

URGENT NEED FOR A STATEWIDE GREENHOUSE GAS LIMIT

Regrettably, Hawaii lacks a binding, enforceable, statewide goal to reduce its overall carbon emissions. These emissions contribute to global climate change that threatens to destabilize our economic security, way of life, and very survival. Strong policy is needed immediately to reduce and eliminate carbon emissions. A report released this week by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) underscored how any further delay in reducing emissions will force humanity to miss the "brief and rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a livable and sustainable future."¹

Hawaii is at ground zero for the destructive impacts of climate change. In recent years the islands have experienced record high air and water temperatures. Research at the University of Hawaii shows that Hawaii's tradewinds have decreased by half over the past 40 years—making temperatures feel even hotter. The melting of land-based ice and snow globally contributes to rising sea levels that are starting to have devastating impacts on coastlines in Hawaii (a home in Haleiwa was just lost to coastal erosion this week). The state estimates that a sea level rise of one meter will result in \$19 billion in lost land and structures, with billions more in damaged or lost infrastructure. Higher

¹ Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, Summary for Policymakers. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), February 2022 (https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6wg2/pdf/IPCC_AR6_WGII_FinalDraft_FullReport.pdf).

temperatures and more moisture in the atmosphere have also caused heavier precipitation events. In 2018, Hawaii experienced a “rainbomb” on the islands of Oahu and Kauai. It rained so much in Hanalei, Kauai, that it broke the local rain gauge—and broke the national record for the most rain over a 24-hour period. Although Hawaii has avoided direct hits from numerous hurricanes over the past few decades, climate modeling suggests that hurricanes could become larger, stronger, and more frequent in the Pacific.

While relatively small compared with the global total, Hawaii’s emissions are significant. Hawaii residents currently emit nearly four times as much carbon into the atmosphere as the typical global resident. Our state’s disproportionate contribution—and disproportionate vulnerability—require us to take responsibility for our carbon emissions. What’s more, Hawaii is uniquely positioned to demonstrate leadership on climate policy, with no indigenous fossil resources in the islands, a history of innovation and sustainability, and the special place Hawaii has in the imaginations of people worldwide.

GOAL SETTING POLICY WORKS—IF THERE IS ACCOUNTABILITY

Hawaii has a proud history of setting and achieving bold policy goals for climate and clean energy—if they are binding and enforceable. For example:

- In 2007, the legislature passed and Governor Linda Lingle enacted Act 234, Hawaii’s first greenhouse gas limit. The policy set a target to reduce Hawaii’s statewide greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 and directed the Department of Health to adopt rules to achieve the target. Penalties were developed for noncompliance. This statewide goal was met in 2020.
- Between 2001 and 2015, the legislature passed a number of increasing targets on the provision of renewable electricity by certain dates (2010, 2015, 2020, 2030, 2040, and 2045) and energy efficiency (2015, 2020, 2025, and 2030). The Public Utilities Commission is tasked with ensuring compliance with these targets. Penalties were developed for noncompliance. Every renewable energy and energy efficiency target to date has been met or exceeded.

State goal setting only works if a specific agency is tasked with its achievement and enforcement and penalties developed. Otherwise, the old adage holds: “a dog with two owners dies of hunger.”

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IS THE APPROPRIATE AGENCY TO REGULATE GREENHOUSE GAS

To set an effective decarbonize goal for Hawaii, HB 1800 should be amended back to its original form where the Department of Health (DOH) is tasked with achieving the target and directed to adopt rules to attain the necessary carbon reductions. The DOH is broadly charged with ensuring the protection of Hawaii’s environmental health—among other duties, they specifically regulate air pollution. House Bill seeks to limit the emissions of climate change pollution (greenhouse gases) into the air (largely

from the combustion of fossil fuel). Despite suggesting otherwise in their February 1, 2022, testimony on this measure, the DOH has the authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from all “sources,” defined in HRS §342B-1 as “any property, real or personal, which emits or may emit any air pollutant.” This includes transportation sources of air pollution (including greenhouse gas emissions). They are not limited to stationary sources only.

To meet our obligation to solving catastrophic climate change, I strongly support the establishment of a statewide greenhouse gas limit by 2030. The creation of a limit in 2007 proved successful in reducing our growth in carbon pollution. **It is time to set a new limit across all sources, and again task DOH with the authority to establish new rules for binding, enforceable carbon reductions in HRS §342B.**

I respectfully urge you to amend HB 1800 HD1 to its original form.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

HB 1800 HD 1 TESTIMONY

To: House Committee on Finance
Hearing on March 1, 2022 at 12:30 p.m.

From: John Kawamoto

Position: Support

The proportion of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere as measured at the Mauna Loa Observatory continues to trend upward, as it has since 1958, when the data started being collected. For example, the monthly average of carbon dioxide in December 2021 was 416.71 parts per million, an increase from the year before, in December 2020, when it was 414.26 parts per million.

Atmospheric carbon dioxide is insidious. When carbon dioxide is put into the atmosphere, it stays there for 300 to 1,000 years, according to NASA.

Humanity must do much more to prevent a global climate catastrophe that threatens its very existence.

Based on recent data about climate change, many climate scientists now say that we have less than 10 years to take the drastic action needed to limit the emissions of greenhouse gases to limit catastrophic storms, heat waves, droughts, sea level rise, and other climate disasters to ensure a livable environment.

This bill sets as a statewide goal that by 2030, greenhouse gas emissions will be 70% below what it was in 2005. This bill must be passed, and the Legislature should follow up with actions needed to achieve this goal.