

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

TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

April 5, 2022
2:00 p.m.

Chair Johanson and Members of the Committee:

MEASURE: H.C.R. No. 47 HD1 / H.R. 42 HD1

TITLE: REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE ISSUES AND BARRIERS TO THE INSTALLATION OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING SYSTEMS IN MULTI-UNIT DWELLINGS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING CHANGES TO STATUTES AND RULES OR OTHER GUIDANCE TO HELP CLARIFY AND FACILITATE THE INSTALLATION OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING SYSTEMS IN MULTI-UNIT DWELLINGS.

POSITION:

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

COMMENTS:

The Commission supports the intent of these resolutions to examine barriers to the installation of electric vehicle charging systems and develop recommendations to resolve any identified issues.

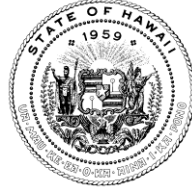
The Commission notes that it recently approved Hawaiian Electric’s (“Companies”) “Charge Ready Hawai’i” Pilot Project. This program proposes installing make-ready infrastructure to enable an estimated 180 charging points in the Companies’ service territories. This is intended to support customer installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure at commercial sites, multi-unit dwellings, and fleet parking locations. The program intends to reduce upfront costs for customers seeking to install charging

infrastructure by providing make-ready infrastructure at the Companies' expense. In its approval order, the Commission "encourage[d] the Companies to deploy infrastructure in underserved communities and to prioritize when possible, sites that provide unrestricted public access to charging facilities."¹

The Commission is willing to work with the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) on the efforts proposed in these resolutions and defers to HSEO on the specific contents of the resolutions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

¹ [Decision & Order No. 38194](#), at 40.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LT. GOVERNOR

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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Tuesday, April 5, 2022
2:00 PM
Conference Room 329 & Videoconference**

On the following measure:

HCR47, HD1/ HR42, HD1, REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE ISSUES AND BARRIERS TO THE INSTALLATION OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING SYSTEMS IN MULTI-UNIT DWELLINGS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING CHANGES TO STATUTES, RULES, AND OTHER GUIDANCE TO HELP CLARIFY AND FACILITATE THE INSTALLATION OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING SYSTEMS IN MULTI-UNIT DWELLINGS

Chair Johanson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dean Nishina, and I am the Executive Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Division of Consumer Advocacy. The Department appreciates the intent of this resolution and offers the following comments.

The purpose of this resolution is to request the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) to convene a working group to examine issues and barriers to the installation of electric vehicle charging systems in multi-unit dwellings and make recommendations regarding changes to statutes, rules, and other guidance to help clarify and facilitate the installation of electric vehicle charging systems in multi-unit dwellings. HD1 made several changes to the composition of the working group.

The Department recognizes the benefits of electric vehicles on helping Hawaii with its climate goals, especially since the transportation sector, including motor vehicles, represents the largest contributor to carbon emissions. For that reason, the Department supports the exploration of how electric vehicles (EV) and EV charging can be encouraged in an equitable and cost-effective manner, where EVs and EV charging will be broadly accessible, affordable without requiring vulnerable customers to bear the burden of supporting the costs without being able to benefit from such efforts, and to allow EV charging to benefit the grid. Therefore, while the Department defers to HSEO about convening a working group per this resolution, the Department believes it is reasonable to better understand barriers and issues that may inhibit the installation of electric vehicle charging systems in multi-unit dwellings and determine possible changes to support the cost-effective and equitable installation of EV charging infrastructure. The Department takes no position on the changes made to the composition of the working group as prescribed in HD1.

The Department also offers that the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission (Commission) is currently investigating the facilitation of electric vehicle charging within the context of current statutes and rules in various proceedings such as, Docket Nos. 2018-0088, 2018-0135, 2020-0152, and 2021-0173, to name examples. Further, the Department - as well as HSEO - participates in the Drive Electric Hawaii initiative that is exploring similar issues. Thus, the Department looks forward to collaborating with the proposed working group to take advantage of the work already done and is being done by the Drive Electric Hawaii Initiative as well as the Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.

HR-42-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 12:52:46 PM

Testimony for CPC on 4/5/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Morin	Hawaii EV Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Johansen, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and committee members,

Hawaii Electric Vehicle Association (Hawaii EV) supports HR42 HD1.

We support all efforts designed to accelerate the decarbonization of our ground transportation, a significant contributor to our greenhouse gas emissions. A working group represented by all relevant sectors will help ensure that our efforts are aggressive and sustainable.

We're especially supportive of efforts to enable broader and more equitable adoption of clean transportation. Given the number of multi-unit housing across our state and the technical challenges that make it challenging for associated households to adopt electric cars, we must develop charging solutions that will make EV ownership feasible for all.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Noel Morin

President

[Hawaii EV Association](#)

HR-42-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 12:55:46 PM

Testimony for CPC on 4/5/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Morin	Hawaii EV Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Johanson, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and committee members,

Hawaii Electric Vehicle Association (Hawaii EV) supports HCR47 HD1.

We support all efforts designed to accelerate the decarbonization of our ground transportation, a significant contributor to our greenhouse gas emissions. A working group represented by all relevant sectors will help ensure that our efforts are aggressive and sustainable.

We're especially supportive of efforts to enable broader and more equitable adoption of clean transportation. Given the number of multi-unit housing across our state and the technical challenges that make it challenging for associated households to adopt electric cars, we must develop charging solutions that will make EV ownership feasible for all.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Noel Morin

President

[Hawaii EV Association](#)

HR-42-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 1:06:16 PM

Testimony for CPC on 4/5/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Morin	Big Island Electric Vehicle Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Johanson, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and committee members,

Big Island EV Association (BIEVA) supports HR42 HD1.

Residents in multi-unit dwellings need to be empowered with solutions that will allow them to adopt electric vehicles. A focused effort to better understand the challenges of electric vehicle (EV) charging for residents in multi-unit dwelling housing units will help us accelerate the adoption of EVs in Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Noel Morin

President - BIEVA

bigislandev.org

HR-42-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 10:07:35 AM

Testimony for CPC on 4/5/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fernando L Alvarado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'd change the wording to "issues and OPPORTUNITIES instead of BARRIERS. We keep a condo building in the mainland and having EV charging available for all tenants is a great feature of the building. Everyone should be so lucky. The upfront investment for the retro-fit was surprisingly affordable.

LATE

HR-42-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2022 9:03:03 AM
Testimony for CPC on 4/5/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This will hopefully lead to a solution to an important roadblock in the way of decarbonization of transportation.

LATE

HR-42-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2022 11:44:31 AM

Testimony for CPC on 4/5/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
CAROLINE LANDRY	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

More EV = less carbon in the atmosphere. That's the right thing to do, especially when we live on a small island. This bill will help find the best way to do it. Mahalo for reading. -Caroline