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**Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism  
and  
Senate Committee on Transportation  
Wednesday, March 30, 2022  
3:15PM  
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference**

**On the following measure:**

**SCR 103/SR 91, 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**

Chairs Wakai and Lee 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 and offers comments on this resolution.

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.

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 pursuant to 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 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.

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

TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEES ON  
ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM  
AND  
TRANSPORTATION

March 30, 2022  
3:15 p.m.

Chair Wakai, Chair Lee, and Members of the Committees:

**MEASURE:** S.C.R. No. 103 / S.R. 91

**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, RULES, AND 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."<sup>1</sup>

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.

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<sup>1</sup> [Decision & Order No. 38194](#), at 40.

**LATE**

**SR-91**

Submitted on: 3/30/2022 10:50:48 AM

Testimony for EET on 3/30/2022 3:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chairs Wakai and Lee, Vice-Chairs Misalucha and Inouye, and committee members,

**Hawaii Electric Vehicle Association (Hawaii EV) supports SCR 103/SR 91.**

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.

We are honored to be able to participate in this working group.

We recommend that the working group include county governments and our utilities.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Noel Morin

President

[Hawaii EV Association](#)

