



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

Testimony COMMENTING on HB 2657, HD2
RELATING TO A COAL-FREE HAWAII

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: 2/21/2020

Room Number: 308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Economic and operational impacts on the sole coal-burning facility in the
2 State of Hawaii and potential effects on Oahu electricity costs.

3 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (Department) offers the following
4 comments on this bill that proposes to prohibit the issuance or renewal of an air pollution control
5 permit to a coal-fired, electricity generating source beyond December 31, 2022.

6 The Department supports the bill's goals to reduce mercury and greenhouse gas (GHG)
7 emissions in striving for clean and renewable energy for Hawaii. The bill aligns with long term
8 power supply improvement plans for Oahu to convert to cleaner/renewable sources of energy such
9 as photovoltaic and wind energy, and supports Hawaii's 100 percent Renewable Portfolio Standard
10 and 2045 carbon neutrality goals. Coal naturally contains mercury, a neurotoxin which can make
11 its way into the soil and water. The GHG emissions from burning coal contribute to climate change
12 and sea level rise. Fugitive dust and particulate matter concerns related to the handling and
13 processing of coal as well as the transfer of coal ash to the PVT landfill would also be eliminated
14 with the passing of this bill.

15 The primary goal of the bill is to reduce emissions of mercury and greenhouse gas (GHG)
16 emissions by preventing the use of coal. The one affected facility in Hawaii burns coal with low
17 mercury levels and uses multiple technologies that includes particulate collection air pollution
18 control systems to minimize mercury emissions to the atmosphere. The level of mercury
19 emissions per MWhr (Megawatt-hour) from this facility is ranked as the fourth highest among

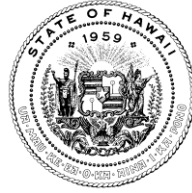
1 the largest power generating plants statewide . The facility also generates GHG emissions at a
2 rate per MWhr of electricity production that is the fourth highest among Hawaii's largest power
3 producers.

4 Clean Air Branch's regulatory review of any air permit application is based on a source
5 meeting state and federal air standards and regulations. The review compares the proposed
6 source emissions to a set of limits or requirements that set an objective standard (e.g., state and
7 federal air quality standards) for approving or denying the permit. All facilities are required to
8 demonstrate compliance with these standards before an air permit is approved. This bill would
9 modify this approach and restrict permitting based on fuel type.

10 The Department supports replacement of Oahu's coal and other fossil fuel generated
11 electrical power with cleaner sources of energy, and the Hawaiian Electric Power Supply
12 Improvement Plan shows numerous additional clean energy sources (e.g., photovoltaic, wind, etc.)
13 will be added to Oahu's power supply in the future. However, the Department cautions that should
14 the energy shortfall from elimination of coal fueled power generation have to be met by other
15 existing power plants on Oahu, there may be little or no reduction realized, as other large electric
16 generating stations may emit comparable or even greater emissions.

17 **Offered Amendments:** None.

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



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LT. GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310

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CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
House Committee on Finance
Friday, February 21, 2020
12:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**On the following measure:
H.B. 2657, H.D. 2, RELATING TO A COAL-FREE HAWAII**

Chair Luke 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 supports the intent of and offers comments on this bill.

The purposes of this bill are to prohibit the: (1) issuance or renewal of covered source air permits for coal-burning electricity generation facilities after 12/31/2022; and (2) approval of a new, modified, or renewed power purchase agreement for electricity generated from coal after 6/30/2020.

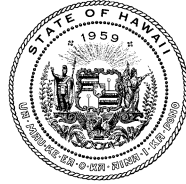
As noted in the bill's preamble, the term of Hawaiian Electric Company's power purchase agreement with the AES Hawaii Power Plant will conclude in 2022, and Hawaiian Electric Company has initiated plans, pursuant to the O`ahu Power Supply Improvement Plan accepted by the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) in Docket No. 2014-0183, to replace that generation capacity through other cleaner sources, such as the dispatchable solar projects combined with storage that were recently approved

by the Commission. Thereafter, according to the accepted plan, and limited by the renewable portfolio standards interim milestones, it is exceedingly unlikely that Hawaiian Electric Company or any other regulated electric utility company would pursue a new, modified, or renewed power purchase agreement with a coal facility of which the Consumer Advocate would recommend approval.

The Legislature's passage of this measure would clearly signal Hawaii's commitment to clean energy. The Department appreciates how H.D. 2 has adopted language to close potential loopholes, such as prohibiting the Commission's approval of any power purchase agreement for a facility that relies entirely or partly on coal as a fuel source or the construction or purchase of any facility intended to use coal as a fuel source by a utility company.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR
JOSH GREEN M.D.
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION
P.O. BOX 259
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

RONA M. SUZUKI
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION
DAMIEN A. ELEFANTE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair;
The Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair;
and Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Rona M. Suzuki, Director
Department of Taxation

Re: H.B. 2657, H.D. 2, Relating to a Coal-Free Hawaii

Date: Friday, February 21, 2020

Time: 12:00 P.M.

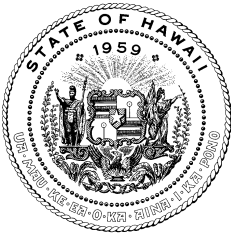
Place: Conference Room 308, State Capitol

The Department of Taxation (Department) offers the following comments on H.B. 2657, H.D. 2.

H.B. 2657, H.D. 2, aims to eliminate the use of coal for electricity production in Hawaii by restricting the Public Utilities Commission and the State Department of Health from approving or issuing certain agreements and permits requiring the burning or consumption of coal for fuel. The Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce amended a previous version of this measure to prohibit independent power producers from passing on the environmental response, energy, and food security tax (also known as the "barrel tax") under section 243-3.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, onto utility companies that purchase fuel from them from them. Accordingly, that amendment also deleted language that previously allowed those utility-purchasers to recover the cost of this type of tax pass-on through an appropriate surcharge to their end users. H.B. 2657, H.D. 2, has a defective effective date of July 1, 2050.

The Department is able to administer the measure as written and defers to the Public Utilities Commission and the Department of Health on its substantive merits.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

235 South Beretania Street, 5TH Floor, Honolulu, HI 96813 | energy.hawaii.gov

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SCOTT J. GLENN
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

(808) 587-3807

Testimony of **SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer**

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Friday, February 21, 2020
12:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In SUPPORT of **HB 2657, HD2** **RELATING TO A COAL-FREE HAWAII.**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee, the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) supports HB 2657, HD2, which prohibits the issuance or renewal of covered source air permits for coal-burning electricity generation facilities after December 31, 2022 and prohibits an independent power producer from passing on the environmental response, energy, and food security tax onto a purchasing utility company.

The purpose of the HSEO is to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation to help achieve a resilient, clean energy, decarbonized economy. Decarbonizing the electric sector is essential for Hawaii to achieving the zero emissions clean economy target set forth in Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) §225P-5 to sequester more atmospheric carbon and greenhouse gases than emitted within the State as quickly as practicable, but no later than 2045. On September 13, 2018 Governor Ige signed onto the Powering Past Coal Alliance, who came to an agreement that phasing out unabated coal power is one of the most important steps governments can take to tackle climate change and meet our commitment to keep global temperature increase well below 2°C, and to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C. For Hawaii, stationary combustion, which includes fuel combustion emissions from electric power plants and petroleum refineries, represents roughly 40% of greenhouse gas emissions¹ in the State. In addition, the State is actively pursuing the decarbonization of ground transportation through electrification. As ground transportation is approximately 20% of the State's greenhouse gas

¹ https://health.hawaii.gov/cab/files/2019/12/2016-Inventory_Final-Report_December2019-1.pdf

emissions², reducing the emission factor of electric generation is critical as the State's adoption of electric vehicles grows.

Hawaii is on a trajectory to retire coal fired generation. The Hawaiian Electric Companies' current Power Supply Improvement Plan (PSIP) was filed with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) on December 23, 2016 in Docket No. 2014-0183. The Commission accepted the PSIP, with conditions, on July 14, 2017 by Decision and Order No. 34696. In the PSIP, the Hawaiian Electric Companies state their intention to allow the existing power purchase agreement for electricity generated from coal on Oahu to "expire without renewal" when it ends in 2022. The Hawaiian Electric Companies have subsequently issued an RFP in response to Order No. 36474 issued on August 15, 2019 in Docket No. 2017-0352 to acquire dispatchable and renewable generation.

The HSEO defers to the Public Utilities Commission on the extent to which the outcome of the RFP impacts the ability to retire the coal plant.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

² https://health.hawaii.gov/cab/files/2019/12/2016-Inventory_Final-Report_December2019-1.pdf

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

TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE

February 21, 2020
12:00 p.m.

Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

MEASURE: H.B. No. 2657 HD2

TITLE: RELATING TO A COAL-FREE HAWAII.

DESCRIPTION: Beginning 6/30/2020, prohibits the approval of certain agreements, construction, or purchase with regard to using coal for electric generation. Prohibits the issuance or renewal of covered source air permits for coal-burning electricity generation facilities after 12/31/2022. Prohibits an independent power producer from passing on the environmental response, energy, and food security tax onto a purchasing utility company. Effective 7/1/2050.

POSITION:

The Public Utilities Commission offers the following comments for consideration.

COMMENTS:

The Hawaiian Electric Companies' current Power Supply Improvement Plan ("PSIP") was filed with the Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") on December 23, 2016 in Docket No. 2014-0183. The Commission subsequently accepted the PSIP, with conditions, by Decision and Order No. 34696 on July 14, 2017.

In the PSIP, the HECO Companies state their intention to allow the existing power purchase agreement for electricity generated from coal on Oahu to "expire without renewal" when it ends 2022 (see PSIP at pages M-6 and M-34).

After the success of the HECO Companies' Phase 1 request for proposals (RFP) for new renewable energy and storage projects across the HECO Companies' service territories (Docket No. 2017-0352), the Commission directed the HECO Companies to expand Phase 2 substantially, in order to significantly boost the acquisition of renewable and dispatchable generation and help enable the retirement of the AES coal-fired plant on schedule. In addition, the Commission directed the HECO Companies to conduct a grid services RFP, with the goal of utilizing customer-sited distributed energy resources to help replace the essential grid services currently provided by the AES facility.

According to the HECO Companies' schedule, Phase 2 projects will be selected in mid-2020, with contract negotiations and applications for Commission approval to continue into 2021.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HB-2657-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 3:53:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dyson Chee	Hawaii Youth Climate Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dyson Chee and I am a 17 year-old high schooler living in Ala Moana. As Advocacy Director for the Hawai'i Youth Climate Coalition, we stand in strong support of HB2657, which would make Hawai'i coal-free by 2023.

It is absolutely critical that we stop our coal consumption, not just to meet our 2045 renewable energy goals, but because the coal ash that is a by-product of burning coal is a health hazard. According to the EPA, coal ash "contains contaminants like mercury, cadmium and arsenic." When we transport truckloads of this coal ash to the Nā• nā• kuli PVT landfills, both the landfill workers, truck drivers, and neighboring communities inhale and ingest this ash, which negatively impacts their health. Some of these communities only live 750ft away from the landfill. I have heard multiple stories from Nā• nā• kuli residents about waking up to find a fine, powdery coating on their porches and window sills—the coal ash. There is information to back this up as well: recent U.S. Census Data shows that the life expectancy of Nā• nā• kuli residents is **10 years less** than the Hawai'i average. If AES continues to operate its coal plant beyond 2023, that would be a disaster. We must ensure that this cannot happen. We urge you to pass HB2657, for the sake of the people we call 'ohana.

Mahalo,

Dyson



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 21, 2020 12:00 PM Room 308

In SUPPORT of HB2657 HD2: Relating to a coal-free Hawai'i

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **supports HB2657**, which prohibits the issuance or renewal of covered source air permits for coal-burning electricity generation facilities after 12/31/2022 and prohibits the approval of a new, modified, or renewed power purchase agreement for electricity generated from coal after 6/30/2020.

Not only is burning coal responsible for one third of US carbon emissions, but it is also leading to as many as 13,000 premature deaths every year and more than \$100 billion in annual health costs.¹ Several principal emissions result from coal combustion, including²:

- Sulfur dioxide (SO₂), which contributes to acid rain and respiratory illnesses
- Nitrogen oxides (NO_x), which contribute to smog and respiratory illnesses
- Particulates, which contribute to smog, haze, and respiratory illnesses and lung disease
- Carbon dioxide (CO₂), which is the primary greenhouse gas produced from burning fossil fuels (coal, oil, and natural gas)
- Mercury and other heavy metals, which have been linked to both neurological and developmental damage in humans and other animals
- Fly ash and bottom ash, which are residues created when power plants burn coal

Hawai'i has only one coal-fired power plant remaining in service, it is the AES plant on O'ahu which has a power purchase agreement that is already set to expire in 2022. Passage of this bill ensures that Hawai'i will be "coal-free by 2023", solidifying plans to transition Hawai'i from dirty energy and encouraging AES and Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) to redirect its focus to clean energy and battery storage projects. We know that both AES and HECO are capable and pursuing large-scale clean energy projects throughout the state. Recently in April 2019, HECO solicited 900 megawatts of clean energy RFP's, including solar and wind generation and

¹ <https://content.sierraclub.org/coal/about-the-campaign>

² https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/index.php?page=coal_environment

renewables plus storage, in anticipation of the AES coal plant closure in 2022. Pending approval from the Public Utilities Commission, the first projects would come online by 2022.³

The closure of the coal plant is also an environmental justice and equity issue. Toxic coal ash produced for all O'ahu ratepayers is currently being dumped at the PVT Landfill in Nānākuli, exposing workers and nearby communities to a wide range of health risks. Public health needs to be a priority and no single community should suffer the burden of our energy or waste management facilities. It is time to end the use of coal in Hawai'i to address this burden on our westside neighbors.

HB2657 furthers Hawai'i's commitment to 100% clean energy by 2045 and sets another example of the legislature's leadership to mitigate the harmful effects of climate change in a way that is equitable and just.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB2657**.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jodi Malinoski".

Jodi Malinoski, Policy Advocate



**Hawaiian
Electric**

**TESTIMONY BEFORE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE**

H.B. 2657, HD2

Relating to a Coal-Free Hawaii

Friday, February 21, 2020
12:00pm, Agenda Item #3
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

Chris Lau
Manager, Corporate Energy Planning
Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Chris Lau and I am testifying on behalf of Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc. (Hawaiian Electric), **offering comments on H.B. 2657 H.D. 2**, Relating to a Coal-Free Hawaii. Hawaiian Electric currently has one contract for an independent power producer (AES Hawaii) to provide coal-fired generation and the contract for this facility is set to expire in September 2022. The Company has no plans to extend or renew the contract for this facility.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

HB-2657-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 8:31:35 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Climate Protector	Climate Protectors Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Friday, February 21, 2020

TIME: 12:00 P.M.

Conference Room 308

State Capitol

PLACE:

415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and members of the Committee on Finance.

The Climate Protectors Coalition strongly supports HB 2657 HD2!

We are a new group inspired by the Mauna Kea Protectors but focused on reversing the climate crisis. As a tropical island State, Hawaii will be among the first places harmed by the global climate crisis, with more intense storms, loss of protective coral reefs, and rising sea levels. We must do all we can to reduce our carbon footprint and become at least carbon neutral as soon as possible.

We need To end the use of coal! Please pass this bill. Mahalo!



Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice Chair Ty Cullen

House Committee on Finance

Friday, February 21, 2020
12:00 PM

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB2657 HD2 RELATING TO A COAL-FREE
HAWAII**

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, Members of the House Committee on Finance,

My name is Jun Shin. I am a Sophomore at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. I currently serve as the Environmental Justice Action Committee Chair for the Young Progressives Demanding Action (YPDA). YPDA advocates for public policies that reflect the values of young people throughout the State of Hawai‘i. YPDA is in **Strong Support** of **HB2657 HD2**, Relating to a Coal-Free Hawai‘i.

Burning coal is harmful to both the environment. It contributes heavily to greenhouse gas emissions and as the Union of Concerned Scientists have pointed out, “When coal is burned it releases a number of airborne toxins and pollutants. They include mercury, lead, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, particulates, and various other heavy metals. Health impacts can range from asthma and breathing difficulties, to brain damage, heart problems, cancer, neurological disorders, and premature death.”¹ This is both an environmental issue and a public health issue as well. In the face of a climate crisis, this current model of doing business is simply not sustainable.

The power purchase agreement between AES Hawaii Power Plant (Our last coal power plant) and Hawaiian Electric Company is set to expire in 2022, we need to let that agreement naturally come to an end in 2022 as originally intended. It is concerning that although the last coal fired power plant has a contract that is set to expire in 2022, AES Hawai‘i is currently requesting to be able to increase their coal emissions, which makes this bill timely and necessary. . Hawai‘i is already setting an example with its ambitious goal of being powered by 100% renewable energy. AES can help make a meaningful contribution to our future by scaling down their coal-burning, and turning to clean energy projects that don’t harm communities. If we are to take on climate change and its catastrophic effects on our society, economy, and natural resources, clean and renewable energy will be very important.

While talking about clean energy and the environment, we simply cannot forget the social and economic justice components involved in this permit application. Toxic coal ash is being sent to the PVT Landfill in Nānākuli, joining a stockpile of other materials burned by the AES Hawaii Power Plant. This creates a public health crisis for both the plant workers and residents, especially considering the PVT Landfill being 750 feet from residential areas and schools where people raise families and keiki go to learn. The Waiʻanae community consists of many Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, groups of people that have for generations faced disenfranchisement in crucial areas such as economic stability, and access to natural resources.

Socioeconomic and sociopolitical factors have led to negative consequences such as severe health disparities.² These communities must not be left behind, and their concerns for their surrounding environment should not be ignored. A green future is one in which disenfranchised communities are able to participate in and prosper in a transition to a green economy. Having opportunities to play an integral role in decision making processes that affect their lives, their health and wellbeing.

Young Progressives Demanding Action is in **Strong Support** of **HB2657 HD2**. Please pass this bill through your committee.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Jun Shin,
Environmental Justice Action Committee Chair
Young Progressives Demanding Action (YPDA)
P.O. Box 11105
Honolulu, HI 96828
Cell: 808-255-6663
Email: junshinbusiness729@gmail.com
CC: action@ypdahawaii.org

¹ <https://www.ucsusa.org/clean-energy/coal-impacts>

² <http://mauiolanetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/SNRA3.pdf>



HB 2657, HD 2, RELATING TO A COAL-FREE HAWAII

FEBRUARY 21, 2020 · HOUSE FINANCE
COMMITTEE · CHAIR REP. SYLVIA LUKE

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: IMUAlliance supports and suggests an amendment for HB 2657, HD 2, relating to a coal-free Hawai'i, which, beginning 6/30/2020, prohibits the approval of certain agreements, construction, or purchase with regard to using coal for electric generation; prohibits the issuance or renewal of covered source air permits for coal-burning electricity generation facilities after 12/31/2022; and prohibits an independent power producer from passing on the environmental response, energy, and food security tax onto a purchasing utility company.

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 Colombia 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.

Accordingly, our state must stop using coal to generate energy. Coal-fired power generation continues to be the single largest source of carbon emissions, accounting for 30 percent of all energy-related carbon dioxide emissions, according to the International Energy Agency. Coal is also the single largest source of global temperature increase, according to the IEA.

Moreover, the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's "Special Report on 1.5 Degrees Celsius," released in 2018, found that limiting the Earth's warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, believed to be a threshold to avert the most devastating effects of climate change by many scientists, would entail completely eliminating the use of coal for electricity on a global scale.

Coal is currently used to generate electricity on the island of O'ahu at the AES Hawai'i Power Plant in Kapolei. Yet, the power purchase agreement between AES and the Hawaiian Electric Company is set to expire in 2022. HECO has already declared that it does not intend to extend the contract because the 180-megawatt power plant is inflexible and ill-suited for a small island electricity grid that increasingly relies on renewable energy.

Hawai'i is a national and global leader in clean energy policy and generation. To maintain that status and advance our community's efforts to combat climate change, we must abolish coal from our state's energy supply and electrical grids.



183 Pinana St., Kailua, HI 96734 • 808-262-1285 • info@350Hawaii.org

To: The House Committee on Finance
From: Brodie Lockard, Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Friday, February 21, 2020, 12:00 pm

In strong support of HB 2657 HD2

Dear Chair Luke, and members:

350Hawaii.org's 6,000 members strongly support HB 2657 HD2.

Coal is the dirtiest fossil fuel and the largest source of carbon dioxide emissions in the world. It's hideous that it's still being used to make electricity anywhere, especially in Hawaii.

The United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 2018 "Special Report on 1.5 Degrees Celsius" found that we must stop burning coal for electricity generation globally. Burning it also emits mercury, a leading cause of preventable birth defects like brain damage and cerebral palsy.

Hawaii's lone coal plant needs to go away forever. It's great that HECO says it won't extend its contract, but HECO could change its mind. AES could swing a deal with another power utility. AES, or someone else, could even open another coal plant in the state.

We need a state law that kills off coal in Hawaii for good.

Brodie Lockard
Founder, 350Hawaii.org

HB-2657-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 10:30:07 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tenaya Jackman	Hawaii Public Health Association	Support	Yes

Comments:



ELEMENTAL EXCELSIOR

Written Statement of Elemental Excelsior before the House Committee on Finance

In consideration of [HB 2657 HD 2](#)
RELATING TO A COAL-FREE HAWAII
February 21, 2020

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

Elemental Excelsior respectfully **submits our support** of HB 2657 HD 2 which:

1. Beginning 6/30/2020, prohibits the approval of certain agreements, construction, or purchase with regard to using coal for electric generation.
2. Prohibits the issuance or renewal of covered source air permits for coal-burning electricity generation facilities after 12/31/2022.
3. Prohibits an independent power producer from passing on the environmental response, energy, and food security tax onto a purchasing utility company.

Elemental Excelsior is a Honolulu-based non-profit organization that supports climate positive startup companies that are helping solve Hawai'i's most urgent environmental problems. Each year, we select 15-20 companies annually that best fit our mission and fund each company up to \$1 million. To date, we have awarded \$36 million to 99 companies resulting in 36 demonstration projects in Hawai'i & the Asia Pacific.

In April 2018, Elemental Excelsior commissioned a study entitled *Transcending Oil: Hawai'i's Path to a Clean Energy Economy*. The study found that in Hawai'i, transitioning to renewable energy is cheaper than sticking with fossil fuels like oil and coal. The faster we go, the cheaper it will be.

We support HB 2657 HD 2 for the following reasons:

1. **It aligns with Hawai'i's commitment to the Paris Climate Accord:** While Hawai'i is on track to meet its share of America's 2025 target under the Paris Agreement, the state needs to accelerate its clean energy transition and phase off its use of fossil fuels like coal and oil in order to maintain progress towards the Paris Agreement's long-term goals.
2. **It will increase investments in clean energy:** Transitioning off fossil fuels like coal can bring an additional \$2.9 billion in new investments for our state. ¹
3. **It will provide thousands of new good-paying jobs:** By transitioning to clean energy and off of fossil fuels like coal, Hawai'i can create as many as 3,500 additional jobs that pay \$3-7 more per hour than Hawai'i's \$20 median wage. ²

¹ Larsen, J., Mohan, S., Herndon, W., Marsters, P., & Pitt, H. (2018, May 01). *Transcending Oil: Hawai'i's Path to a Clean Energy Economy*, p.22, Retrieved from <https://rhg.com/research/transcending-oil-hawaiis-path-to-a-clean-energy-economy/>

² *Transcending Oil*, p. 1

4. **It provides an opportunity for innovation:** Robust policy alignment with clean energy attracts innovation and positions Hawai'i to compete globally for talent and investment. To date, we've deployed over \$30 million in project based funding to support the deployment of 28 clean technology projects in Hawai'i.³

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this legislation.

Sincerely,



Aki Marceau
Managing Director, Policy & Community

³ Elemental Excelsior 2019 Impact Report

HB-2657-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 7:01:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jalem Correia	YPDA	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2657-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 4:33:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Luke and Members,

I urge you to just say no to dirty coal. Our air and water is polluted with mercury emissions as evidenced in mercury content of ahi. Please support more solar, hydro, and other much cleaner sources of energy.

Sincerely,

Diane Ware, 99-7815 Kapoha Volcano HI

HB-2657-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 1:30:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica dos Santos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2657-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 10:45:45 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wendy Arbeit	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It's shocking we're still burning coal. Time to stop this polluting practice... for the sake of us as well as the places where it's mined.

HB-2657-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 4:42:08 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Echo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I am 17 year old Echo Hirata from Hilo and I write this testimony in hopes that HB2657 gets passed.

For years our man made world runs on coal, it is cheap, abundant, and relatively easy to use and make. It gives us light, warmth, and disasters. In 2018, about 63 percent of the coal mined in the US was from stripe mines or surface mines. The numbers might seem good in words, but these mining operations remove seams or rather they remove mountaintops. With explosives, harming the land and wildlife around it. US law required that the runoff is controlled, but will that even help the harm coal mines and productions already does? Our lands have already lost too much, and Hawaii should not support actions. Acidic rain, greenhouse gases, animal habitats displacement, chemicals in rivers, and all of this comes from coal. A big source of our energy, energy of creation. Our land, our world, is sensitive and must make sure that we are truly taking care of it. Renewable energy, other sources, this is all possible with current creations, with our country, with Hawaii.

It necessary for HB2657 to pass, to help stop further harm of our land, of our world.

Date: February 21, 2020

To: House Committee on Finance

From: Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.

Re: HB 2657 HD2

Aloha Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice-Chair Ty Cullen, and members of the House Committee on Finance,

As a native Hawaiian conservationist for the past 30 years, I **SUPPORT HB 2657 HD2**. This bill prohibits the approval of certain agreements, construction, or purchase with regard to using coal for electric generation.

The State of Hawai'i has committed itself to move away from fossil fuels and transition to renewable energy to strengthen the economy, foster innovation and clean energy job growth, and protect our environment. Hawai'i was the first state to adopt a 100 percent renewable energy requirement for electricity by 2045, a bold legislative move codified in Act 97, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015. Stand boldly and PASS HB 2657 HD2.

HB-2657-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 8:38:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark A. Koppel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It is outrageous that in 2020 we actually have to ban coal.

WHAT WE NEED TO BAN IS any NON-RENEWABLE FUEL. We have sun, all day long and batteries at night. We do not import sun.

What we really need to ban now is the totally fake "renewable" Hu Honua power plant which, believe it or not, BURNS TREES. Burning trees produces 2.5x the pollution of coal. HH claims it will replant trees, leading to carbon neutrality in 95 years!!! It will not plant new trees. We have seen no plans whatsoever for that.

Hu Honua is WORSE than a coal plant and must be stopped NOW. By YOU.

Mahalo

HB-2657-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 4:13:56 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Luke, and members:

As one of 350Hawaii.org's 6,000 members, I strongly support HB 2657 HD2.

Coal is the dirtiest fossil fuel and the largest source of carbon dioxide emissions in the world. It's hideous that it's still being used to make electricity anywhere, especially in Hawaii.

The United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 2018 "Special Report on 1.5 Degrees Celsius" found that we must stop burning coal for electricity generation globally. Burning it also emits mercury, a leading cause of preventable birth defects like brain damage and cerebral palsy.

Hawaii's lone coal plant needs to go away forever. It's great that HECO says it won't extend its contract, but HECO could change its mind. AES could swing a deal with another power utility. AES, or someone else, could even open another coal plant in the state.

We need a state law that kills off coal in Hawaii for good.

me ke aloha 'Ä• ina,

Nanea Lo

HB-2657-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 6:16:25 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Luke and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

As one of 350Hawaii.org's 6,000 members, I strongly support HB 2657 HD2.

Coal is the dirtiest fossil fuel and the largest source of carbon dioxide emissions in the world. It's hideous that it's still being used to make electricity anywhere, especially in Hawaii.

The United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 2018 "Special Report on 1.5 Degrees Celsius" found that we must stop burning coal for electricity generation globally. Burning it also emits mercury, a leading cause of preventable birth defects like brain damage and cerebral palsy.

Hawaii's lone coal plant needs to go away forever. It's great that HECO says it won't extend its contract, but HECO could change its mind. AES could swing a deal with another power utility. AES, or someone else, could even open another coal plant in the state.

We need a state law that kills off coal in Hawaii for good.

Please pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

HB-2657-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 9:41:57 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jason Shon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support a coal-free Hawaii.

HB-2657-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 10:20:09 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Phaethon Keeney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Finance Committee. I strongly support HB2657 to end the use of coal in Hawai'i by 2023. Coal is the dirtiest fossil fuel, and Hawaii, due to see the greatest number and cumulative severity of impacts of Climate Change of any State in the Nation, needs serious targets in line with a livable planet. The UN IPCC gives us 10 years to reduce global emissions by 50% in all sectors, including Ag and Construction etc, 100% reduction in Energy & Transport by 2030 is the easiest possible pathway to hold to the Paris targets of 1.5C. While 1C above preindustrial levels is showing extreme impacts already, 1.5C is a best case scenario that threatens governmental collapse and unlivable heat index in some equatorial areas of the globe, while 2C has been called "unconcionable" for people and planet. 2C has been pointed to as a likely "tipping point" towards a "Hothouse Earth" beyond human control, please see the 2018 PNAS paper "Trajectories of the Earth System in the Anthropocene," pretty much the the scariest science paper ever written. On our current trajectory we will likely be at 1.5 C in the 2030's and 2C in the 2040's (see IPCC report on 1.5C) as we fly past these targets on the redline "worst case scenario" despite ambitions towards a 4C (and more likely above, current IPCC modeling due to be released in 2020/21 indicates 7C) future by the end of the century. The IPCC redline is not factoring in Earth System tipping points given likely at 2C, just potential trajectories under human influence. Please do the right thing and act quickly. We need 100% RPS by 2030, no other targets will get things moving quickly enough, and our increased ambition will encourage others, this is a snowball moment, or firestorm. Do your best, thank you.

Phaethon Keeney

Honokaa Hawaii

HB-2657-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 11:08:43 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carly Rizzuto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, Members of the Committee,

My name is Carly Rizzuto and I'm a 9th grade Physical Science teacher at Wai'anae High. I support HB2657 HD2, which would make Hawai'i coal-free by 2023, because I have seen the negative and disproportionate impacts of burning coal. I spent the majority of 2018 and 2019 researching the impacts of AES's illegal dumpings in the Dominican Republic in 2003 and 2004. I met families whose babies died from the coal ash produced and inadequately handled by AES. I met people who had gotten sick from AES produced coal ash because they were told to bring the coal ash into their homes for construction purposes. They were told it was harmless. They did not know it was toxic. I support this bill because coal-fired power plants are harmful to the environment and communities, alike. I support this bill because the transnational company that runs our coal-fired power plant has a damaging and harmful history that should not be ignored. We are not protecting ourselves and our land if we allow coal-fired power plants to prosper on Oahu. Thank you for your time.

Mahalo!

Carly Rizzuto

HB-2657-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 12:57:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Ching	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, Members of the Committee,

I support HB2657 HD2, which would make Hawai'i coal-free by 2023. Hawaii needs to stop burning fossil fuels to generate electricity. We have solar, wind, wave, tides, geothermal, hydro and biomass to generate power.

We have less than a decade to eliminate the use of fossil fuels for electricity and ground transportation. These are the 2 sectors where we can have an immediate impact: electric cars can replace gasoline and diesel powered vehicles TODAY. All we need is to build out the charging infrastructure and disincentivize internal combustion engines by increasing gasoline taxes and making parking prohibitively expensive.

By ending the PPA between AES and HECO at the end of 2022, we will send a strong message that Hawaii is serious about the climate emergency. Please pass HB2657 HD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Randy Ching

Honolulu

HB-2657-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 1:33:36 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Novell Goodman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Novell Goodman and I strongly believe that an energy coal free Hawaii will not only protects citizens from by products like coal ash but allow for innovation to create alternative energy solutions to arise in our community. For a multitude of other reasons I am in support of this Bill.

Mahalo,

Novell

HB-2657-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 2:57:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Jensen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Luke, and members:

I strongly support HB 2657 HD2.

Coal is the dirtiest fossil fuel and the largest source of carbon dioxide emissions in the world. We need to act responsibly for the future of Hawaii and the world and stop burning coal.

Hawaii's lone coal plant needs to go away forever. It's great that HECO says it won't extend its contract, but HECO could change its mind. AES could swing a deal with another power utility. AES, or someone else, could even open another coal plant in the state.

We need a state law that kills off coal in Hawaii for good. Please pass this measure.

Sincerely,

Dale Jensen, Prof. Engineer

Aloha Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kiana Dulan, and I am an 18-year-old full-time worker/part-time student living in Kapolei. I am in support of HB2657 because many of my close friends live in that area.

I've copied some of my friend's testimony because his holds many facts pertinent to this topic.

"It is absolutely critical that we stop our coal consumption, not just to meet our 2045 renewable energy goals, but because the coal ash that is a by-product of burning coal is a health hazard. According to the EPA, coal ash "contains contaminants like mercury, cadmium and arsenic." When we transport truckloads of this coal ash to the Nānākuli PVT landfills, both the landfill workers, truck drivers, and neighboring communities inhale and ingest this ash, which negatively impacts their health. Some of these communities only live 750ft away from the landfill. I have heard multiple stories from Nānākuli residents about waking up to find a fine, powdery coating on their porches and window sills—the coal ash. There is information to back this up as well: recent U.S. Census Data shows that the life expectancy of Nānākuli residents is **10 years less** than the Hawai'i average. If AES continues to operate beyond 2023, that would be a disaster. We must ensure that this cannot happen. I urge you to pass HB2657, for the sake of the people we call 'ohana."

It's well-known that those who live in lower socioeconomic classes also live in areas with the most detrimental effects on the environment. My friend Audrey is one of those people, and she lives in Nānākuli. She's the happiest person I've ever known, and her positivity and kindness emanates wherever she walks. All everyone talks about is the good she does, and although she might not be important to everyone, she is important to me and to those who know her. Ten years less on this earth without this *single* person, and those ten years would be at a loss.

Please pass HB2657. Good people live everywhere. Everywhere and everything must be protected.

Mahalo nui loa,

Kiana Dulan

HB-2657-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 3:19:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lynn Aaberg	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Luke and Members,

I strongly support HB 2657 and ask that you do the same. Coal is one of the dirtiest fuels. Not only does it add polluting carbon dioxide to the atmosphere, it releases toxic mercury, which is especially harmful to children. The news about climate change gets more dire every day. Ending coal in Hawai'i is needed.

Sincerely,

Lynn Aaberg

HB-2657-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 4:27:15 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janet Pappas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Luke and FIN committee members,

I strongly support HB2657 HD2 to prohibit burning coal for energy after HECO's permit expires in 2022. Coal is the largest source of carbon dioxide emissions in the world and we have many renewable options to choose from now.

Please pass HB2657 HD2 to rid our island of this dangerous fossil fuel. Our grandchildren will thank you.

Thank you for listening,

Jan Pappas

Aiea, Hawaii

HB-2657-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 4:33:40 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jude McCarthy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2657-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 4:42:59 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aisha Heredia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I stand in **strong support of HB2657 HD2**. If we intend to go all electric grid by 2045, time is now to dis-invest in coal and oil.

Also, recent U.S. Census Data shows that the life expectancy of NÄ• nÄ• kuli residents is **10 years less** than the Hawai'i average. If AES continues to operate beyond 2023, could we see more devastating rates in our NÄ• nÄ• kuli resident's health? We must ensure that this cannot happen.

Mahalo,
Aisha Heredia

LATE

HB-2657-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 5:51:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lucy Fagan	Individual	Support	No

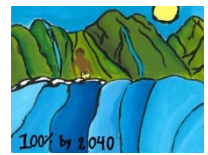
Comments:

Aloha

My name is Lucy and I am a Sophomore at Kalani High School. I would like to voice my support for HB2657.

Hawaii is my home and it is full of many beauties unique to our islands. I am worried about losing these beauties and the beauties that have already been lost. As you know coal is a dirty energy producer that pollutes our air and also leads to health impacts. Hawaii has made progress towards becoming a cleaner place and ensuring we are coal free is the next step. Coal burning releases toxic metals as well as CO2. This CO2 remains trapped in our atmosphere and ends up absorbed by our oceans and heats our earth. This leads to many impacts such as rising water, especially dangerous to us island folks, ocean acidification, and an increase in natural disasters. Continuing on a path towards destruction is not the type of place I want to live when I am older so I believe ending our coal usage is very important. The time for action is now and I hope you are able to help give me and all the other keiki a future by ensuring coal does not have a home on our island.

Mahalo.



LATE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 6, 2020, 2:00 P.M.

Room 329

(Testimony is 2 pages long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2657 HD2

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee:

Blue Planet Foundation **supports HB 2657 HD2**, committing Hawai'i to a future free of climate-changing coal burning by prohibiting the permitting of coal power plants after 2022. This measure ensures that Hawai'i stays on track to achieve a 100% clean energy future while signaling to the globe that Hawai'i is serious about its carbon pollution.

COAL IS A CLIMATE AND HEALTH DISASTER

Coal is the single largest contributor to the human-made increase of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Coal, which is primarily carbon, remains a major fuel in global energy systems, accounting for almost 40% of electricity generation and more than 40% of energy-related carbon dioxide emissions.¹ In Hawai'i, the coal-fired power plant on O'ahu (the only coal power plant in the state) is the second largest point source of the state's carbon dioxide emissions. **In 2018, the coal power plant released nearly 3.1 billion pounds of carbon pollution into the atmosphere.**²

According to the International Energy Agency, to have a 50% chance of staying within 2 degrees Celsius of global warming (the high end of the temperature target set by the Paris Climate Agreement), only zero carbon utilities and infrastructure should be developed going forward, and coal should be completely eliminated. The burning of coal is simply incompatible with a stable climate and continued civilization.

When coal is burned it releases a number of airborne toxins and pollutants. These include mercury, lead, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, particulates, and various other heavy metals. Although limits set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have helped prevent some of these toxic emissions, the future of these protections remains unclear under the current White House administration. Health impacts from coal emissions include asthma and breathing

¹ International Energy Agency, *Coal 2019*, <https://www.iea.org/reports/coal-2019>.

² EPA, *Emissions & Generation Resource Integrated Database (eGRID)*, <https://www.epa.gov/energy/emissions-generation-resource-integrated-database-egrid>.

difficulties, brain damage, heart problems, cancer, neurological disorders, and premature death. **Globally, coal is estimated to cause 800,000 premature deaths every year.**

THE GLOBE IS WAKING UP TO THE DANGERS OF COAL

Given the extreme dangers of coal to climate and health, other nations are taking action.

Twenty countries have pledged to phase out coal power before 2030, including Angola, Austria, Belgium, Britain, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, El Salvador, Fiji, Finland, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Marshall Islands, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Niue, Portugal, and Switzerland. In 2013, the head of the UN climate agency advised that most of the world's coal reserves should be left in the ground to avoid catastrophic global warming.



Coal ash at plant on O'ahu

COAL PLAYS NO ROLE IN HAWAII'S CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE

Carbon-intensive coal power is antithetical to Hawaii's 100% clean energy future. Burning coal is at odds with Hawaii's pledge to achieve the Paris Climate Agreement objectives and to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045. None of the current utility plans to achieve Hawaii's 100% renewable portfolio standard include coal-fired electricity. Further, the large coal-burning power

plant is slow to start and difficult to ramp its electricity production up and down, making it challenging to pair with a small and increasingly variable island electricity grid.

The current power purchase agreement between the coal power plant's owner, AES, and Hawaiian Electric is set to expire in 2022. The utility currently has no plans to extend or renew the contract. What's more, AES has committed to transitioning to low-carbon sources, pledging to reduce the carbon intensity of its power plants 70% by 2030.

Hawai'i's renewable energy transition is happening at lower costs than previously anticipated. Last year, Hawaiian Electric submitted power purchase contracts to the Public Utilities Commission for solar plus storage projects that will provide electricity at nearly half the cost of traditional fossil fuel power plants. **The two lowest cost energy projects—both providing stored solar energy at 8 cents per kilowatt-hour—are owned by coal-plant owner AES.**

OTHERS ARE FOLLOWING HAWAI'I'S LEAD ON CLEAN ENERGY

Hawai'i has emerged as a leader on clean energy policy, adopting a number of bold, first-in-the-nation targets that have helped inspire other states to take similar action. Hawai'i was the first state in the country to adopt a 100% renewable energy requirement for electricity by 2045 (Act 97 of 2015), and California adopted a similar law in 2018. Hawai'i has also pledged to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045 (Act 15 of 2018), another first in the nation.

Despite the clear threat that coal-powered electricity presents to the climate, no state has prohibited its use. **Hawai'i has the opportunity to be a national leader by setting an expiration date on coal in Hawai'i.**

We respectfully request that the Committee forward HB 2657 HD2, amended to take effect upon approval.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

HB-2657-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 8:01:30 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Boren	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Luke, and members:

As one of 350Hawaii.org's 6,000 members, I strongly support HB 2657 HD2.

Coal is the dirtiest fossil fuel and the largest source of carbon dioxide emissions in the world. It's hideous that it's still being used to make electricity anywhere, especially in Hawaii.

The United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 2018 "Special Report on 1.5 Degrees Celsius" found that we must stop burning coal for electricity generation globally. Burning it also emits mercury, a leading cause of preventable birth defects like brain damage and cerebral palsy.

Hawaii's lone coal plant needs to go away forever. It's great that HECO says it won't extend its contract, but HECO could change its mind. AES could swing a deal with another power utility. AES, or someone else, could even open another coal plant in the state.

We need a state law that kills off coal in Hawaii for good.

Danny Boren

LATE

HB-2657-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 9:18:01 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Coal has no place in Hawaii's clean energy future. Coal is a major contributor to climate breakdown, the effects of which are already being felt in Hawaii. Burning it also emits mercury, a leading cause of preventable birth defects like brain damage and cerebral palsy. Further, the Waianae coast community has been directly impacted by the use of toxic coal ash at the PVT landfill. We must stop this injustice.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

LATE

HB-2657-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 10:04:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Audrey Enseki-Tom	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support HB2657 HD2.

LATE

HB-2657-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 10:39:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: The House Committee on Finance

From: **Tlaloc Tokuda**

Date: Friday, February 21, 2020, 12:00 pm

In strong support of HB 2657 HD2

Dear Chair Luke, and members:

As one of 350Hawaii.org's 6,000 members, I strongly support HB 2657 HD2.

Coal is the dirtiest fossil fuel and the largest source of carbon dioxide emissions in the world. It's hideous that it's still being used to make electricity anywhere, especially in Hawaii.

The United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 2018 "Special Report on 1.5 Degrees Celsius" found that we must stop burning coal for electricity generation globally. Burning it also emits mercury, a leading cause of preventable birth defects like brain damage and cerebral palsy.

Hawaii's lone coal plant needs to go away forever. It's great that HECO says it won't extend its contract, but HECO could change its mind. AES could swing a deal with another power utility. AES, or someone else, could even open another coal plant in the state.

We need a state law that kills off coal in Hawaii for good.

Tlaloc Tokuda

Kailua Kona HI 96740

LATE

HB-2657-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2020 6:24:05 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: The House Committee on Finance

From: **Michele Nihipali**

Date: Friday, February 21, 2020, 12:00 pm

In strong support of HB 2657 HD2

Dear Chair Luke, and members:

As one of 350Hawaii.org's 6,000 members, I strongly support HB 2657 HD2.

Coal is the dirtiest fossil fuel and the largest source of carbon dioxide emissions in the world. It's hideous that it's still being used to make electricity anywhere, especially in Hawaii.

The United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 2018 "Special Report on 1.5 Degrees Celsius" found that we must stop burning coal for electricity generation globally. Burning it also emits mercury, a leading cause of preventable birth defects like brain damage and cerebral palsy.

Hawaii's lone coal plant needs to go away forever. It's great that HECO says it won't extend its contract, but HECO could change its mind. AES could swing a deal with another power utility. AES, or someone else, could even open another coal plant in the state.

We need a state law that kills off coal in Hawaii for good.

Mahalo,

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717