



# ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

## Legislative Testimony

### Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection  
Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 9:31 a.m.

By

Carl Bonham, Executive Director  
University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization

And

Denise Konan, Dean  
College of Social Sciences

And

Michael Bruno, Provost  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HCR 35/HR 24 – REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII ECONOMIC RESEARCH ORGANIZATION TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON SCOPE ONE, TWO, AND THREE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Concurrent Resolution 35 /House Resolution 24. These measures are requesting the University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization (UHERO) to conduct a study on scope 1, 2, and 3 greenhouse gas emissions that would include recommendations to accelerate the State's transition to a clean economy, meet the State's climate change mitigation targets, and provide an analysis of the trends, sources, and impacts of greenhouse gas emissions.

As you may know, UHERO's core mission is to enhance public and private sector decision-making through rigorous research focused on the people, environment, and economy of Hawai'i. Over the years, UHERO has made significant contributions to environmental research in Hawai'i, and specifically greenhouse gas emissions inventories for the State.

UHERO supports continued study and research on scope 1, 2, and 3 greenhouse gas emissions, but these inventories are more appropriate for institutions, such as a specific business or agency. Should the Legislature seek a comprehensive overview of Hawai'i's emissions landscape, UHERO and the Institute for Sustainability and Resilience's work on the [Hawai'i Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reports](#) for 2005, 2018, and 2019 already offers a detailed inventory of the State's emissions with an appropriate approach for the whole of Hawai'i as a system.

It would be possible to inventory the State of Hawai'i's scope 1, 2, and 3 greenhouse gas emissions by distinguishing between the State's direct and indirect activities; it is not clear from HCR 35/HR 24 if that was the intent.

Finally, it is important to point out that UHERO relies on the donations and contracts for roughly one-half of its budget. Undertaking a comprehensive study that distinguishes between the State's direct and indirect activities would require new funding to support student and staff researchers and to cover other expenses. We would be happy to develop a budget for this work for your consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



## **TESTIMONY FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII**

**COMMITTEE REFERRAL: EEP**

**MARCH 21, 2024**

**HCR 35/HR 24, REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII ECONOMIC RESEARCH ORGANIZATION TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON SCOPE ONE, TWO, AND THREE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.**

**POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i **supports** HCR 35/HR 24, which requests the University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization to conduct a study on scope one, two, and three greenhouse gas emissions.

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

As we work to reduce carbon emissions and stave off the worst consequences of climate change, we must begin preparing for the adverse impact of sea level rise on our shores. We are now quantifying the speed at

which we must act. We cannot continue to develop the 25,800-acre statewide sea level rise exposure area—one-third of which is designated for urban use—without risking massive structural damage and, potentially, great loss of life.

Last year, we witnessed the impact of the climate emergency on our shores. On August 8, 2023, wildfires swept across Maui and killed at least 100 people, making it one of the nation's deadliest natural disasters. The spread of the fires has been attributed to climate change conditions, such as unusually dry landscapes and the confluence of a strong high-pressure system to the north and Hurricane Dora to the south. The wildfires destroyed over 2,200 structures, including numerous residential buildings, historic landmarks, and school facilities. In September 2023, a report from the United States Department of Commerce estimated the total economic damage of the wildfires to be roughly \$5.5 billion. Investing in renewable energy generation could not be more urgent, given the growing threat of climate-induced catastrophes to our island home.

Therefore, **our state should take steps to accelerate our transition to a clean energy economy and continue our fight against climate change, including by incorporating an analysis of scope one, two, and three greenhouse gas emissions into our carbon emissions reports.** As this resolution notes, scope one greenhouse gas emissions encompass direct emissions from sources owned or controlled by the reporting entity; scope two greenhouse gas emissions encompass indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, heat, or steam consumed by a reporting entity; and scope three greenhouse gas emissions encompass indirect emissions along the value chain, such as emissions produced by travel and consumer activity. Understanding the breakdown of direct versus indirect carbon emissions in Hawai'i is critical to developing public policy plans that fully encompass the state's carbon footprint—particularly regarding our islands' visitor industry—in a manner that empowers public and private sector entities to collaborate on clean economy goals.

That said, we understand that the University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization may not have the capacity to perform the study in question. **Accordingly, we urge your committee to amend this resolution to simply affirm the importance of including scope one, two, and three greenhouse gas emissions in future carbon emissions reports.** We have provided language below to effectuate this revision.

## **HCR 35/HR 24: PROPOSED REVISION**

### **AFFIRMING THE IMPORTANCE OF INCLUDING SCOPE ONE, TWO, AND THREE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IN FUTURE CARBON EMISSIONS REPORTS FOR HAWAII.**

WHEREAS, the State recognizes the urgent need to address climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to protect the environment and public health; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive greenhouse gas emissions reporting is essential for understanding the sources and trends of carbon emissions to inform effective mitigation strategies; and

WHEREAS, scope 1 greenhouse gas emissions encompass direct emissions from sources owned or controlled by the reporting entity; and

WHEREAS, scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions encompass indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, heat, or steam consumed by a reporting entity; and

WHEREAS, scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions encompass indirect emissions along the value chain, such as emissions produced by travel and consumer activity; and

WHEREAS, effectively measuring scope 1, 2, and 3 greenhouse gas emissions is essential to develop a comprehensive understanding of greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, assessing and reporting scope 1, 2, and 3 greenhouse gas emissions is also crucial to identify opportunities for emissions reduction across public and private sectors and promoting sustainable practices throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, establishing transparent methods for scope 1, 2, and 3 greenhouse gas emissions reporting is crucial to ensure consistency, accuracy, and comparability of greenhouse gas emissions data across governmental and nongovernmental sectors; and

WHEREAS, identifying transparent methods for reporting on scope 1, 2, and 3 greenhouse gas emissions will provide policymakers, businesses, and the public with valuable information to support informed decision-making about climate change mitigation efforts and the advancement of the State's net-zero goals; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the Senate concurring, that the importance of scope 1, 2, and 3 greenhouse gas emissions is affirmed for future carbon emissions reports for Hawaii; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, Hawaii State Energy Office, and University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization are requested to include an analysis of scope 1, 2, and 3 greenhouse gas emissions in future reports involving carbon emissions, including an analysis of direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Director of the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, Director of the Hawaii State Energy Office, and Executive Director of the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization.

Mahalo nui loa,

**Kris Coffield**

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## **House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection**

### **Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HCR 35 & HR 24**

Thursday, March 21st, 2023 9:31 a.m. Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran and Members of the Committee,

As representatives of the Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA), we write to express our strong support for HCR 35 and HR 24, recognizing the urgent need to address climate change and advance sustainability efforts in our island home.

Climate change presents an existential threat to our communities, ecosystems, and way of life in Hawai'i. The impacts of rising temperatures, sea-level rise, and extreme weather events are already being felt across our islands. To effectively combat climate change, it is imperative that we comprehensively understand and address our carbon footprint.

We believe that comprehensive greenhouse gas emissions reporting is a critical tool in this effort. By accurately measuring both direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions, we can gain valuable insights into the sources and trends of carbon emissions in our state. This information is essential for informing policymakers, empowering businesses to make sustainable choices, and engaging the public in meaningful dialogue about climate change mitigation strategies.

Furthermore, robust emissions reporting is vital for advancing Hawai'i's ambitious net-zero goals. By tracking our progress and identifying areas for improvement, we can accelerate our transition to a more sustainable, resilient future for generations to come.

Therefore, we urge you to support HCR 35 and HR 24, which call for comprehensive greenhouse gas emissions reporting in Hawai'i. By passing this resolution, you will demonstrate your commitment to addressing climate change and uplift our state's transition to a more sustainable future.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. We look forward to your support and collaboration as we work together to protect our island home from the impacts of climate change.

The Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) is a public non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. HAPA's mission is to catalyze community empowerment and systemic change towards valuing 'aina (environment) and people ahead of corporate profit.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', with a stylized, cursive script.

Anne Frederick  
Executive Director



**HCR-35**

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 3:42:57 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/21/2024 9:31:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this concurrent resolution.

March 19, 2024

Testimony of High School Senior Julie Wong  
H.C.R. NO. 35

To Whom It May Concern:

I am in favor of this resolution for further research on scope one, two, and three greenhouse gas emissions by the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization. Climate change legislation today serves to maintain habitable living conditions for the rising generation. However, as a member of that generation, I believe further education and awareness of our state's position regarding these "scopes" of greenhouse gas emissions is essential to direct citizens to the next steps to be taken to achieve a more sustainable Hawaii.

Having visited major tourism cities internationally and within the continental United States, I experienced poor air quality in areas lacking sustainable environmental practices. In Hawaii's tourism-driven economy, greenhouse gasses released due to aviation, other significant means of transportation, and consumerism are unlikely to decrease to the extent required for our state to meet its clean economy and climate change goals unless we have specific targets.

I support the resolution's intent of determining how the different elements of our economy impact climate change. Clarity through precise data will help policymakers and business leaders develop policies that address a specific problem and find real solutions as opposed to climate change sloganeering.

While Honolulu is in better environmental standing than many other urban cities, we should not be passive in responding to looming climate change that will alter our Hawaii home for future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie Wong".

Julie Wong

**HCR-35**

Submitted on: 3/20/2024 6:48:55 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/21/2024 9:31:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this resolution.

Climate change is an urgent threat to our island home. To fully address our carbon footprint, comprehensive greenhouse gas emissions reporting is essential for understanding the sources and trends of carbon emissions. Effectively measuring both direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions would provide policymakers, businesses, and the public with valuable information to support informed decision-making about climate change mitigation efforts and the advancement of the state's net-zero goals. Please pass this resolution.