

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 04, 2026

RE: H.B. No. 1620
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, to which was referred H.B. No. 1620 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ENERGY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to increase the environmental response, energy, and food security tax and the amount collected from the tax that is deposited into the Electric Vehicle Charging System Subaccount.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Transportation; Public Utilities Commission; Imua Alliance; Climate Protectors Hawai'i; Hawaii Electric Vehicle Association; Earthjustice; Hawai'i Youth Transportation Council; Our Children's Trust; and three individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Grassroot Institute of Hawaii and one individual. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Taxation; Hawaii State Energy Office; and Tax Foundation of Hawaii.

Your Committee finds that the Electric Vehicle Charging System Rebate Program provides rebates for the installation of electric vehicle charging stations in certain priority locations. While this Program has been effective, your Committee recognizes



that Hawaii still ranks low compared to other states in terms of the availability of public electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Accordingly, this measure seeks to support the availability of this infrastructure by increasing funding for the Electric Vehicle Charging System Rebate Program.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the environmental response, energy, and food security tax rate and the amount collected from the tax that is deposited into the Electric Vehicle Charging System Subaccount to unspecified amounts;
- (2) Transferring funds from the Hydrogen Fueling System Subaccount to the Electric Vehicle Charging System Subaccount;
- (3) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

Your Committee respectfully requests your Committee on Finance, should it deliberate on this measure, to consider:

- (1) An environmental response, energy, and food security tax rate of \$1.15 per barrel, with 13 cents of the tax per barrel to be deposited into the Electric Vehicle Charging System Subaccount; and
- (2) A transfer amount of \$1,000,000 from the Hydrogen Fueling System Subaccount to the Electric Vehicle Charging System Subaccount.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1620, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1620, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Transportation.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Energy &
Environmental Protection,



NICOLE E. LOWEN, Chair



Record of Votes of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Bill/Resolution No.:	Committee Referral:	Date: 1/29/26		
HB 1620	EEP, TRN, FIN			
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
EEP Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. LOWEN, Nicole E. (C)	✓			
2. PERRUSO, Amy A. (VC)	✓			
3. CHUN, Cory M.				✓
4. KAHALOA, Kirstin	✓			
5. KUSCH, Matthias	✓			
6. QUINLAN, Sean				✓
7. MATSUMOTO, Lauren			✓	
TOTAL (7)	4		1	2
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: <u>Amy Perruso</u>				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee		Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office		Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO