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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of  
LEAH LARAMEE  
Climate Change Coordinator on behalf of  
Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission  
Co-Chair Ryan K. P. Kanaka'ole**

**Before the House Committee on  
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE**

**Thursday, February 26, 2026  
2:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1619, HOUSE DRAFT 2  
RELATING TO ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE**

House Bill 1619, House Draft 2 proposes to exclude from the definition of "development", as it applies to special management areas, the installation, maintenance, repair, and replacement of an electric vehicle (EV) charging system and include the Public Utilities Commission in the development and implementation of plans to meet the long-term goals for zero-emissions transportation in the State. **The Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) supports this measure.**

The Commission consists of a multi-jurisdictional effort between 20 departments, committees, and counties with the purpose of promoting ambitious, climate-neutral, culturally responsive strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Transition to EVs is a key action identified by the State's climate plans including the Climate Action Pathways (2025), Energy Security and Waste Reduction Plan (2025) and the Hawai'i Pathways to Decarbonization (2023). A significant barrier is the lack of EV charging infrastructure. Streamlining the installation of charging infrastructure will support the transition of our ground transportation to EVs thus reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving air quality and protecting public health.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
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## Testimony of the Public Utilities Commission

To the  
House Committee on  
Consumer Protection and Commerce

Thursday, February 26, 2026  
2:00 p.m.

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Members of the Committee:

**Measure:** H.B. No. 1619, H.D.2  
**Title:** RELATING TO ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE.

### Position:

The Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") supports this measure and offers the following comments for consideration.

### Comments:

The Commission supports the intent of this measure to exclude the installation, maintenance, repair, and replacement of an electric vehicle charging system as defined in section 269-72, Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS"), from the definition of "development" in section 205A-22 (regarding Coastal Zone Management definitions) as it applies to special management areas.

This bill also includes the Public Utilities Commission in the development and implementation of plans to meet the long-term goals for zero-emissions transportation in the state, as identified in HRS §225P-8 (Climate Adaptation: zero emissions transportation), in coordination with the Department of Transportation, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, and Hawaii State Energy Office.

The Commission currently manages the state's Electric Vehicle Charging Station ("EVCS") Rebate Program as established in HRS §269-72 and §269-73 in consultation with EV stakeholders and in cooperation with the program's administrator, Hawaii Energy.

This measure would provide clarity in oversight of EVCS infrastructure development insofar as exemption from coastal zone management special controls. This bill also

provides an opportunity for the Commission to be included in the state's collaborative planning processes for zero-emissions transportation initiatives.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**Hawaiian  
Electric**

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE**

**HB 1619, HD2  
Relating to Electric Vehicle Infrastructure**

Thursday, February 26, 2026  
2:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

Dear Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Members of the Committee,

Hawaiian Electric is submitting written testimony in **support** of HB 1619, HD2, Relating to Electric Vehicle Infrastructure.

Hawaiian Electric supports HB 1619, HD2, which excludes from the definition of "development", as it applies to special management areas, the construction, installation, maintenance, repair, and replacement of an electric vehicle charging system as a minor structure.

HB 1619, HD2 represents a positive step towards an equitable and sustainable transportation future for Hawaii. Hawaiian Electric currently operates the largest electric vehicle charging network in Hawaii and supports the construction of "make ready" electric vehicle charging infrastructure through our make ready pilots for commercial properties and electric buses. Through this experience, Special Management Area permitting has been an important factor, among many, in determining the feasibility of projects. This permitting requirement has required more time and attention from our teams to ensure requirements are met and move projects forward. If electric vehicle projects were exempt from SMA permitting, it would enable us to consider more sites. As noted in the Hawaii Department of Transportation Energy Security and Waste

Reduction Plan, State's 2045 Clean Energy goals. "The growing EV population will necessitate a large increase in public EV charging stations."<sup>1</sup> This bill will support the effective and efficient installation of publicly accessible electric vehicle charging throughout the state.

As part of Hawaiian Electric's Electrification of Transportation Strategic Roadmap 2.0, our goal to enhance charging availability and reliability for personal mobility is crucial. A key action in this plan is to "continue to reduce Hawaiian Electric's charger installation and energization timelines and coordinate with state and county agencies to support simplified, accelerated charger installations."<sup>2</sup> Supporting this bill will directly contribute to achieving this objective, helping us and third-party electric vehicle charging infrastructure installers, build a more comprehensive and reliable charging infrastructure.

Accordingly, Hawaiian Electric **supports** HB 1619, HD2. Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony.

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<sup>1</sup> See page 52 of the Hawaii Energy Security and Waste Reduction Plan FINAL at [FINAL-ESWRP-2025-10-15.pdf](#)

<sup>2</sup> See page 59 of the EoT Strategic Roadmap 2.0 at [https://www.hawaiianelectric.com/documents/products\\_and\\_services/electric\\_vehicles/electrification\\_of\\_transportation\\_roadmap/20240531\\_eot\\_roadmap\\_2.pdf](https://www.hawaiianelectric.com/documents/products_and_services/electric_vehicles/electrification_of_transportation_roadmap/20240531_eot_roadmap_2.pdf)

**HB-1619-HD-2**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 6:38:24 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill. Mahalo.

**HB-1619-HD-2**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 12:00:31 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Morin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1619 HD2

Dear Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Committee Members:

I strongly support HB1619 HD2, which addresses two critical bottlenecks impeding Hawai'i's transition to zero-emissions transportation.

1. Unnecessary Permitting Delays

Hawai'i's coastal geography places many prime charging locations within Special Management Areas (SMAs). Current SMA permitting treats EV chargers as "development," which triggers long review processes for what are minor electrical upgrades comparable to the pad-mounted transformers that already exempted. This bill's exemption treats EV charging systems as minor structures while maintaining environmental oversight through cumulative impact reviews.

2. Grid Planning

This measure will help us avoid the issue of chargers without adequate grid capacity.

HECO's analysis shows that deploying DC fast chargers at highway intervals requires substation upgrades at several planned locations. Without PUC coordination, we risk installing \$100,000 fast chargers that can't deliver rated power during peak demand. PUC involvement will ensure that charger deployment timelines align with utility capacity and prevent costly retrofits and delays.

Hawai'i has approximately 900 public charging ports statewide. HDOT's Energy Security and Waste Reduction Plan suggests that we need up to 4,000 public charging ports by 2030. With our current deployment pace, we will not meet our charging station installation targets.

HB1619 HD2 will eliminate obstacles to our clean transportation and sustainable energy transition.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

[Noel Morin](#)

Climate, Sustainability, and Resilience Advocate  
Hilo, Hawai'i

**LATE**

**HB-1619-HD-2**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 12:07:49 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Charles Johnson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.