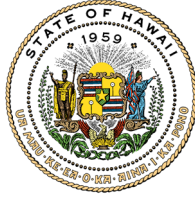


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
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
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**Thursday, February 5, 2026
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325 and Via Videoconference**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1623
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

House Bill 1623 establishes an executive committee and amends the membership and duties of the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission). Requires each member agency of the Commission to implement its own actions to address certain strategies and goals established by the Commission. The bill establishes reporting and review requirements for member agencies relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts and clean economy targets and updates reporting requirements for the Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation reports. The bill also allows the Commission to enter into certain procurement contracts. Finally, the bill updates the zero emissions clean economy target **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.

This bill provides needed housekeeping and functional changes for the Commission to better drive climate action. The federal government has done everything in its power to deny climate change through funding cuts, layoffs, and misinformation campaigns, while frontline communities are ravaged by the impacts. Hawai'i must continue to be a leader in this space to support affordable, reliable and resilient solutions while reducing the devastating impacts of climate change.

This bill clarifies the duties and responsibilities of the State to protect residents from volatile fossil fuel prices, food and water insecurity, sea level rise, wildfires, drought, flooding, heath risks and

billions of dollars in damages, healthcare costs, and loss of property by requiring members of the Commission to provide transparent reporting on how they are accelerating climate action. The changes to the membership of the Commission will reduce redundancy and identify members that are responsible for the day-to-day operations of the agencies identified. The bill creates a revolving leadership design which will allow for diversified and holistic viewpoints for climate action.

The bill takes the important step of defining critical climate terminology so that action can be taken on multiple fronts with clear understanding of the issues and directs "stakeholders in all greenhouse gas emitting sectors and categories to develop and inform science-based targets in those sectors and categories." By doing so, the State will have clear, detailed pathways to reach its legislatively mandated net negative climate goal by 2045.

It cannot be emphasized enough that action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and implement resilient solutions needs to be taken now and accelerated as quickly as possible to avoid billions of dollars of damage and save lives.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



TESTIMONY OF
CAROLINE ANDERSON
Interim President & CEO
Hawai'i Tourism Authority

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Thursday, February 5, 2026
9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 325

In consideration of
HB 1623
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee:

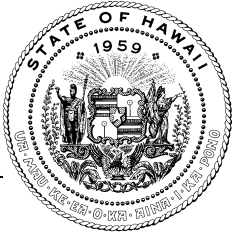
Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on HB 1623, which establishes an executive committee and amends the membership and duties of the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission and requires each member agency of the Commission to implement its own actions to address certain strategies and goals established by the Commission.

HTA's primary interests in HB1623 are clarity of roles, practical implementation, and public accountability:

HB1623 refers to actions that "member agencies" must take. HTA is governed by an advisory board, and HTA's operational authority rests with staff leadership. As such, we request that page 8, lines 13-15 read, "The president and chief executive officer of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority or the president and chief executive officer's designee."

HTA requests additional clarity regarding the requirements as stated on page 10, lines 16-18, which read, "Each member agency shall implement actions within its own agency to address the strategies and goals established by the commission."

Mahalo for the opportunity to share our comments on HB1623.



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

235 South Beretania Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone:
Web:

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

MARK B. GLICK
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

(808) 451-6648
energy.hawaii.gov

Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Thursday, February 5, 2026
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

Providing Comments on
HB 1623

RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on HB 1623, which makes amendments to the membership and duties of the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission). The purpose of HB 1623 is to (1) establish an executive committee and amend the membership and duties of the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission; (2) require each member agency of the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission to implement its own actions to address certain strategies and goals established by the commission; (3) establish reporting and review requirements for member agencies relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts and clean economy targets; (4) update reporting requirements for the sea level rise vulnerability and adaptation reports; (5) allow the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission to enter into certain procurement contracts; and (6) update the zero emissions clean economy target.

HSEO strongly supports the additional clarifying language and necessary definitions provided in this bill, including amendments to 225P-2 and 225P-5. Without these needed definitions, the current Clean Economy Target 225P-5 is open to

interpretation. HSEO further supports these clarifications to ensure that the State meets these targets by 2045.

While HSEO appreciates the bill's emphasis on coordinated agency action and standardized reporting to support consistent implementation of the State's clean economy and climate mitigation goals, HSEO notes that reporting requirements must be carefully tailored to reflect the operational scope, statutory authority, and available resources of individual agencies. For example, agencies responsible for capital infrastructure projects will have different reporting capabilities, timelines, and data availability than agencies primarily responsible for policy development and regulatory oversight. Ensuring flexibility in reporting frameworks will help promote accurate, meaningful, and administratively feasible implementation across agencies—care should be taken to ensure reporting administrative burden is minimized.

Finally, HSEO emphasizes that achieving meaningful, statewide greenhouse gas reductions will require significant action within the private sector, where a substantial portion of emissions originate. Accordingly, HSEO recommends that implementation strategies balance agency reporting obligations with policies and market mechanisms that encourage private sector investment, innovation, and transparent emissions reduction practices to ensure cost-effective and equitable progress toward the State's decarbonization targets.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1623, RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

February 5, 2026

To the Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i **strongly supports HB1623**. This measure advances Hawai'i's responsibility to **protect and preserve our environment, restore a healthy climate, and move decisively toward energy sustainability**.

All people have the right to live in a **clean, healthy, and safe environment**, and government has a duty—under the Public Trust Doctrine of the Hawai'i State Constitution—to safeguard natural resources for present and future generations. By strengthening climate governance, requiring agency accountability, and aligning state decision-making with clear emissions targets, this bill helps fulfill that obligation.

This measure supports policies that create a **more sustainable and self-sufficient Hawai'i**, including progress toward **100% renewable energy**, reduced reliance on fossil fuels, and planning that accounts for long-term climate impacts. It also creates space for climate solutions that reflect **indigenous resource-management principles**, such as balance, stewardship, and intergenerational responsibility.

By embedding climate considerations across state agencies and planning processes, this bill helps protect native ecosystems, public health, and community well-being, while supporting a just transition to clean energy, resilient infrastructure, and sustainable communities.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB1623. Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact the Democratic Party of Hawai'i at legislation@hawaiidemocrats.org.



P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, Hawai`i 96837-0158
Phone: 927-0709 henry.lifeoftheland@gmail.com

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 5, 2026
9 a.m.
Room 325

HB 1623 State Climate Commission

COMMENTS

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

Life of the Land is Hawai`i's own energy, environmental and community action group advocating for the people and `aina for 56 years. Our mission is to preserve and protect the life of the land through sound energy and land use policies and to promote open government through research, education, advocacy and, when necessary, litigation.

HRS **§225P-3** (i) The commission shall identify existing climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts at the federal, state, and local levels and **MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS [FOR HOW], SET STANDARDS, AND DETERMINE DIRECT ACTIONS NEEDED** to meet or exceed Hawaii's state mitigation goals and shall adopt a liberal approach in preparation, so as to minimize future risk to the people and environment of Hawaii

The additional comma after **MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS** and before **SET STANDARDS, AND DETERMINE DIRECT ACTIONS NEEDED** makes it appear that the Commission will establish policy instead of just making recommendations.

If the comma was meant to be there, then the legislation needs additional meat on the bone re namely how the legislation interacts with HRS 91 Administrative Procedure, HRS 92 Public Agency Meetings and Records, HRS 343 EIS, and how the commission interacts with relevant state and county subject matter agencies.

Henry Curtis
Executive Director

HB-1623

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 6:02:39 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Uilani Naipo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure.