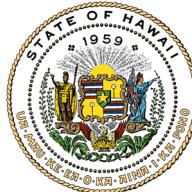
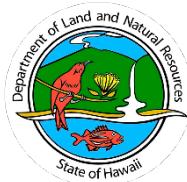


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GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
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**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 1774
RELATING TO CENTRALIZED ACCESS TO RESOURCES**

House Bill 1774 requires and appropriates funds for the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission to develop, implement, and maintain a centralized resource website to connect residents to support and resources to address affordability, health, safety, and the impacts of climate change. **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 addresses environmental justice, affordability, and resiliency concerns by making access to climate funding easier. Residents of the State of Hawai'i have access to a variety of federal and state benefits, particularly when it comes to energy rebates, energy-efficient appliance upgrades, tax credits, and financing. However, people can only take advantage of these opportunities if they are aware of the programs' existence and navigate multiple different websites and application processes. Centralized access to these resources would create a usable, streamlined path to deliver comprehensive resources and solutions that address safety, affordability, and comfort for families across Hawai'i.

Currently, Hawai'i offers numerous programs to help homeowners and renters make home upgrades that improve environmental and public health. However, these programs are

administered by various agencies, each with their own unique application processes and eligibility criteria. This fragmentation can make it challenging for residents to identify programs for which they are eligible and understand how to combine benefits from multiple sources.

As a result, they miss out on opportunities to:

Lower Utility Bills: Energy-efficient upgrades, including air sealing and insulation, can reduce energy bills by over 30%. Combining solar photovoltaic (PV) and electric appliances can further increase savings.

Upgrade to Modern, Safe Appliances: Replacing outdated, inefficient systems with high-efficiency appliances maximizes comfort and safety while reducing emissions and can drastically cut or eliminate unhealthy pollution in the home.

Access Healthy, Emission-Free Transportation: Electric bikes and scooters support healthy lifestyles while reducing tailpipe emissions.

Improve the Safety and Resiliency of Homes: Leveraging state and federal programs assists homeowners in paying for weatherization upgrades, such as additional insulation, and ventilation replacement or installation. These upgrades not only make homes more energy efficient, but they also make them safer, more comfortable, and resilient against extreme weather.

This bill would streamline engagement with state programs and create a free, statewide one-stop shop that provides residents with a single point of entry to access support in identifying needed home upgrades, applying to different incentive programs, and connecting with approved contractors.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1774, RELATING TO CENTRALIZED ACCESS TO RESOURCES

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 HB1774**. This measure advances Hawai'i's responsibility to **protect and preserve our environment, restore a healthy climate, and build a sustainable and self-sufficient future** for present and future generations.

All people have the right to live in a **clean, healthy, and safe environment**, and the State has a duty under the Public Trust Doctrine of the Hawai'i State Constitution to steward natural resources for the benefit of the people. By strengthening climate resilience and improving access to programs that reduce energy burdens and support household stability, this measure helps fulfill that obligation.

This bill supports a transition away from fossil fuels by promoting **energy efficiency, climate preparedness, and long-term affordability**, while creating pathways toward **100% renewable energy** and more resilient communities. It also creates space for climate solutions that reflect **indigenous resource-management principles**, such as balance, stewardship, and intergenerational responsibility.

By helping residents better access climate, energy, and affordability resources, this measure supports a more sustainable society, protects native ecosystems, and strengthens community resilience in the face of climate change.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB1774. Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact the Democratic Party of Hawai'i at legislation@hawaiidemocrats.org.

HB-1774

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 1:25:05 AM
Testimony for EEP on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle R Stefanik	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. To reduce the budget, this is something our tax dollars should not fund at this time. We need to make living in Hawaii affordable again first before we worry about Climate Change expenses. Please vote no.