



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I  
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DIRECTOR | KA LUNA HO'OKELE

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR | KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

## Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Before the  
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection  
Tuesday, March 24, 2026  
9:00 a.m.  
Via Videoconference

On the following measure:  
**H.C.R. 202 / H.R. 192, ESTABLISHING THE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON HAWAII'S FUTURE ENERGY PATHWAYS TO EXAMINE STRATEGIES TO MAXIMIZE COST SAVINGS WHILE MINIMIZING RISK TO RATEPAYERS OVER THE NEXT THREE DECADES AND ACHIEVING THE STATE'S ENERGY GOALS AND PRODUCING AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, RESILIENT, AND DECARBONIZED ENERGY**

Chair Lowen and Members of the Committee:

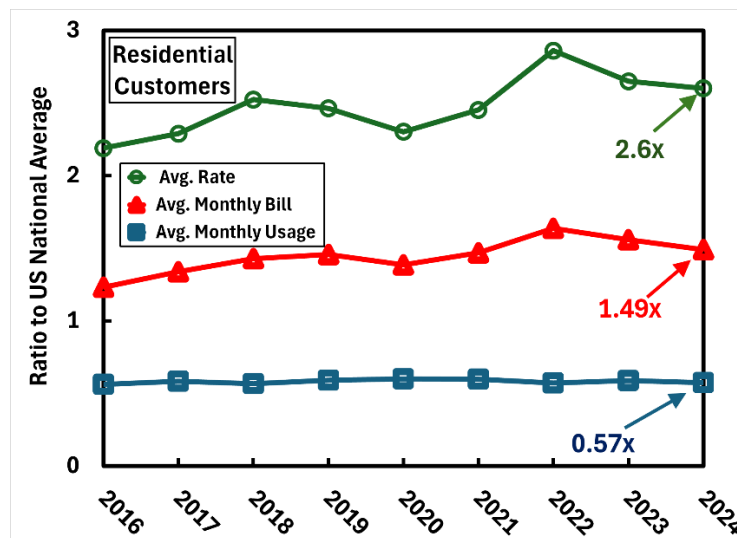
My name is Michael Angelo, and I am the Executive Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Division of Consumer Advocacy. The Department supports this resolution.

The purpose of this resolution is to establish the Legislative Task Force on Hawaii's Future Energy Pathways (Task Force) to examine strategies to maximize cost savings while minimizing risk to ratepayers over the next three decades and achieving the State's energy goals and providing affordable, reliable, resilient, and decarbonized energy. The resolution sets forth specific matters for evaluation and consideration including integration of high levels of renewable energy and distributed energy resources into the power grid, reducing long-term energy costs for residents and businesses, strengthening energy

independence and resilience and various other matters. In addition, among other things, the resolution specifies the members to be included in the Task Force and specifically names the Department’s Division of Consumer Advocacy’s Executive Director, the Consumer Advocate, or the Consumer Advocate’s designee, as a member of the Task Force. Furthermore, the Task Force is to submit an initial report of its findings, recommendations, and any proposed legislation, no later than 20 days before the convening of the 2027 Legislative Session and a final report of its findings, recommendations, and any proposed legislation no later than 20 days before the 2028 Legislative Session.

The Department fully appreciates the goals set forth in the resolution, which align with and support the Department’s work for utility services to be delivered more safely, reliably and resiliently, affordably, equitably, and enable continued progress on the State’s clean energy goals. The price paid for energy in Hawaii is high and places substantial burdens on the State’s residents and businesses. The Department notes that for electricity Hawaii has the highest average monthly bills and lowest average monthly usage for residential customers in the country resulting in the highest average price (rate) paid for electricity at 2.6x the national average.

**Residential Customers’ Avg. Electricity Rate, Monthly Bill, and Usage Compared to National Avg.<sup>1</sup>**



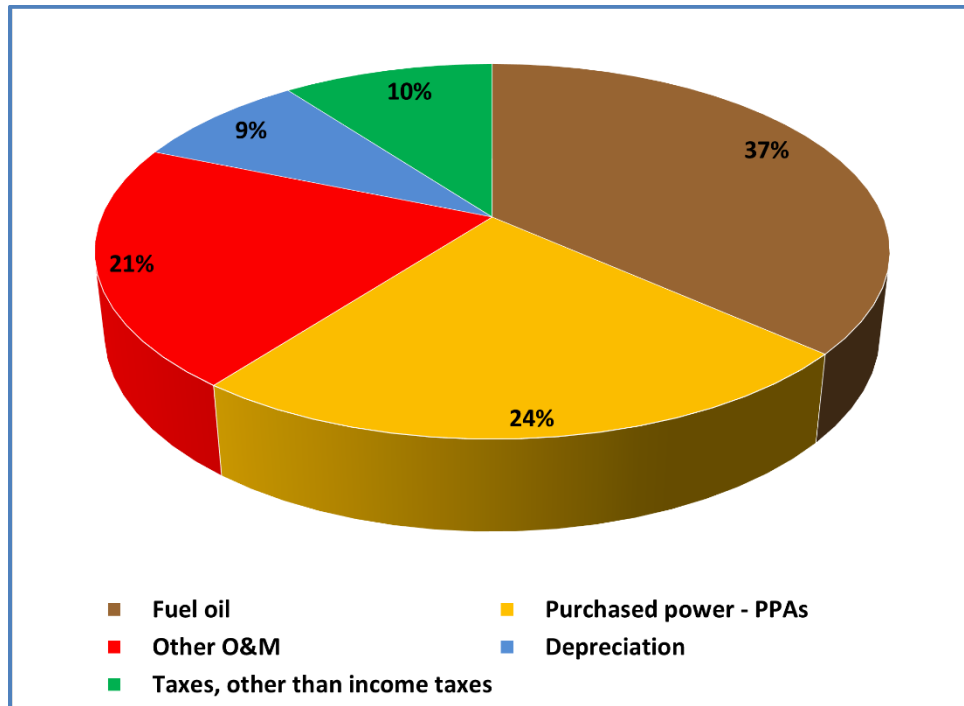
**Average Price Paid for Electricity in Hawaii**

<sup>1</sup> Data calculated from: <https://www.eia.gov/electricity/data/state/xls/861/HS861%202010-.xlsx>

Hawaii has consistently paid the highest rates for electricity in the nation for electric utility customers in the customer classes: residential (table below)<sup>2</sup>, commercial, and industrial. A significant contributor to electric utility expenses continues to be fuel oil purchases, These costs are passed through to utility customers through fuel adjustment mechanisms in rates.

Avg Monthly Rates - Residential [Cents/kWh]									
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Hawaii	27.47	29.50	32.47	32.06	30.28	33.49	43.03	42.39	42.86
US - Avg	12.55	12.89	12.87	13.01	13.15	13.66	15.04	16.00	16.48
Hawaii Rank (1=Highest)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

**Percentage of Hawaiian Electric's<sup>3</sup> Major Expenses in 2024.<sup>4</sup>**

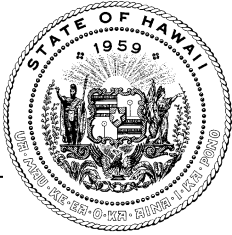


Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.

<sup>2</sup> Data calculated from: <https://www.eia.gov/electricity/data/state/xls/861/HS861%202010-.xlsx>

<sup>3</sup> Includes expenses of Hawaiian Electric, Maui Electric, and Hawaii Electric Light.

<sup>4</sup> Data calculated from Hawaiian Electric Industries' 2025 Annual Report to Shareholders – Consolidating Income Statement (Note: Calculation does not include recorded expenses for Wildfire tort-related claims).  
[https://s2.q4cdn.com/268623243/files/doc\\_financials/2024/ar/Bookmarked-PDF-3-27-25.pdf](https://s2.q4cdn.com/268623243/files/doc_financials/2024/ar/Bookmarked-PDF-3-27-25.pdf)



# HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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Testimony of  
**MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer**

before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Tuesday, March 24, 2026  
9:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325, and Videoconference

Providing Comments on  
**HCR 202**

**ESTABLISHING THE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON HAWAII'S FUTURE ENERGY PATHWAYS TO EXAMINE STRATEGIES TO MAXIMIZE COST SAVINGS WHILE MINIMIZING RISK TO RATEPAYERS OVER THE NEXT THREE DECADES AND ACHIEVING THE STATE'S ENERGY GOALS AND PRODUCING AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, RESILIENT, AND DECARBONIZED ENERGY.**

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on HCR 202, which establishes a Legislative Task Force on Hawai'i's Future Energy Pathways.

Hawai'i's transition to a clean energy system presents both significant challenges and opportunities. As an island state with high energy costs and reliance on imported fuels, the State must carefully evaluate future energy pathways to ensure affordability, reliability, resilience, and progress toward its statutory goal of 100 percent renewable electricity by 2045.

HSEO agrees that Hawai'i is at a critical inflection point, and transformative changes are necessary to improve affordability, reliability and environmental impacts of the electricity ecosystem. Decisions regarding power plant efficiency and readiness, life-cycle impacts and cost-effectiveness of fuels, and capital investments in grid investments will have extremely profound long-term implications for ratepayers. While the proposed Task Force provides a valuable forum for cross-sector coordination and policy discussion, HSEO notes that similar analytical work is currently underway. Chief among these works is Hawaiian Electric Company's Integrated Grid Planning (IGP) process, including its second planning cycle. To avoid duplicative efforts and ensure efficient use of resources, HSEO recommends that the Task Force coordinate closely with relevant ongoing regulatory proceedings and leverage existing analyses where appropriate.

HCR 202 - ESTABLISHING THE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON HAWAII'S FUTURE ENERGY PATHWAYS TO EXAMINE STRATEGIES TO MAXIMIZE COST SAVINGS WHILE MINIMIZING RISK TO RATEPAYERS OVER THE NEXT THREE DECADES AND ACHIEVING THE STATE'S ENERGY GOALS AND PRODUCING AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, RESILIENT, AND DECARBONIZED ENERGY - Comments

March 24, 2026

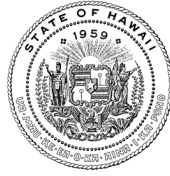
Page 2

HSEO supports the Task Force's objectives and focus on renewable integration, distributed energy resources, and evaluation of potential fossil fuel infrastructure investments. In that spirit, HSEO remains committed to contribute technical expertise to support the Legislature's work consistent with its statutory purpose.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LT. GOVERNOR



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## Testimony of the Public Utilities Commission

To the  
House Committee on  
Energy and Environmental Protection

Tuesday, March 24, 2026  
9:00 a.m.

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

**Measure:** H.C.R. 202 / H.R. 192  
**Title:** ESTABLISHING THE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON HAWAII'S FUTURE ENERGY PATHWAYS TO EXAMINE STRATEGIES TO MAXIMIZE COST SAVINGS WHILE MINIMIZING RISK TO RATEPAYERS OVER THE NEXT THREE DECADES AND ACHIEVING THE STATE'S ENERGY GOALS AND PRODUCING AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, RESILIENT, AND DECARBONIZED ENERGY.

### Position:

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

### Comments:

The Commission supports the intent of this measure to form a legislative task force that would examine strategies to maximize cost savings while minimizing ratepayer risks and achieving the state's energy goals over the next three decades.

The Commission recognizes the importance of a coordinated examination of potential energy pathways that consider affordability, resilience, reliability, and decarbonization while collaboratively planning the policies and infrastructure developments to support the state's goal of achieving 100% renewable energy by 2045. The Commission appreciates this resolution's inclusion of Commission staff in the proposed task force and stands ready to participate.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.

**HCR-202**

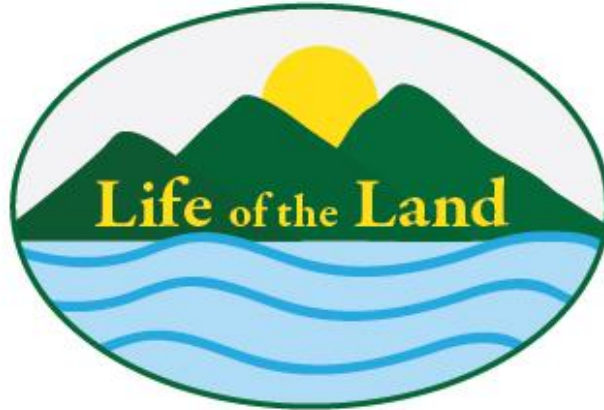
Submitted on: 3/21/2026 10:46:27 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/24/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ted Bohlen	Climate Protectors Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT!



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COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair  
Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

March 24, 2026  
9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 325

HCR 202 Legislative Task Force

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.

It is easy to point to HECO's recent financial crisis as the sole reason our renewable energy pipeline stalled, but developers were already abandoning major Hawaii projects due to record inflation, volatile steel prices, and global supply chain paralysis. Across the mainland, billions of dollars in infrastructure projects were canceled during this era for the exact same reasons. The fluctuating tariff rates compounded this. While local financial woes severely compounded the issue, the heavy economic burden crushing Hawaii's energy projects was significantly driven by the outside world.

Life of the Land strongly opposes the proposed membership structure of the Legislative Task Force on Hawaii's Future Energy Pathways as currently written in HCR 202. While we support the goal of finding solutions to our state's renewable energy hurdles, but creating a task force that exclusively seats legislators, regulators, state agencies, and utilities—while expressly excluding environmental groups, community groups, landowners, and independent energy companies—will simply create an echo chamber.

A review of recent renewable energy project cancellations proves that the systemic problems we face cannot be solved solely by government and utility insiders. The proposed membership ignores the practical realities of how energy is built, financed, and integrated into our communities.

If this task force is to produce actionable solutions, it must include the stakeholders that actually navigating these barriers:

### 1. Independent Energy Developers Must Be at the Table

The utilities are not the ones building our renewable future; independent power producers are. In late 2024, Clearway Energy canceled three major projects—Puako Solar, Kaiwiki Solar, and Makana La—explicitly citing HECO's "ongoing financial uncertainty". Engie and Innergex lost multiple projects due to global supply chain issues and massive inflationary price hikes. Discussing PPA financing solutions and macroeconomic hurdles without the developers who must secure the capital and buy the equipment is an exercise in futility.

### 2. Landowners and Community Groups Are Essential for Siting

A major bottleneck for Hawaii's energy transition is land acquisition and community acceptance. For example, AES had to cancel the Puu Hau project in May 2024 specifically because they could not acquire land rights for the interconnection line. Excluding landowners and community groups from the task force guarantees that future energy pathways will continue to run into fierce local opposition, land disputes, and ultimately, project failures.

### 3. Environmental and Ratepayer Advocates Provide Necessary Checks

When public interest groups are excluded from the planning stages, deeply flawed projects are

pushed forward until they inevitably collapse in the legal system. The Hu Honua Biomass project, which was ultimately rejected by the Hawaii Supreme Court, is a prime example of what happens when environmental and community impacts are not adequately addressed upfront. Furthermore, the Public Utilities Commission rightly noted in the Innergex cancellations that massive inflationary costs cannot simply be forced onto Hawaiian ratepayers. Environmental and community advocates like Life of the Land ensure that equity, environmental justice, and ratepayer protection remain central to our energy transition.

Recommendation: An exclusive task force will only yield exclusive, unworkable policies. Life of the Land respectfully requests that HCR 202 be amended to mandate the inclusion of representatives from environmental advocacy groups, community organizations, landowners, and independent renewable energy developers. Broad consensus, not exclusion, is the only optimal pathway forward for Hawaii's energy future.

Company	Canceled Projects	Reason
Engie	Puako (Hawaii 2021)	Engie explicitly cited "tariffs and trade disputes" <sup>1</sup>
Clearway Energy	Puako Solar (Hawaii, 2024), Kaiwiki Solar (Hawaii, 2024) Makana La (Oahu, 2024)	Clearway Energy explicitly cited HECO's "ongoing financial uncertainty" <sup>2</sup>
AES	Puu Hau (Hawaii, 2024)	AES could not acquire land rights for interconnection line. <sup>3</sup>
Longroad	Mahi Solar (Hawaii, 2022)	COVID-19 pandemic, rising project costs, supply chain disruptions
174 Power Global	Kupehau Solar (Oahu, 2022)	high development costs, supply chain setbacks, trade disputes disrupting module supply
Hu Honua	Biomass (Hawaii, 2023)	Hawaii Supreme Court
Innergex	Barbers Point Solar (Oahu) Kahana Solar (Maui) Paeahu Solar (Maui) (2023-24)	inflation-related cancellations; PUC/CA: those massive inflationary price hikes onto Hawaiian ratepayers were not in the public's best interest. <sup>4</sup>

Mahalo

Henry Curtis, Executive Director

<sup>1</sup> Engie abandons Hawaii solar+storage project over supply chain, tariff concerns

<https://www.utilitydive.com/news/engie-abandons-hawaii-solar-storage-project-supply-chain-tariff-con/609361/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.eenews.net/articles/developer-cancels-hawaiian-electric-solar-projects-amid-wildfire-turmoil/>; Solar developer pulls out of 3 major projects, citing HECO's 'financial distress, HPR

<https://www.hawaiipublicradio.org/local-news/2024-11-04/solar-developer-pulls-out-of-major-projects-citing-hecos-financial-distress>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.energy-storage.news/aes-withdraws-hybrid-solar-plus-storage-project-from-hawaiian-electric-procurement/>; <https://dbedt.hawaii.gov/hcda/news-maui-faces-uncertainty-over-the-future-of-its-energy-grid/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://buildingindustryhawaii.com/2024/01/hawaiian-electric-innergex-terminate-agreement-on-maui-solar-project/>



MARCH 24, 2026

## HCR 202/HR 192

CURRENT REFERRAL: EEP

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@imuaalliance

Kris Coffield,  
*President*

David Negaard,  
*Director*

Mireille Ellsworth,  
*Director*

Justin Salisbury,  
*Director*

Eileen Roco,  
*Director*

Beatrice DeRego,  
*Director*

Corey Rosenlee,  
*Director*

Amy Zhao,  
*Policy and Partnerships  
Strategist*

### POSITION: SUPPORT

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Imua Alliance supports HCR 202/HR 192, establishing the legislative task force on Hawai'i's future energy pathways to examine strategies to maximize cost savings while minimizing risk to ratepayers over the next three decades and achieving the state's energy goals and producing affordable, reliable, resilient, and decarbonized energy.

Imua Alliance is a Hawai'i-based organization dedicated to ending sexual exploitation and gender violence, both of which are worsened by the climate crisis. Hawai'i stands at a critical moment in its energy transition.

The State has committed by law to achieving 100% renewable electricity by 2045, while also working to ensure energy affordability, reliability, resilience, and energy independence. Decisions made over the next decade regarding infrastructure, fuel sources, grid modernization, and renewable energy deployment will affect Hawai'i's economy, cost of living, and environmental future for generations.

One of the major issues currently shaping Hawai'i's energy debate is whether the state should invest in liquefied natural gas (LNG) infrastructure as a transitional fuel. Recent developments underscore why a comprehensive, independent, and long-term planning process is essential before committing to major energy infrastructure investments.

Recent reports revealed that a key study used to support the development of LNG in the islands may have contained egregious modeling errors, leading to an overestimate of LNG-related cost savings of up to \$1.2 billion. At the same time, a JERA Co Inc. LNG proposal has been issued that could involve billions of dollars in new energy infrastructure, including LNG import facilities and gas-fired power plants intended to replace oil generation and operate for decades.

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Decisions about energy infrastructure are long-term decisions that can lock the state into particular energy pathways for many years. If those decisions are made without comprehensive analysis of cost, climate impacts, energy security, and technological change, the result could be higher electricity prices, stranded infrastructure investments, or delays in achieving the state's renewable energy goals.

Beyond cost concerns, LNG also presents climate and policy risks. While natural gas can produce fewer emissions than oil when burned, LNG still emits carbon dioxide and involves methane leakage throughout extraction, processing, and transport. Methane is a highly potent greenhouse gas, meaning lifecycle emissions from LNG can significantly reduce or eliminate the climate benefits compared to other fossil fuels. Large investments in LNG infrastructure could also divert investment away from renewable energy, battery storage, and grid modernization, technologies that Hawai'i must deploy to meet its clean energy goals.

Hawai'i's energy future must balance affordability, reliability, resilience, and decarbonization. These goals are not mutually exclusive, but achieving them will require coordinated planning, independent analysis, and collaboration among policymakers, regulators, utilities, researchers, and community stakeholders.

Establishing a legislative task force to evaluate long-term energy pathways will help ensure that Hawai'i's energy decisions are transparent, data-driven, and aligned with the public interest. Given the magnitude of upcoming energy decisions on renewable integration, grid modernization, energy storage, and fossil fuel infrastructure investments, this type of coordinated long-term planning is both prudent and necessary.

With aloha,

*Kris Coffield*

President, Imua Alliance

**HCR-202**

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 1:00:10 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/24/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kelly King	Pacific Biodiesel Technologies, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for this concurrent resolution! In light of the new cost information for imported LNG, as well as the fact that it is still fossil fuel and flies in the face of our State Statute that is working toward a 100% renewable power grid, the proposal needs much more scrutiny. Let's stay on track for our State's proposed climate action, and not be swayed by foreign offers to control our energy delivery. We are in full support of the resolutions and hope they bring clarity to a confusing situation!

**HCR-202**

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 8:54:41 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/24/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

192 HR ESTABLISHING THE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON HAWAII'S FUTURE ENERGY PATHWAYS TO EXAMINE STRATEGIES TO MAXIMIZE COST SAVINGS WHILE MINIMIZING RISK TO RATEPAYERS OVER THE NEXT THREE DECADES AND ACHIEVING THE STATE'S ENERGY GOALS AND PRODUCING AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, RESILIENT, AND DECARBONIZED ENERGY