



**Hawaiian
Electric**

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

HCR 125 / HR 117

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO COORDINATE WITH UTILITY PROVIDERS OPERATING WITHIN STATE HIGHWAY RIGHTS-OF-WAY TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE PLAN AND SCHEDULE TO ADDRESS DERELICT OR AGING UTILITY POLES AND LINES ALONG FARRINGTON HIGHWAY AND OTHER HIGH-RISK CORRIDORS

Tuesday, March 31, 2026

10:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 430 & Videoconference

Dear Chair Kila, Vice Chair Miyake, and Members of the Committee,

Hawaiian Electric **supports the intent** of HCR 125 / HR 117, which requests the Department of Transportation to coordinate with utility providers operating within state highway rights-of-way to develop a comprehensive statewide plan and schedule to address derelict or aging utility poles and lines along Farrington Highway and other high-risk corridors.

Hawaiian Electric understands the importance of maintaining its equipment in good working order and removing any old equipment from the field and within the state rights-of-way. To that end, Hawaiian Electric has been diligently pursuing the increased removal of its double poles across its service territories. Pursuant to HCR 41 / HR 45 from the 2023 legislative session, Hawaiian Electric engaged with all pole attaching stakeholders and the Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) in an extended collaborative effort regarding the removal of double poles. This collaboration resulted in a Stipulated Comprehensive Double Pole Removal Plan, that was approved by the Commission in Docket No. 2024-0121, which detailed numerous ways Hawaiian Electric

and all attachers would address double poles to facilitate their removal. As part of the Decision and Order, the Commission requested that Hawaiian Electric publish a website to track double pole removals and report quarterly on the removals by both Hawaiian Electric and Hawaiian Telcom.¹

Accordingly, while Hawaiian Electric supports collaborating on the removal of old utility infrastructure in the rights-of-way, Hawaiian Electric would also like to draw attention to the process already in place under the Commission's review for addressing Hawaiian Electric's aging utility poles (double poles). If the focus of this resolution is to address other utilities' derelict or aging utility poles and lines, then Hawaiian Electric supports participating in such a collaboration; but if the focus is on removal of double poles, then this resolution may be redundant as this effort is already being done and monitored by the Commission. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

¹ Website available here: <https://www.hawaiianelectric.com/about-us/power-facts/double-poles>. In 2025, Hawaiian Electric ramped up its double pole program and removed 1,786 poles, exceeding its annual goal of 1,419.

HR-117

Submitted on: 3/28/2026 7:46:38 AM

Testimony for TRN on 3/31/2026 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Johnnie-Mae L. Perry | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support w/comment Farrington Hwy extends beyond zip code 9672

127 HCR REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND
DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT TO COLLABORATE TO ESTABLISH A
STATE HIGHWAY POLICE FORCE.