



MARCH 24, 2026

HCR 201/HR 191

CURRENT REFERRAL: EEP

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POSITION: SUPPORT

Imua Alliance supports HCR 201/HR 191, recognizing the public health impacts of air pollution from internal combustion engine vehicles and the risks that related air pollution poses to communities across the state and affirming the commitment to transition to cleaner transportation choices.

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. Transportation is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Hawai'i, accounting for approximately 49.8% of statewide greenhouse gas emissions, making the transportation sector one of the most important areas for emissions reduction in the state.

Electric vehicles and clean transportation are, therefore, essential to achieving Hawai'i's climate and energy goals, including the transition to 100% renewable energy and long-term emissions reduction targets. Hawai'i has already made significant progress toward transportation electrification. As of early 2026, there were over 40,000 electric vehicles registered in Hawai'i, representing roughly 3.8% of passenger vehicles statewide, and EV registrations have grown rapidly in recent years. Electric vehicle registrations have quadrupled over the past six years and doubled in just the past three, demonstrating strong demand and rapid adoption.

Hawai'i is also a national leader in EV adoption relative to population and new vehicle sales, with EVs representing over 11% of new passenger vehicle sales statewide, placing Hawai'i among the leading states in EV adoption. At the same time, infrastructure remains a key challenge.

Hawai'i currently has hundreds of public charging stations statewide, but continued investment in charging infrastructure is necessary to support growing EV adoption and ensure equitable access across islands and communities. We are second to last nationally in building charging

infrastructure. While California recommends one public charger for every seven EVs, Hawai'i had just one charger for every 44 EVs, a gap that is widening as more EVs are purchased in the local marketplace.

Importantly, Hawai'i is uniquely positioned to benefit from transportation electrification because the state's electricity grid is becoming increasingly renewable. Hawaiian Electric reported that renewable energy reached approximately 37% of electricity generation in 2025, and the state is on track toward its 100% renewable energy by 2045 goal.

Clean transportation is also an economic and energy security issue for Hawai'i. The state imports most of its fossil fuels, making residents highly vulnerable to global oil price fluctuations. Electrifying transportation reduces dependence on imported petroleum and keeps more energy dollars within the local economy.

Additionally, electric vehicles have significantly lower operating and maintenance costs than gasoline vehicles, meaning that over time, EV adoption can reduce household transportation costs, an important consideration in a state with one of the highest costs of living in the nation. Households with the highest reliance on gasoline are spending nearly \$14,000 a year—about 14% of their income—to get around. EVs offer a sustained cost savings of up to 40% on those gas bills, or over \$5,000.

Hawai'i has set ambitious climate and energy goals, but those goals cannot be achieved without transforming the transportation sector. Continued investment in electric vehicles, charging infrastructure, and clean transportation policies will be necessary to reduce emissions, improve public health, lower transportation costs, and strengthen energy security.

This resolution represents an important step in continuing Hawai'i's leadership in clean transportation and ensuring that the transition to electric vehicles is equitable, accessible, and aligned with the state's climate and energy goals for future generations.

With aloha,

Kris Coffield

President, Imua Alliance

HR-191

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 3:29:53 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

ICE (internal combustion engines) emit not only the greenhouse gases that contribute to climate chaos that produces disasters like the Lahaina fire and the current Kona Low storms. ICE also emit pollutants that increase the rates of miscarriages, asthma attacks, strokes, and many other health issues. I support HR 191 and HCR201.

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Submitted on: 3/21/2026 9:08:23 AM

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

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

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

191 HR RECOGNIZING THE PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACTS OF AIR POLLUTION FROM INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE VEHICLES AND THE RISKS THAT TRAFFIC-RELATED AIR POLLUTION POSES TO COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE STATE AND AFFIRMING THE COMMITMENT TO TRANSITION TO CLEANER TRANSPORTATION CHOICES.

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HR-191

Submitted on: 3/24/2026 12:24:43 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beth Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HR 191 because the climate change crisis is steadily increasing. The devastating storm we just experienced is just one of the terrible consequence of the impact of climate change. For future generations, for our health, safety and the health of the planet critical measures must be taken now to rid the planet of CO2 pollution and this includes eliminating internal combustion vehicles.