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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Tuesday, April 7, 2026
2:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference**

On the following measure:

H.C.R. 202, H.D. 1 / H.R. 192, H.D. 1, 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 Matayoshi and Members of the Committee:

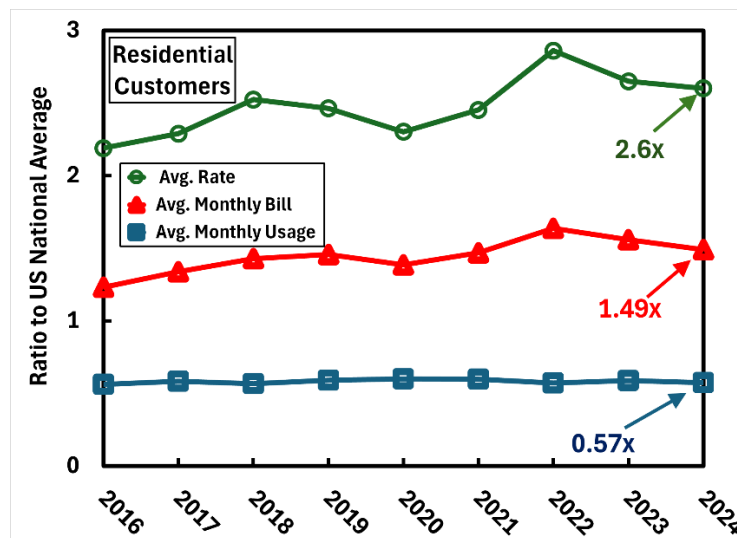
My name is Michael Angelo, and I am the Executive Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Division of Consumer Advocacy. The Department supports this resolution.

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.¹



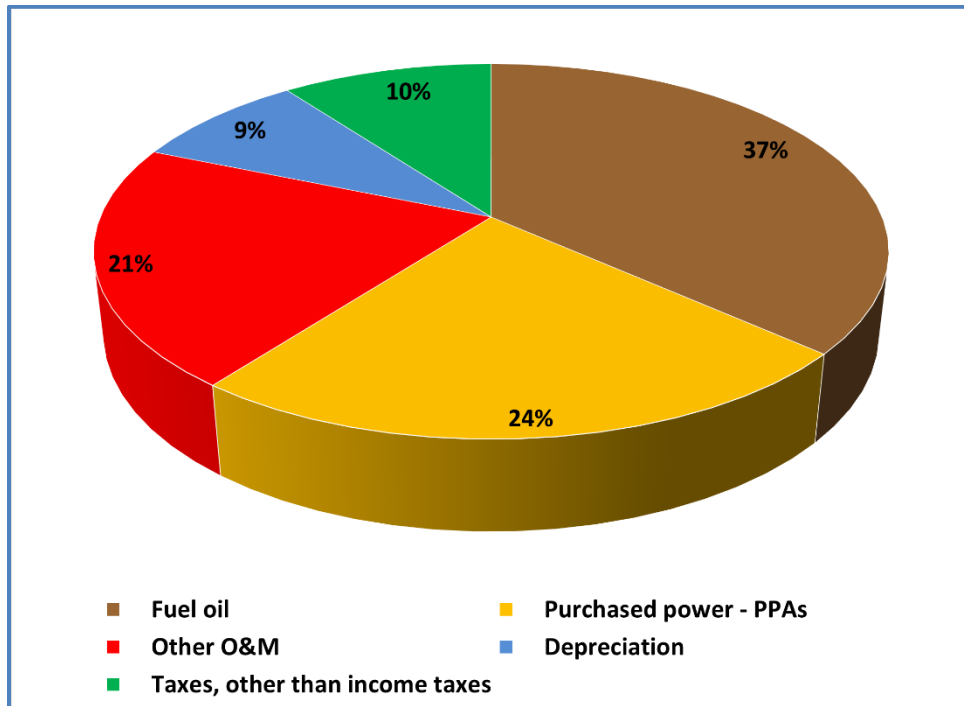
Average Price Paid for Electricity in Hawaii

¹ 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)², 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's³ Major Expenses in 2024.⁴



Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.

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

³ Includes expenses of Hawaiian Electric, Maui Electric, and Hawaii Electric Light.

⁴ 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

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Testimony of the Public Utilities Commission

To the
House Committee on
Consumer Protection & Commerce

Tuesday, April 7, 2026
2:00 p.m.

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Members of the Committee:

Measure: H.C.R. 202, H.D.1 / H.R. 192, H.D.1
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:

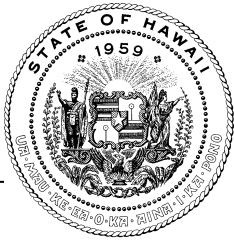
The Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") supports this resolution and offers the following comments for consideration.

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.



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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Tuesday, April 7, 2026
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329, and Videoconference

Providing Comments on
HR 192, HD1

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 Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on HR 192, HD1, which establishes a Legislative Task Force on Hawai'i's Future Energy Pathways.

Hawai'i has the highest electricity costs in the nation due to antiquated and inefficient power generators and the State's historical overdependence on price-volatile crude oil and petroleum products. To address this, the State has been aggressively and carefully evaluating future energy pathways to ensure affordability, reliability, and resilience in making progress toward the statutory goal of 100 percent renewable electricity by 2045.

Therefore, Hawai'i is at a critical inflection point when it must decide to make transformative changes 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 yet another valuable forum for cross-sector coordination and policy discussion,

Hawai'i State Energy Office

HR 192, HD1 - 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

April 7, 2026

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HSEO notes engineering and grid analytics are part of Hawaiian Electric Company's Integrated Grid Planning (IGP) process, including its second planning cycle under the guidance of the Public Utilities Commission, as well as other planning processes. To avoid duplicative efforts and ensure efficient use of resources, HSEO recommends that if a Task Force were to be formed by the Legislature, that efforts it would undertake would be coordinated closely with relevant ongoing regulatory proceedings.

HSEO supports the objectives and focus on renewable integration, distributed energy resources, and evaluation of potential fossil fuel infrastructure investments of this measure. 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.



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

‘Ōlelo Hō‘ike ‘Aha Kau Kānāwai

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 202 HD1 AND
HOUSE RESOLUTION 192 HD1**

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

Ke Kōmike Hale o ka Ho‘omalū Mea Kemu a me ka ‘Oihana Kālepa

(House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce)

Ke Kapitala ‘o Hawai‘i

(Hawai‘i State Capitol)

Apelila 7, 2026

2:00PM

Lumi 329

Aloha e Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and House Members of the
Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS HCR202 HD1/HR192 HD1**
which would establish the Legislative Task Force on Hawai‘i’s Future Energy Pathways to
examine strategies to maximize cost savings while minimizing risk to ratepayers.

OHA has long sought to promote the resiliency and health of our
islands’ lands and natural and cultural resources that includes sustainable management of
our natural and public trust resources. Enshrined within the concept of public trust
resources are Hawaiian values and ‘ike kūpuna, ancestral knowledge refined over the
millennia that Native Hawaiians lived here prior to western contact.¹ Further, OHA is
the constitutionally-established body responsible for protecting and promoting the rights of
Native Hawaiians.² Under the Hawai‘i State Constitution Article XI, section 1, the state
has a specific duty to protect “Hawai‘i’s natural beauty, and all natural resources,

¹ The legislature adopted a resolution that speaks to the importance of integrating
‘ike kūpuna or indigenous knowledge into policy and decision-making for our just climate
future. See Senate Concurrent Resolution 93 (2025 session).

² Haw. Const. Art. XII Sec. 5.

including land, water, air, minerals, and energy sources...” and this shall be done “for the benefit of present and future generations.”³ Hawaiian cultural foundations are intimately tied to this ‘āina, shape our identity and worldview, and also provide guidance to plan for seven generations into the future. It is with these obligations – based on the constitution and to our mo‘opuna – that OHA offers these comments in support of this measure.

Energy generation, its costs to individual families, as well as the environmental impacts of generation methods and facility siting are all important considerations for our state, individual families, but especially for Native Hawaiian communities. Native Hawaiian and rural communities have disproportionately carried the burdens of energy generation infrastructure, with many facilities cited in or near Native Hawaiian communities. Additionally, Native Hawaiian communities have specific concerns for energy generation methodologies that impact the environment and land-use decisions. OHA appreciates the intent of this resolution to convene a legislative task force that would examine strategies to maximize cost savings while minimizing risk to ratepayers. This represents a positive step to responsibly managing our energy, and appropriately considering impacts to low-income families and communities. It is important that the strategies identified by this task force not only consider cost savings, but also equity and realistic pathways for energy generation developed on island-based science that consider Native Hawaiian community impacts, and impacts to our public trust resources.

Accordingly, OHA respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS HCR202 HD1/HR192 HD1.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

³ Haw. Const. Art. XI Sec. 1.

HR-192-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 5:10:27 PM

Testimony for CPC on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Climate Protectors Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT!



APRIL 7, 2026

HCR 202/HR 192 HD1

CURRENT REFERRAL: CPC

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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

Imua Alliance supports HCR 202/HR 192 HD1, 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.

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