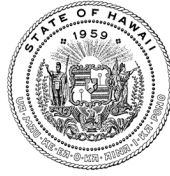


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LT. GOVERNOR



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**  
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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. 206 / H.R. 196  
**Title:** REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF LARGE DATA CENTERS ON HAWAII'S ELECTRIC UTILITIES, RATEPAYERS, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND CLIMATE GOALS.

### Position:

The Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") offers the following comments for consideration.

### Comments:

The Commission recognizes that Hawaii's isolated island grids are uniquely sensitive to large new electricity loads, given the absence of interconnections with neighboring systems and the State's 100% Renewable Portfolio Standard by 2045. Without appropriate safeguards, data center development could require costly grid upgrades, strain clean energy progress, and shift financial burdens onto existing residential and small-business ratepayers, all core concerns within the Commission's regulatory jurisdiction.

The Commission appreciates its inclusion in the proposed working group and stands ready to contribute expertise on tariff design, large load interconnection standards, integrated resource planning, and grid reliability. The Commission also respectfully suggests that the working group consider the following additional policy options:

(1) Establishing a clear MW-threshold definition of "large" data center; (2) requiring data centers to maintain sufficient on-site backup power and energy storage systems to reduce grid dependency and enable automatic load curtailment during grid emergencies,

protecting the stability of Hawaii's island electric system; (3) requiring annual public reporting of actual electricity consumption, water usage, and greenhouse gas emissions, verified by an independent third party, to ensure transparency and accountability for regulators and the public; (4) requiring an independent water resource impact assessment prior to permit issuance, together with a detailed water conservation plan to protect Hawaii's water resources; and (5) linking working group findings directly to utility Integrated Grid Planning processes under Commission oversight.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.



# 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  
HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 196**

**REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF LARGE DATA CENTERS ON HAWAII'S ELECTRIC UTILITIES, RATEPAYERS, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND CLIMATE GOALS.**

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on House Resolution No. 196, which requesting the Hawaii State Energy Office to convene a working group to study the potential impacts of large data centers on Hawaii's electric utilities, ratepayers, natural resources, and climate goals.

The potential for rapid growth of large-scale and hyperscale data centers is raising significant energy and community concerns nationally given that these facilities are in great demand and require extremely large quantities of continuous electricity. When energy demand goes well beyond existing infrastructure and supplies, costly upgrades are necessary that may increase rates for residents and small businesses if not properly allocated and procured. In addition, data centers can place pressure on limited resources such as water for cooling and create land use and environmental trade-offs for local communities.

While Hawai'i's electricity prices remain among the highest in the nation and grid resource capacity and power plant readiness is less than ideal, the potential for data center growth in Hawai'i may be limited. For the time being, HSEO has been reaching out to stakeholders including the public utilities commission and utilities on current activities to assess industry interest in Hawai'i as a location for data centers and ongoing activities in existing regulatory proceedings such as the integrated grid plan. HSEO is also engaging with the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) who conducts a Powering Up Data Centers webinar series which explores strategies for state energy offices to manage the rapid growth of data center energy demand while maintaining grid reliability and affordability.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**HR-196**

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 10:47:28 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!