



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KA KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
KA 'OIHANA PILI KĀLEPA
335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310
P.O. BOX 541
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
Phone Number: 1-844-808-DCCA (3222)
Fax Number: (808) 586-2856
cca.hawaii.gov

NADINE Y. ANDO
DIRECTOR | KA LUNA HO'OKELE

DEAN I. HAZAMA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR | KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Wednesday, March 25, 2026
2:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference

On the following measure:
S.B. 3326, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, RELATING TO 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 offers comments on this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to require the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) to open a docketed proceeding no later than September 1, 2026, to conduct a comprehensive, objective, and independent analysis of the State's energy pathways.

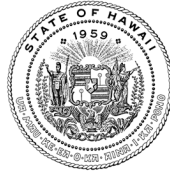
The Department recognizes that the State may be at a pivotal juncture as it strives to meet its established energy goals. Accordingly, the Department understands the need for an objective, independent analysis and evaluation on the best potential paths to maximize cost reduction and minimize financial risk for residents for energy while meeting the State's established goals and maintaining service reliability. However, the Department notes that the Commission has many competing priorities and it is not clear if the Commission has the necessary funds and/or resources available to conduct and coordinate the comprehensive analysis required within the prescribed deadlines. In

particular, the requirement that the Commission release draft assumptions and preliminary modeling results for public comment within 180 days of opening the proceeding, as set forth on page 5 of the bill, may be too restrictive. The Department supports transparency, to the full extent possible, and providing members of the public with an opportunity to present their views regarding the State's energy future, however, the 180-day deadline noted above may not be manageable given the magnitude of data and information that will need to be prepared, and the competing priorities the Commission is currently undertaking.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
465 S. KING STREET, #103
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

JON S. ITOMURA
CHAIR

NAOMI U. KUWAYE
COMMISSIONER

COLIN A. YOST
COMMISSIONER

Telephone: (808) 586-2020
Facsimile: (808) 586-2066

Website: puc.hawaii.gov
E-mail: puc@hawaii.gov

Testimony of the Public Utilities Commission

To the
House Committee on
Consumer Protection & Commerce

Wednesday, March 25, 2026
2:00 p.m.

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

Measure: S.B. No. 3326, S.D.2, H.D.1
Title: RELATING TO ENERGY.

Position:

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

Comments:

The Commission appreciates the intent of this measure to open a docketed proceeding to conduct a comprehensive, objective, and independent analysis of the State's energy pathways. The Commission recognizes and supports the Legislature's continued focus on ensuring that the State's energy policies advance affordability, reliability, and the timely integration of renewable energy resources.

The Commission respectfully notes, however, that the analytical requirements contemplated in this measure substantially overlap with work that has been and continues to be performed through Hawaiian Electric's Integrated Grid Planning ("IGP") process. IGP is a Commission-directed, stakeholder-driven planning framework that evaluates a range of future energy pathways, including different resource portfolios, demand-side measures, and system configurations, with the objective of identifying least-cost, reliable pathways to achieve the State's clean energy goals. The process includes robust modeling, scenario analysis, and stakeholder engagement, and is designed to inform near-term and long-term investment decisions for Hawai'i's electric system.

Information related to the IGP process is publicly available. Interested individuals may access filings, reports, and other documentation related to the IGP proceedings at Hawaiian

Electric's IGP website or through the Commission's website by searching for Docket Nos. 2018-0165 and 2026-0001 in the Commission's Case and Document Management System.¹

To the extent that S.B. 3326 SD2 HD1 requires a similarly broad evaluation of alternative energy pathways, the Commission is concerned that the analysis contemplated by the measure may be duplicative of, or substantially overlap with, IGP. Parallel analytical efforts could result in the expenditure of additional time and resources to replicate modeling, stakeholder outreach, and technical analysis that are already underway or completed within IGP.

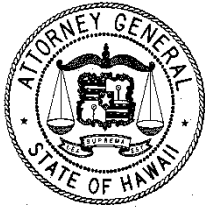
The Commission therefore respectfully suggests that, if the Legislature wishes to proceed with the objectives of this measure, consideration be given to leveraging, incorporating, or building upon the existing IGP framework and its outputs, rather than establishing a separate, potentially redundant process. Aligning any required analysis with the IGP could help avoid duplication, promote regulatory efficiency, and ensure consistency in the assumptions and methodologies used to evaluate Hawai'i's energy future.

Nevertheless, should the Legislature determine that the docketed proceeding contemplated in this measure is still desirable, the Commission respectfully requests that the Legislature consider providing an appropriation to the Commission to support that docketed proceeding. While the Commission appreciates that Section 2(f) of this measure authorizes the Commission to contract with independent experts as necessary to carry out any required analysis, dedicated funding would help ensure that any analysis conducted pursuant to this measure is sufficiently rigorous, timely, and comprehensive, without adversely affecting the Commission's existing regulatory responsibilities and workload.

The Commission remains committed to working collaboratively with the Legislature and stakeholders to ensure that Hawai'i's energy planning processes are transparent, data-driven, and responsive to the State's policy objectives.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

¹ On January 2, 2026, the Commission issued Order No. 42230 in Docket No. 2026-0001, opening the Second Cycle of IGP to review Hawaiian Electric's Draft IGP Second Cycle Workplan.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2026**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 3326, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, RELATING TO ENERGY.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

DATE: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 329

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Ian Robertson, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Matayoshi and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments regarding this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to require the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to open a docketed proceeding to conduct an analysis of the State's energy pathways and submit a report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2028.

The purpose of this bill as introduced was to add a new section to chapter 269, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to separate ownership and control of electric generation service from transmission and distribution services and to require the PUC to adopt administrative rules by an unspecified date; and requiring the PUC to submit reports to the Legislature.

Senate Draft 1 revised the original draft of the bill with various changes to the amendments being added to chapter 269, HRS; and by removing the requirement that final rules be adopted by a particular date, but the revisions appeared to align with the purpose of the original bill.

Senate Draft 2 expanded the scope of the bill by requiring the PUC to conduct a study examining the separation of ownership and control of electric generation services from transmission and distribution services and requiring the PUC submit a report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of

2028 and amended the new section to be added to chapter 269, HRS, to provide that the PUC *may* adopt rules after submitting its report to the Legislature. Senate Draft 2 additionally deleted the required reports to the Legislature in the bill as introduced. These revisions also appeared to align with the purpose of the original bill.

House Draft 1, however, deleted the contents of the bill and replaced them with a requirement that the PUC open a docketed proceeding to conduct an analysis of the State's "energy pathways" and submit a report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2028.

The new contents of the bill in House Draft 1 do not appear to be related to the original purpose of the bill. We believe that the amendments in House Draft 1 may subject the bill to challenge under *League of Women Voters of Honolulu v. State*, 150 Hawai'i 182, 205, 499 P.3d 382, 405 (2021), in which the Hawai'i Supreme Court held that the constitutional requirements that a bill must pass three readings in each house "begin[s] anew after a non-germane amendment changes the object or subject of a bill so that it is no longer related to the original bill as introduced." We believe a court could conclude that these amendments made in House Draft 1 are outside the scope of the purpose of the original bill and that it will violate article III, section 15, of the Hawai'i Constitution.

If the Committee wishes to stay within the scope of the bill as originally drafted, we suggest that the Committee amend this bill by reverting to the wording of the bill in one of the prior Senate Drafts and, additionally, ensure that it receives at least three readings in the House of Representatives in that form.

Additionally, we note that the phrase "energy pathways" used in House Draft 1 is vague and undefined.

We respectfully ask the Committee to consider our comments.



Testimony of
Pacific Resource Partnership

Hawai'i State Legislature
Honorable Members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce(CPC)
Wednesday, March 25, 2026

Subject: Testimony in Strong Support of SB3326 SD2 HD1 – requiring the Public Utilities Commission to open a docket to conduct a comprehensive, objective, and independent analysis of the State’s energy pathways.

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and esteemed members of the committee.

Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP), representing more than 6,000 union carpenters, over 250 signatory contractors, and community stakeholders statewide, respectfully submits this testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB3326 SD2 HD1.

Hawai'i's working families, including those headed by union carpenters, continue to pay the highest electricity rates in the nation at an average of 40 cents per kilowatt hour, as confirmed in the Hawaiian Electric Companies' current Effective Rate Summary (March 2026). Every dollar spent toward electricity is one less dollar a family can save toward the purchase of a home or provide for other basic needs. For example, if current average electricity rates on O'ahu, Maui and Hawai'i Island were to decrease by just 25%, this would add \$930 million to \$950 million to the local economy in the form of additional disposable income. This would be a game-changer for local families.

SB3326 SD2 HD1 takes a smart, responsible step forward by directing the Public Utilities Commission to open a docket and conduct a comprehensive, objective, independent analysis of multiple energy pathways — including renewable energy, storage, efficiency, and imported-fuel scenarios — through 2055. By evaluating total system costs, fuel-price volatility, stranded-asset risks, reliability during extreme events, and long-term ratepayer impacts, the analysis can identify options that deliver genuine financial relief to our local residents while fully meeting Hawai'i's 100% renewable energy goals and maintaining grid reliability.



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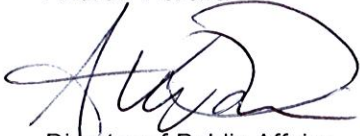
PRP's mission is to strengthen Hawai'i's construction industry, create good-paying local jobs, and advance sustainable development that improves quality of life for all residents. This legislation perfectly aligns with that mission in two important ways:

1. Lower energy costs directly support housing affordability. When families spend less on electricity, they have more income available for homeownership — the very homes our union carpenters and contractors build every day across the islands.
2. Smart energy planning creates construction jobs. A transparent, data-driven review will guide prudent investments in renewable infrastructure, firm energy and storage, and grid modernization — projects that generate thousands of high-quality jobs and stimulate our economy for generations to come.

We urge the Committee to pass SB3326 SD2 HD1 and give Hawai'i's families, workers, and businesses the independent analysis they deserve. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Pereira



Director of Public Affairs
Pacific Resource Partnership
1100 Alakea Street, 4th Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 528-5557
Email: apereira@prp-hawaii.com
Website: www.prp-hawaii.com



HAWAII REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

March 24, 2026

TO: The Honorable Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair
The Honorable Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

RE: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2140

The Hawai'i Regional Council of Carpenters (HRCC), representing over 6,000 skilled union carpenters and tradespeople across the islands, respectfully submits testimony in strong support of SB3326 HD1.

HRCC represents skilled carpenters and construction professionals who build and maintain Hawai'i's critical infrastructure, including the energy systems that power our communities. Our members live and work in communities directly impacted by high electricity costs, the State's high cost of living, aging infrastructure, wildfire risk, and the urgent need to modernize our energy system. We support this measure because it requires a comprehensive and independent analysis of Hawai'i's energy pathways to identify the most cost-effective, reliable, and least-risk options for residents.

As noted in the bill, Hawai'i's continued reliance on imported fuels exposes residents to sudden and significant price fluctuations driven by global market forces, increasing costs for households and the broader economy.

SB3326 HD1 takes an important step toward addressing these challenges by requiring the Public Utilities Commission to conduct a comprehensive, objective, and independent analysis of the State's energy pathways. This approach ensures that future energy decisions are grounded in a thorough evaluation of all viable options, including renewable energy, energy storage, energy efficiency, and imported fuel scenarios, while accounting for total system costs and long-term impacts on ratepayers.

The bill also strengthens transparency and accountability by requiring consideration of financial risks such as fuel price volatility and stranded assets, as well as system reliability and resilience during extreme events. By requiring a long-term evaluation and incorporating public input into the process, SB3326 HD1 helps ensure that Hawai'i's energy planning is both forward-looking and responsive to the needs of residents.

As the State evaluates future energy pathways, it is important that investments continue to support Hawai'i's skilled workforce. The transition to a more affordable and resilient energy

STATE HEADQUARTERS & BUSINESS OFFICES

OAHU: 1311 Houghtailing Street, Honolulu Hawaii 96817-2712 • Ph. (808) 847-5761 Fax (808) 440-9188
HILO OFFICE: 525 Kilauea Avenue, Room 205, Hilo, Hawaii 96720-3050 • Ph. (808) 935-8575 Fax (808) 935-8576
KONA OFFICE: 75-126 Lunapule Road, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740-2106 • Ph. (808) 329-7355 Fax (808) 326-9376
MAUI OFFICE: 330 Hookahi Street, Wailuku, Maui 96793-1449 • Ph. (808) 242-6891 Fax (808) 242-5961
KAUAI OFFICE: Kuhio Medical Ctr Bldg., 3-3295 Kuhio Hwy, Suite 201, Lihue, Kauai 96766-1040 • Ph. (808) 245-8511 Fax (808) 245-8911

system will require significant construction, modernization, and maintenance of infrastructure, creating opportunities for local workers while strengthening the State's economy.

For these reasons, HRCC respectfully urges the Committee to pass SB3326 HD1. We stand ready to work with the Legislature and stakeholders to ensure Hawai'i's energy future is affordable, reliable, and supported by a strong local workforce.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



**Hawaiian
Electric**

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE**

**SB 3326, SD2, HD1
Relating to Energy**

Wednesday, March 25, 2026
2:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

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

Hawaiian Electric is testifying with comments regarding SB 3326, SD2, HD1, Relating to Energy. **While Hawaiian Electric appreciates the intent of this bill in its present form, the bill is not necessary and will create additional duplicative work for the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and stakeholders.**

The purpose of this bill is for the PUC to conduct an analysis to identify the energy pathways that will best reduce costs and minimize financial risk for Hawaii residents while meeting the State's established energy goals. Work to achieve these goals is already underway in proceedings currently undergoing planning and deliberation before the PUC. This includes Integrated Grid Planning (IGP), which has recently begun its second cycle with the goal of ensuring "transparent, timely, and actionable planning that advances Hawaii's renewable and GHG objectives while maintaining reliability and affordability." See PUC Docket No. 2026-0001. The IGP process includes review and feedback by local energy and community stakeholders, a PUC independent observer, the Hawaii Energy Reliability Administrator, and the Technical Advisory Panel comprised of national and state industry experts. IGP also incorporates various specialized working groups

which look at related issues such as community, technical, public engagement, and resilience matters.

The “comprehensive” energy analysis docket sought by this bill would significantly, if not entirely, overlap with analysis already being examined in existing dockets. Creating an additional, duplicative proceeding will merely distract from the progress that the PUC, the Company, and stakeholders are making toward achieving the State’s energy goals.

Accordingly, Hawaiian Electric believes SB 3326, SD2, HD1 is unnecessary. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

MAUI OCEAN CENTER

*Our Mission: To foster understanding,
wonder and respect for Hawaii's marine life.*

LATE

March 24, 2026

Testimony before the House Committees on Energy & Environmental Protection and Labor on
Wednesday, 03/25/2026 at 2pm

RE: SB 3326 SD2, HD1 Relating to Energy

Aloha Honorable Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Nakada Grandinetti and Committee Members,

**My name is Tapani Vuori and I strongly SUPPORT with recommendation of SB 3326 SD2,
HD1.**

This administrative measure when considered in isolation and alone is myopic and one dimensional. However, it will be of value as a catalyst to our community when viewed as part of the larger picture of grid transformation in our community. It should be considered as part of this transformational change from a static one directional grid to a dynamic bi-directional or even omni-directional smart grid moving away from centralized to decentralized infrastructure model. The nexus of power generation will shift away from the central producer which will be the natural and logical result in a decentralized model.

Our cost per kwh remains high at \$0.40+/kwh on Maui, despite the increase in renewables, and all of our firm generation is based on fossil fuels. The cost of crude oil has doubled in the last month to about \$100/barrel with expectations for it to reach \$150+/barrel in the near term. PSPS is now standard operating procedure which is a reflection of structural design, capital investment and legal friction. A material share of firm generation on Maui will be phased out by 2030. All is not well with our energy infrastructure and regardless if it is the wholesale marketplace or the PUC competitive bidding process or any other reason let's fix it.

Clean energy jobs are growing at twice the rate of overall employment. Decentralized smart grid equals national security. Smart grid on renewables will lower the cost per kwh for our community.

Mahalo for your consideration,



Tapani Vuori
c.808.561.2022
tvuori@mauiocenter.com





March 25, 2026

Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair
Representative Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

CONCERNS AND COMMENTS Regarding SB 3326, SD2, HD1, RELATING TO ENERGY (Requires the Public Utilities Commission [PUC] to open a docketed proceeding no later than September 1, 2026, to conduct a comprehensive, objective, and independent analysis of the State's energy pathways. [HD1])

**Wednesday, March 26, 2026, at 2 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329, and VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawai'i (LURF) is a private research and trade association founded in 1979, whose members include major Hawai'i landowners, developers, utility companies, and land use professionals. LURF's mission is to research, educate, and advocate for reasonable, rational, and equitable land use planning, laws, and regulations that encourage well-planned and sustainable economic growth in agriculture, housing, renewable energy, commercial and industrial uses, and tourism, while safeguarding Hawai'i's significant natural, environmental, historic, and cultural resources, public health, and safety.

Over the past century, LURF members have provided energy (electricity and gas) and have collectively built the most affordable housing units and mixed-use projects in Hawai'i, working collaboratively with the community, government agencies, administrations, and elected officials.

While LURF appreciates the concerns that prompted the introduction of, and the amendments to this bill, LURF still has major concerns and **comments to SB 3326, SD2, HD1.**

LURF's Position. LURF is concerned that the measure seems slanted in favor of only one type of renewable energy solution, while §269-91, Hawaii Revised Statutes [HRS] recognizes nine (9) different types of "Renewable Energy". Nevertheless, LURF generally supports the purpose of this measure, which is to require the PUC to conduct comprehensive, independent analysis to identify the energy pathways that will best reduce costs and minimize financial risk for Hawai'i residents while meeting the State's established energy goals.



Among other things, **LURF's concerns** relating to the proposed PUC docket and the prior Senate versions of this bill are summarized as follows:

- **It is unnecessary to address duplicative matters.** Any issues or efforts that are duplicative of currently pending PUC dockets, past dockets, or issues that have already been analyzed by the PUC in prior studies reviewed by the Consumer Advocate and the Legislature. However, LURF supports any new substantial facts that would change a prior analysis.
- **Consider all forms and types of Renewable Energy under HRS §269-91, including, but not limited to, wind, the sun, falling water, biogas, geothermal, ocean water, biofuels, and hydrogen.**
- **Be relevant to Hawai'i's unique circumstances and challenges, and should not do detailed analysis when comparing "apples" (Mainland electrical operations) to "oranges" (Hawai'i).** While some concepts and models may work in some places on the Mainland, Hawai'i has isolated electrical power grids with major constraints and conditions that are different from the Mainland. This bill and the proposed PUC e docket should address the major differences between the Mainland and Hawai'i, including, among other things:
 - The Mainland electrical grids are regionally interconnected and have backstops that allow power to be imported and distributed when demand spikes, during emergencies, or when individual utility resources fail.
 - In Hawai'i, the electrical systems on each island are not interconnected, and must manage their own power issues without the ability to lean on interconnected systems in neighboring counties or states.
 - The Mainland systems are large scale and have the redundancy and centralization of resources and contractors, which do not exist in Hawai'i.
- **Reliability and coordination during and after emergencies and disasters.**

Thank you for the opportunity to present LURF's comment to **SB 3326, SD2, HD1.**