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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 Energy & Environmental Protection  
Tuesday, February 10, 2026  
9:05 a.m.  
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:  
H.B. 1568, RELATING TO ENERGY**

Chair Lowen 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 opposes this bill.

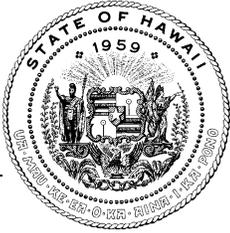
The purpose of this bill is to: (1) prohibit, after 6/30/2026, the importation or storage of liquefied natural gas (LNG); the construction, expansion, or operation of LNG infrastructure; and state agencies or counties from issuing a permit or lease that enables the development or expansion of LNG, with certain exemptions; (2) authorize the Public Utilities Commission and Department of Health to adopt rules for the enforcement and compliance of the prohibition; (3) repeal a provision from the Hawai'i State Planning Act making it a policy of the State to use LNG as a transitional, limited-term replacement of petroleum; and (4) prohibit, after 6/30/2026, the approval of a new or renewed purchase agreement that proposes to supply a utility with LNG and the modification of an existing

LNG purchase agreement that proposes to extend the term or increase the amount of LNG that is supplied under the existing agreement.

The Department is concerned that the blanket prohibition of LNG in the State, as set forth in this bill, may adversely impact ratepayers by limiting access to a fuel resource that may have the potential to make utility bills more affordable by lowering the fuel cost component of electricity bills as the State continues to transition to renewable energy.

Currently, due to concerns with tariffs on trade and other federal actions such as the impending lapse of the federal renewable tax credits, the pricing of power purchase agreements from renewable resources are becoming more costly than in recent years. These increased costs to purchase generation will ultimately be passed onto utility customers. Hawaii has the highest average electricity bills and lowest average electricity usage in the United States. It is important to keep options available that may be able to help with more affordable electricity. The Department also notes that the State's Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) established through Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) § 269-92 remain firmly in place and requires that the State's electric utilities achieve an RPS of one hundred percent by December 31, 2045.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



# 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, February 10, 2026  
9:05AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

In Opposition to  
**HOUSE BILL NO. 1568**

**RELATING TO ENERGY.**

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers the following comments in opposition to House Bill No. 1568, which proposes to prohibit importation or storage of liquefied natural gas; the construction, expansion, or operation of liquefied natural gas infrastructure; and state agencies or counties from issuing a permit or lease that enables the development or expansion of liquefied natural gas, with certain exemptions.

HSEO opposes this protectionist bill for low sulfur fuel oil and diesel, since the perpetuation of oil-fired generation of electricity has profound harmful effects on Hawai'i's economy and environment. The State's 100% Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) and decarbonization policies continue to be the policy drivers of Hawai'i's energy transition. Post-Maui wildfires, current utility plans will not deliver affordable energy and attract capital to build a resilient, decarbonized energy ecosystem, particularly for Hawai'i's most populated and land constrained island of O'ahu.

Current plans result in Hawaiian Electric's continued burning of liquid petroleum fuels at diminishing levels until a total phase-out in 2045 switching to biofuels (biodiesel or renewable diesel) with the forecasted added cost of more expensive biofuels borne by ratepayers and yet-to-be-determined lifecycle carbon saving.

HSEO's Pathways to Decarbonization Report to the 2024 Hawai'i State Legislature confirmed that Hawai'i's continued reliance on LSFO and diesel has been a major contributor to the high costs of energy and the largest contributor of carbon emissions on the islands. Efforts to cancel any opportunity to evaluate and pursue the only fuel option that has been scientifically assessed to reduce cost and carbon of the electricity system by replacing the oil portion of power generation through 2045 is not in the public interest.

HSEO's Alternative Fuels, Repowering and Energy Transition Study, released in January of 2025 presented a preliminary pathway to meet Hawai'i's RPS law and decarbonization objectives, with Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) emerging as the most cost-effective transitional fuel to be used until carbon-emitting fossil fuels can be permanently eliminated by 2045 through a combination of hydrogen and renewable diesel, some of which should be locally produced to the extent possible. This is a fuels strategy that has been used successfully by each of the 49 other states in the nation, so it is confusing why HB 1568 seeks to isolate natural gas for prohibition as a fuel. HB 1568 forces upon Hawai'i's electricity ratepayers a market distortion by removing a viable fuels option that shows promise for reducing cost and carbon in the electricity sector while providing an opportunity for capital infusion into the State of Hawai'i.

Furthermore, the replacement of low sulfur fuel oil with natural gas is part of an urgently needed integrated plan to improve power plant efficiency. HSEO's updated energy strategy emphasizes that LNG aligns with carbon, cost, and investment goals, serving as a bridge fuel without compromising Hawai'i's long-term decarbonization targets. The migration pathway accounts for the complexity of energy demands by recommending investments in infrastructure and dual-fuel power plants, with future compatibility for hydrogen or biofuels as those markets emerge.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LT. GOVERNOR



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## Testimony of the Public Utilities Commission

To the  
House Committee on  
Energy & Environmental Protection

February 10, 2026  
9:05 a.m.

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee:

**Measure:** H.B. No. 1568  
**Title:** RELATING TO ENERGY.

### Position:

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

### Comments:

The Commission appreciates the Legislature's commitment to Hawaii's clean energy goals, including the 100% Renewable Portfolio Standard, carbon neutrality by 2045, and the State's constitutional obligation to protect Hawaii's natural resources. As the Committee contemplates the advancement of this measure, the Commission offers the following comments and observations.

In January 2025, the Hawaii State Energy Office (“HSEO”) released a study<sup>1</sup> in which it examined various alternative fuels, including Liquefied Natural Gas (“LNG”). In the report, LNG, along with other fuels, were identified as potentially cost-effective for near-term use in achieving the State's energy goals. Given that petroleum currently accounts for the majority of Hawaii's electricity generation, the study notes that historical fuel cost data indicates that LNG prices are typically lower than petroleum on a BTU-equivalent basis, although both experience market volatility.

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<sup>1</sup> Alternative Fuel, Repowering, and Energy Transition Study, Hawaii State Energy Office, January 2025.  
<https://energy.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/HSEO-Alternative-Fuels-Study-Final-Report.pdf>

The Commission has a statutory obligation and mission to ensure that electricity rates are just and reasonable and that the electric utility system remains reliable, safe, and adequate to serve its customers. Hawaii's isolated grids continually require readily dispatchable energy to maintain reliability during periods of variable renewable generation. Current battery storage technology, while improving, does not meet all duration and capacity requirements for extended periods of low renewable energy output.

Without sufficient and critical information and analyses, the Commission is unable to determine the presumed utility and consumer benefits of LNG. Nonetheless, with past and ongoing challenges in procuring additional renewable generation, it is prudent to consider all options in developing a pathway to Hawaii's clean energy future, both near and long term.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 3:08:58 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John & Rita Shockley	Free Access Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

The Free Access Coalition supports HB1568.

LNG is not the answer to building eco-friendly generation of electricity for Hawaii. If the infrastructure is set up for LNG, it will be difficult to dismantle in the future.

We need to build a better future for the next generations.

Mahalo for your consideration.

John & Rita Shockley   Coordinators   Free Access Coalition

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 4:42:23 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christopher Dean	Clean the Pacific	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We strongly support HB 1568. Natural gas. There's nothing natural about it. A deadly cocktail of chemicals is injected into Mother Earth's skin and pressurized to fracture the Earth's crust. Then what happens to those chemicals? Some of it ends up in people's tap water. The rest goes into a toxic waste dump, like the one in Pennsylvania that the EPA has recently discovered has been leaking into the ground water for over 20 years. It's noisy, filthy, poisonous, expensive and limited. What else about LNG? Oh yeah, it's methane, a greenhouse gas that's 80 times more potent than CO2.

Now look at solar/battery. Always on firm energy. It's clean, inexhaustible and totally reliable. It's the cheapest source of energy in the world. It uses the least amount of natural resources to build. It's almost maintenance free. It's not dangerous. It doesn't pollute.

China is kicking our butt! They are ramping solar exponentially. What are we doing? Everything possible to prevent solar from happening. What do you think will happen when China has free energy and we're paying trillions to prop up the oil and gas industry? They'll eat our economic lunch is what. If you're familiar with capitalism, then you know that investing in emerging technology is a wise move, while investing in an ancient technology that is doomed is a stupid move. Are you going to invest in whale oil too?

Forget the oil and gas industry. You don't owe them anything. In fact, they owe you, and me; and all of us. Stop letting them push you around. It's time to stand up to these bullies, these criminals, these extortionists. It's time to invest in your citizens and invest in solar, rooftop solar and net metering, like Vermont is.

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 12:04:10 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sylvia Dolena	Pele Lani Farm LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please vote for HB1569 to ban LNG.

--LNG threatens our safety not just through greenhouse gas emissions, pollution, but also explosions and fires that directly threaten the health and lives of workers and nearby communities. We can and must move to safer energy sources, and stop wasting taxpayers' money on outdated, destructive fossil fuel infrastructure. It's time we phase out fossil gas for good, let's start by passing HB1568 and banning all LNG projects in Hawai'i now!

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 3:46:08 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
laurel brier	Kauai women's Caucus	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

LNG is a dangerous and destructive fossil fuel. It is not a bridge fuel. It is a 2 billion dollar investment is a climate destroying fuel. To say it somehow aligns with the 2024 Navahine decision is false and a betrayal to our youth. Strong support to ban LNG now and forever. We have other clean, viable options to explore that will not fund the corporate greed and make use more dependent on outside unreliable entities

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 4:06:24 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan B Roberts Emery	Green Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and honorable members of committee,

My name is Susan RobertsEmery, as Co Chair of the Green Party of Hawai'i, we would like to offer our VERY STRONG Support of HB1568, which would ban the importation or storage of methane-based liquified natural gas, known as LNG. Just writing these words sets an apocalyptic scene in my mind. Just imagine being in a stuffy room with the scent of pungent perspiration attacking your nose. Outside your window, an explosion is heard. Red flames and thick black smoke fill the sky. This was the scene in the coastal community of Cameron Parish, Louisiana, last week, when the Delfin LNG pipeline exploded. This is NOT the future we want here in Hawai'i . We have wind and solar in abundance in Hawai'i, why would we want to sell our people dirty energy that could leave HECO customers on the hook for millions of dollars and end up with an apocalyptic future? That is insanity.

This bill HB1568 is a solid approach to protect our keikis' future and keep our windows open , so clean air with a scent of puakenikenī, and the sound of birds, waves, and children playing, are what we can look forward to here in Hawai'i. We need to commit to clean energy and protect our land, water and soil from being polluted by the burn off from LNG terminals. The human health hazards to farmers and communities that live near LNG fracking operations is well documented, linking birth defects, cancer and asthma to these communities.

We are all connected.

In British Columbia the LNG boom is threatening the whale population. The increased tanker traffic from the LNG export terminal, happens to be near critical whale habitat for mother/calf pairs, and whales are killed by ship strikes every year. The whales migrate every year from Alaska, to give birth in the warmer South Pacific waters. In Hawai'i that means we get to see these amazing creatures swim free in the waters , for just over three months every year.. This year, the annual whale count began Jan 31st, with the results showing a decline in whales by 158 over last year's count. This is NOT the direction we want to go in . Our whale relatives are priceless.

We are all Connected.

Why would Hawai'i want to invest in a dirty energy when it goes against our clean energy goals? International investors want Hawaiian soil to be their playground, but in this case it would be their dumping ground . Hawai'i is NOT FOR SALE! Importing LNG goes against the values of the Hawaiian people. Our communities come first along with the importance we place on the responsibility to be good stewards of the land and respect for the natural environment.

We are all connected.

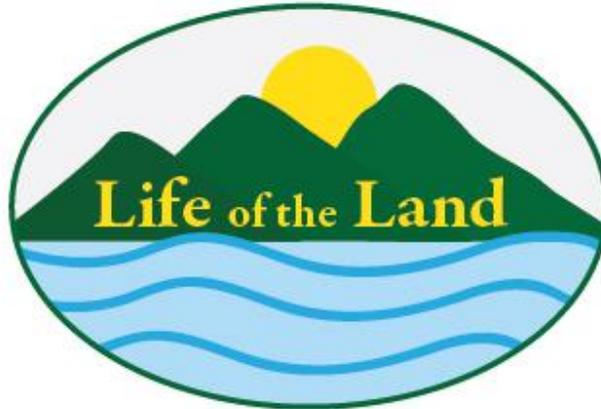
The Green Party of Hawai'i stands with the wisdom of NO LNG , NOT NOW, NOT EVER.  
Please support HB1568. Let us commit to truly clean, renewable energy !

Mahalo,

Susan RobertsEmery

Green Party of Hawai'i

Paauilo



P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, Hawai`i 96837-0158  
Phone: 927-0709 [henry.lifeoftheland@gmail.com](mailto:henry.lifeoftheland@gmail.com)

## COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair

Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, February 10, 2026

TIME: 9:05 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 325

HB 1568 Energy (LNG Ban)

SUPPORT

Aloha Chairs Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee

Life of the Land is Hawai`i's own energy, environmental and community action group advocating for the people and `aina for 56 years. Our mission is to preserve and protect the life of the land through sound energy and land use policies and to promote open government through research, education, advocacy and, when necessary, litigation.

The major problem with creating a new fossil fuel industry in Hawai`i is twofold: (1) is shifts public attention from renewables to fossil fuels, and (2) Hawai`i is suing the fossil fuel industry.

The Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) published: Alternative Fuels, Repowering, and Energy Transition Study (LNG Report).<sup>1</sup>

The conclusion of the LNG Report was written and then supporting documentation was filled in.

The LNG Report did not discuss the risk of fires, explosions, and shutdowns at LNG facilities.

The LNG Report did not say whether LNG would be part of a HECO competitive bid process for fuel or whether it would bypass competition.

The LNG Report did not discuss the timeline that would be needed for at least three regulatory agencies to handle contested case proceedings and appeals.

The LNG Report asserted that the LNG bridge can lead to renewable hydrogen and renewable ammonia, but did not offer info on whether these would be part of a desired portfolio based on all alternatives, when these products would achieve commercial availability, nor what the regulatory time lines, comparative costs, and potential impacts would be for these two options.

The LNG Report noted that utility costs would decrease with the importation of LNG, but half of the alleged savings would come from replacing old generators with new generators.

Henry Curtis  
Executive Director

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<sup>1</sup> <https://energy.hawaii.gov/alternative-fuels-repowering-and-energy-transition-study/>

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 7:38:49 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Climate Protectors Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

LNG is not a "bridge fuel," but a "bridge to nowhere."

LNG is volatile in prices and explosiveness, as in Louisiana recently.

LNG is expensive. It will require massive infrastructure costs, which investors will expect to recover from ratepayers however long it takes. LNG will interfere with Hawaii's transition to clean renewable fuels.

Most importantly, **LNG would be disastrous for the climate and Hawaii's future.** It is mostly methane, a potent greenhouse gas, approximately 80 times worse for the climate than carbon dioxide over 20 years. LNG leaks carbon to the atmosphere throughout its life cycle, from fracking production wells to transmission mains, to pipes, to final combustion in homes with leaky appliances. Continuing to burn fossil fuels will wreak massive hardship on humanity.

Please pass this bill and ban LNG!



**Rep. Nicole Lowen, Chair**  
**Rep. Amy Perruso, Vice Chair**  
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Thursday, February 5, 2026  
9:00AM Conference Room 325

RE: HB1568 - Ban on LNG - Strong Support

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committees,

On behalf of the Chamber of Sustainable Commerce (CSC), we write in strong support of HB1568, and thank its introducers for their clarity of clean energy and true energy resiliency for our state. The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce represents more than 580 small businesses, sole proprietors and entrepreneurs across Hawai'i committed to a triple bottom line: people, planet and prosperity.

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce supports policies that prioritize renewable, distributed, and community-based energy systems and provide long-term economic stability for small businesses and working families.

HB1568 establishes a clear policy direction to end Hawai'i's reliance on liquefied natural gas (LNG) by prohibiting the importation, storage, and expansion of LNG infrastructure, as well as new or renewed LNG purchase agreements.

By repealing State Planning Act language that treats LNG as a transitional fuel, the bill aligns Hawai'i's energy policy with its 100% renewable energy and carbon-neutrality commitments, while avoiding long-term dependence on volatile global LNG markets and costly fossil fuel infrastructure that could burden ratepayers and businesses.

Respectfully submitted in strong support.

### Hawaii Legislative Council Members

Joell Edwards  
Wainiha Country Market  
Hanalei

Russell Ruderman  
Island Naturals  
Hilo/Kona

Dr. Andrew Johnson  
Niko Niko Family Dentistry  
Honolulu

Robert H. Pahia  
Hawaii Taro Farm  
Wailuku

Maile Meyer  
Honolulu

Tina Wildberger  
Kihei Ice  
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Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Maki Morinoue, and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of HULI PAC in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1568, Relating to Energy, which would prohibit the importation, storage, and infrastructure development of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in Hawai'i after June 30, 2026.

HULI PAC is an organization whose mission is to endorse and support candidates and office holders of integrity who serve the 'āina and people of Hawai'i Island.

HULI PAC strongly believes that Hawai'i must chart a forward-looking, just, and climate-safe energy future that aligns with our islands' environmental values, economic resilience, ancestral stewardship, and constitutional obligations to protect a life-sustaining climate system for present and future generations.

HB1568 is consistent with these imperatives. Under this measure, the State would:

- Prohibit the importation or storage of LNG — a fossil fuel primarily composed of methane — which has a global warming potential far greater than carbon dioxide and contributes significantly to climate disruption through extraction, transport, and use.
- Ban the construction, expansion, or operation of LNG infrastructure, including import terminals, regasification facilities, pipelines, and storage units, which threaten our fragile coastal ecosystems and cultural landscapes.
- Prevent state agencies and counties from issuing permits or leases for LNG projects, stopping new fossil fuel development at its roots.
- Prohibit new or renewed LNG purchase agreements and modifications that would deepen Hawai'i's dependence on fossil fuels.

Taken together, these provisions would not only help safeguard Hawai'i's climate commitments — including 100% renewable energy by 2045 — but also protect ratepayers from the risk of multi-billion-dollar stranded assets, volatile fuel markets, and long-term utility lock-in.

HB1568 recognizes what science and community advocates have been saying loudly and clearly: LNG is not a bridge to a clean energy future — it is a detour that threatens public health, economic stability, and ecological integrity. Even proponents of LNG admit that



any “bridge” fuel risks becoming a long-term fossil fuel dependency, undermining renewable investment and climate goals.

Furthermore, the financial risks cannot be overstated. Proposed LNG infrastructure and contracts could saddle ratepayers with hundreds of millions — or even billions — in costs due to cost overruns, maintenance liabilities, and market volatility.

Most importantly, HB1568 is an affirmation of Hawai‘i’s kuleana — our responsibility to protect natural resources, uphold climate resilience, and pursue energy systems that are rooted in equity, community sovereignty, and indigenous values. Prohibiting LNG infrastructure would direct Hawai‘i’s energy future toward renewables, distributed generation, energy efficiency, and democratized energy ownership, rather than fossil-fuel dependence.

Thank you for your attention,  
Maki Morinoue  
Hawai‘i Island



## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

February 10, 2026

9:05 AM

Conference Room 325

### In **SUPPORT** of **HB1568**: RELATING TO ENERGY

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Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of our more than 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **strongly supports HB1568**, which would protect Hawai'i and our planet from the economic, environmental, and existential threats of methane-based liquified natural gas ("LNG").

**To be clear, any proposal to bring LNG to Hawai'i's shores would place significant financial risk on our residents.** Hawai'i has no current LNG infrastructure, meaning that an estimated \$2 billion capital investment would be needed just to begin implementing the Hawai'i State Energy Office proposal to adopt LNG as our next fossil fuel energy source. A capital cost overrun like we've seen time and again with public-private capital improvement projects would result in a net loss of hundreds of millions or a billion dollars or more, even if highly volatile LNG costs remain stable per the energy office's optimistic projections.<sup>1</sup> Unanticipated maintenance and repair costs; a hurricane, tsunami, earthquake, fire, or human error; and geopolitical instabilities and other supply issues could increase this deficit exponentially. All of this risk and liability would likely be placed on HECO ratepayers, many of whom already struggle to pay their electrical bills. This measure would accordingly shield Hawai'i residents from the substantial financial harms threatened by a proposed pivot to LNG.

**However, the true costs of the current proposal to bring LNG to Hawai'i would be immeasurable, and existential.** Climate experts agree that rapidly reducing our use of methane – a greenhouse gas 80 times worse than carbon dioxide – is critical to slowing global warming, and buying us desperately needed time before the climate crisis spirals out of humankind's control. Adopting LNG as a fossil fuel, with no realistic plan to off-ramp to a renewable alternative, would only support an industry that could make or break our future generations' chances of survival. Moreover, a signed agreement between Governor Green and Japanese methane corporation JERA proposes using

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<sup>1</sup> For example, the actual costs of the Honolulu Rail project more than doubled, from a projected \$5.2B to \$12B, with the project still incomplete. The Ala Wai Flood Control Project projected costs increased over five times, from an anticipated \$173M to \$1B. The new prison being planned for O'ahu was originally anticipated to cost between \$430M - \$670M; current projections place the cost at \$1B. The Kūlaniko'i High School construction costs went from an anticipated \$120M to \$245. These are just a handful of examples of major cost overruns that could result in a liability to ratepayers of hundreds of millions to billions of dollars.



Hawai'i to encourage countries throughout the Pacific to do the same.<sup>2</sup> Without this bill, Hawai'i will be poised to go from being a leader in the global climate response, to a leader in the destruction of our planet and our children's future.

For these reasons, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i respectfully but strongly urges the Committee to **PASS** HB1568.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

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<sup>2</sup> As envisioned in the "Strategic Partnering Agreement" between the Governor and methane giant JERA, Hawai'i would provide a "curriculum" for energy development for other Pacific nations, with JERA providing subject matter "expertise." This effort along with others in the agreement would be led by the Hawai'i State Energy Office, JERA, and the "industry."



## House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

### Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB1568

Tuesday, February 10th, 2026 9:05 a.m. Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

HAPA supports HB1568, which phases out liquefied natural gas in Hawai'i by prohibiting, after June 30, 2026, the importation, storage, permitting, and expansion of LNG infrastructure and utility purchase agreements, while repealing state policy that treated LNG as a “transition” fuel.

Climate experts agree that methane (the primary component of LNG) has a global warming potential roughly 80 times greater than carbon dioxide over a 20-year timeframe. When its full lifecycle impacts are considered, **LNG is often as harmful or worse than coal**. Rapidly cutting methane use by the end of this decade may be the only realistic way to slow the climate crisis before it's too late.

Despite this scientific reality, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) has advanced a deeply flawed proposal to rely on methane-based LNG as a so-called “bridge” fuel. Under HSEO's own analysis, even under *ideal conditions*—no major delays, no disasters, no technology failures, and a full transition to renewables by 2045—a **\$1.4 billion LNG investment yields only an estimated \$150 million net benefit, an 11% return**. Any deviation from these ideal assumptions would shift massive financial risk onto ratepayers. As we have seen time and again with large-scale infrastructure projects, construction delays, cost overruns, unplanned maintenance, or accidents could quickly erase projected benefits and leave HECO customers liable for hundreds of millions of dollars or more in additional utility costs. Compounding these risks is **the ongoing lack of commercially proven turbine technology that can efficiently burn both LNG and hydrogen at scale**. Without that, claims that LNG will eventually transition to “green hydrogen” are entirely unsupported as there is no foreseeable commercial supply capable of replacing LNG by 2045.

The proposed LNG system would also rely on a massive floating storage and regasification unit (FSRU) and miles of high-risk pipeline infrastructure. Fire and explosion risks are not theoretical as LNG is an extremely volatile fuel. JERA's Freeport LNG facility explosion, which cost the company \$751 million in 2022,<sup>1</sup> is only one of many examples. Just last week a pipeline explosion tied to LNG expansion in Cameron Parish, Louisiana sent a column of flames and toxic smoke into the air and forced a nearby school to shelter in place.<sup>2</sup> underscoring the real

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<https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/explosion-hits-freeport-lng-plant-us-natgas-prices-plunge-2022-06-08/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.commondreams.org/news/louisiana-pipeline-blast>



and immediate dangers fossil fuel infrastructure poses to frontline communities. As environmental justice advocates have warned, these facilities disproportionately endanger low-income communities and people of color, while exporting profits elsewhere. The proposed LNG infrastructure plan for West O‘ahu would replicate these exact harms, concentrating risk, pollution, and danger in communities that have already borne far too much, a result we cannot allow.

Beyond cost and safety, LNG fundamentally undermines energy independence and climate mitigation. Even under HSEO’s best-case scenario, Hawai‘i would need to import and burn 0.7 to 1.0 million tons of LNG per year for decades for the plan to “pencil out.” This requirement would crowd out investment in other energy sources, including biodiesel, solar, and wind, effectively locking Hawai‘i into LNG at the expense of locally controlled renewables. Using LNG, even as a so-called “bridge” fuel, conflicts with Hawai‘i’s responsibility to protect and steward our ‘āina for future generations. Hawai‘i is rich in renewable energy resources, and these pathways offer true energy sovereignty without exposing communities to global fuel price shocks, infrastructure hazards, or corporate capture.<sup>3</sup>

HB1568 draws a clear and necessary line to safeguard Hawai‘i’s clean energy future. It protects ratepayers from massive financial risk, shields communities from dangerous fossil fuel infrastructure, prevents corporate entanglement in state energy policy, and ensures Hawai‘i does not become a launchpad for expanding methane use across the Pacific.

Passing this bill may be the only way to ensure Hawai‘i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path of irreversible climate harm.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is positioned below the word 'Respectfully,'.

Anne Frederick  
Executive Director

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3

<https://www.civilbeat.org/2025/09/liquefied-natural-gas-delays-hawai%CA%BBis-transition-to-renewable-energy/>



# SIERRA CLUB

## O'AHU GROUP

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Aloha Committee Members,

Sierra Club Oahu Group would like to express SUPPORT for HB1568 which bans the importation or storage of methane-based liquified natural gas, or "LNG," prohibits the development of infrastructure to deliver and burn LNG, and prohibits the issuance of permits to otherwise allow LNG to become Hawai'i's next fossil fuel.

HB 1568 would put the brakes on the proposal to lock us into an indefinite dependency on fossil fuel giant JERA, and its planet-killing methane-based LNG. Cost overruns alone for the \$2B LNG infrastructure investment could leave HECO customers on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars or more; maintenance issues, human error, or a hurricane, earthquake, or fire - as seen as recently as this week - would make matters even worse. However, the true costs of the JERA-Hawai'i proposal - by embracing LNG and marketing this fossil fuel to nations across Oceania - would be enormous. The blanket LNG prohibition in this bill may be the only way to ensure that Hawai'i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path of existential destruction.

Thank you for supporting this bill.

Angela Huntmer-Sidrane

Treasurer,  
Sierra Club Oahu Group



# SIERRA CLUB

## O'AHU GROUP

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PO Box 2577, Honolulu, HI, 96803 | 808-538-6616 ext. 7 | [contact@sierracluboahu.org](mailto:contact@sierracluboahu.org) | [sierracluboahu.org](http://sierracluboahu.org)

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 10:26:42 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Mulinix	Greenpeace Hawaii	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, & EEP Committee Members,

My name is Dave Mulinix, Co-Founder & Hawaii State Representative of Greenpeace Hawaii. On behalf of our thousands of members and supporters in the state of Hawaii we Stand in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1568 that prohibits, after 6/30/2026, the importation or storage of liquefied natural gas; the construction, expansion, or operation of liquefied natural gas infrastructure; and state agencies or counties from issuing a permit or lease that enables the development or expansion of liquefied natural gas, with certain exemptions. Authorizes the Public Utilities Commission and Department of Health to adopt rules for the enforcement and compliance of the prohibition. Repeals a provision from the Hawaii State Planning Act making it a policy of the State to use liquefied natural gas as a transitional, limited-term replacement of petroleum. Prohibits, after 6/30/2026, the approval of a new or renewed purchase agreement that proposes to supply a utility with liquefied natural gas and the modification of an existing liquefied natural gas purchase agreement that proposes to extend the term or increase the amount of liquefied natural gas that is supplied under the existing agreement.

António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations has provided us with a dire warning: *"We are at a moment of truth...Climate Change is here. It is terrifying. And it is just the beginning. The era of global warming has ended; the era of Global Boiling has arrived...The Climate Emergency is a race we are losing...We are on a highway to Climate Hell with our foot on the accelerator...We are not only in danger. We are the danger. But we are also the solution...Countries must put the world on a safer path by dramatically slashing emissions, and supporting the transition to a renewable future...We have the technologies to avoid the worst of Climate Chaos – if we act now."*

According to NOAA 2024 was the hottest year on record and 2026 is forecast to be among the four hottest years ever recorded. Increasing global temperatures are causing more frequent, more intense, and incredibly expensive extreme hurricanes, heatwaves, wildfires, floods, droughts, and other climate-related disasters. To effectively address the growing climate crisis, reducing fossil fuel emissions is the most crucial action we can take, as they are the primary driver of Global Warming and Climate Change.

This is why in 2021 the Hawaii State Legislature wisely declared that we are already in a Climate Emergency. Thus it behooves our representatives to pass legislation to implement efforts

to address the growing Climate Crisis by doing everything that can be done to get us off of fossil fuels as quickly as possible.

Unfortunately, Governor Green's plan to bring Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) to Hawaii goes against our need to cut fossil fuel emissions and transition to cleaner, cheaper renewable energy. Natural gas proponents argue that LNG is a 'bridge fuel' that displaces coal and oil, but it has proven to be a 'bridge to nowhere' because it ignores fundamental energy security and cost incentives limiting its role in the country's power mix.

LNG leaves a greenhouse gas footprint that is 33% worse than coal, when processing and shipping are taken into account, according to a Cornell study entitled The Greenhouse Gas Footprint of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Exported from the United States, published Oct. 3, 2024 in Energy Science & Engineering.

Natural gas and shale gas are all bad for the climate. LNG is even worse.

The emissions of methane and carbon dioxide released during LNG's extraction, processing, transportation and storage account for approximately half of its total greenhouse gas footprint. Over 20 years, the carbon footprint for LNG is one-third larger than coal, when analyzed using the measurement of global warming potential, which compares the atmospheric impact for different greenhouse gases. Even on a 100-year time scale – a more-forgiving scale than 20 years – the LNG carbon footprint equals or still exceeds coal.

In closing please vote in support of HB1568 to ban LNG for Hawaii that is harmful and destabilizing to our climate system and environment, and instead please stay committed to expanding clean renewable energy sources to help reduce Hawaii's climate killing carbon emissions.

Mahalo

Dave Mulinix

Co-Founder & Hawaii State Representative

Greenpeace Hawaii



To: The House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection (EEP)  
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org  
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026, 9:05 am

### **In strong support of HB1568**

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and members of the EEP committee,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org is in **strong support of HB1568** that prohibits the importation, storage, and expansion of liquified natural gas (LNG).

350Hawaii considers this measure to be the most significant and consequential legislation of this session. It addresses misguided moves currently being taken toward integrating LNG into the state's energy mix. These moves are reckless and extremely harmful, and disregard both climate science and the negative impacts that will result for consumers and the environment.

When the Hawaii State Legislature officially declared a Climate Emergency, they committed to a just transition toward a decarbonized economy and facilitation of *investments in beneficial projects and infrastructure...* not boondoggle, risky, climate-wrecking projects like importing LNG. LNG poses serious threats to humans and the environment. Just last week, during routine maintenance, a LNG pipeline exploded in Louisiana, sending a wall of smoke and flames into the sky. Initial reports stated the pipeline that connects to a rig offshore ruptured, leading to a nearby high school to temporary shelter-in-place. Air monitoring equipment, positioned 25 miles away from where the explosion happened, [recorded a spike in potentially harmful pollution one hour after the blast](#). Its monitor tracked a steep spike in particulate matter at the time of the explosion and a substantial increase in volatile organic compounds four hours afterwards as natural gas from the pipe burned.

This is a stark reminder of the immediate dangers that highly combustible LNG poses to nearby communities, including explosions, massive fireballs, and the release of toxic, flammable vapor clouds. It truly gives us cause to pause when we think about the proposed Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU) off Barber's Point, and what an "accident" might look like. The image on the next page is from that tragic incident in Louisiana. Note the homes in the foreground.



Delfin Pipeline explodes on February 3, 2026 in Cameron Parish, Louisiana. (Photo by Trish Bargo via KPLC 7 News/ Facebook)

In addition to LNG’s significant safety risks to nearby communities, there are a multitude of additional reasons why investing in LNG is not in Hawaii’s best interests. Those include:

- **Climate Breakdown.** According to leading scientific consensus, including reports from the International Energy Agency, there is no room for new fossil fuel projects, including those that utilize LNG, if the world is to avoid the worst impacts of climate change and complete ecosystem collapse. Policymakers must ensure no support is provided to fossil fuel development, and funds are directed toward real climate solutions, such as solar deployment and efficient building renovation.
- **Public health hazard.** LNG pollution is extremely harmful to the communities that live near LNG facilities. There is an overwhelming body of scientific evidence that proves exposure to toxic emissions and chemicals from LNG production and fracking can cause higher rates of respiratory illness, asthma, childhood leukemia, heart disease, birth defects, and even death.
- **Not clean or renewable.** Pollution from drilling, transporting, and burning LNG makes it worse for the climate than coal or oil. The fossil fuel industry has been “gaslighting” us for decades, pretending LNG is a “cleaner bridge fuel.” Their deception is revealed in [this video](#) that tracks the massive methane emissions associated with the production of LNG. Methane, the primary component of LNG, is over 80 times more potent than CO2 over 20 years. It is important to remember that the next 20 years are the critical years for us to take climate action if we are to secure a livable future for our children.
- **Threatens our environment.** Offshore terminals, pipelines, and tanker traffic can damage coral reefs, harm marine life, and disrupt subsistence fisheries. It must be noted that the LNG boom is threatening the whale population near British Columbia (BC), due to the increased tanker traffic from the LNG export terminal that happens to be located near critical whale habitat for mom-calf pairs, and where whales are killed

from ship strikes every year. In HSEO's report, BC was identified as the likely source for LNG for Hawaii. **We don't know the impact a LNG terminal would have on the whales that visit our own waters as an analysis of this was not included in HSEO's report.**

However, based on a [global analysis](#) of LNG facilities and threats to oceans and coastal communities, we have very serious concerns.

- **Costly gamble.** While being touted that it would “lower costs and build energy resilience,” LNG would actually do the opposite. LNG depends on fragile global supply chains that break down during wars, political conflicts, or disasters, driving up electric bills. Relying on imports for our energy, as we’ve already painfully learned, only increases our vulnerability to global market shocks. Moreover, it also locks us into long-term contracts and LNG infrastructure, putting the financial risk onto ratepayers while delaying the transition to increasingly affordable renewables. All this translates into higher bills for families that are already struggling to make ends meet.
- **LNG is a risky investment.** Building LNG infrastructure could cost \$2 billion or more, and like the Honolulu rail project, the final price could soar—leaving local residents to pay the price.
- **Undermines Climate Resilience and Energy Sovereignty.** Investing in LNG diverts resources, delays solutions, and locks in long term imported energy and fossil fuel dependence. Investors will aim to recover their capital investments. These projects have long payback periods, sometimes extending over a decade. It must be noted that JERA, the Japanese methane supplier long accused by watchdog organizations of greenwashing, market manipulation, predatory business practices, and ignoring concerns from those living near its projects, has been identified as Hawaii’s “energy partner” to explore LNG import options and proposing to “invest” in Hawaii’s LNG infrastructure.

It must also be noted that JERA is a major investor and partner of the Freeport LNG terminal. The image to the right is from an incident that occurred on June 8, 2022.

Community members in Freeport, Texas, have stated that JERA continues to refuse to meet with them, despite the community facing direct impacts from the facility's operations and the major 2022 explosion.



Claims that the infrastructure can be repurposed when we are ready to transition to clean hydrogen do not hold up. **According to MIT, pipelines and power plants built for natural gas would need to be retrofitted or replaced to use hydrogen.**

World-wide, renewable energy has become cheaper than fossil fuels. So why would we want to invest **billions** into more fossil fuel infrastructure, infrastructure that will be obsolete by 2045 when the state must achieve 100% renewable energy? HB1568 says “no” to expensive, risky boondoggles, and recommits us to build a future that’s clean, just, and powered by truly clean energy—not by fossil fuel interests from overseas.

We strongly urge the Committee to **PASS** this critical measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of HB1568.

Sherry Pollack  
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 3:10:52 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nakoolani Warrington	Kupuna for the Moopuna	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1568**

We, Kūpuna for the Mo‘opuna, a hui of Hawaiian Homes Commission Act kūpuna beneficiary farmers from Pana‘ewa, Hawai‘i, **testify in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1568.**

HB 1568 may be the only way to ensure that Hawai‘i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path that may condemn our children and grandchildren to a future of unthinkable devastation.

We must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade before the climate crisis spirals beyond our control.

The Hawai‘i State Energy Office has put forward a short-sighted proposal for Hawai‘i to embrace methane with no specific strategy to transition to a renewable alternative by 2045. To make matters worse, the Governor has signed a “Strategic Partnering Agreement” with fossil fuel giant JERA, to force O‘ahu’s HECO customers to invest in this planet-destroying corporation through their electrical bills. In other words, Hawai‘i is poised to lead Oceania in accelerating the end of humanity, and humankind as we know it. **Hewa!**

**Support and Pass HB 1568.**

Mahalo.



FEBRUARY 10, 2026

## HOUSE BILL 1568

CURRENT REFERRAL: EEP

808-679-7454

kris@imuaalliance.org

www.imuaalliance.org

@imuaalliance

Kris Coffield,

*President*

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

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Imua Alliance supports and suggests amendments for HB 1568, relating to energy, which prohibits, after 6/30/2026, the importation or storage of liquefied natural gas; the construction, expansion, or operation of liquefied natural gas infrastructure; and state agencies or counties from issuing a permit or lease that enables the development or expansion of liquefied natural gas, with certain exemptions; authorizes the Public Utilities Commission and Department of Health to adopt rules for the enforcement and compliance of the prohibition; repeals a provision from the Hawai‘i State Planning Act making it a policy of the State to use liquefied natural gas as a transitional, limited-term replacement of petroleum; prohibits, after 6/30/2026, the approval of a new or renewed purchase agreement that proposes to supply a utility with liquefied natural gas and the modification of an existing liquefied natural gas purchase agreement that proposes to extend the term or increase the amount of liquefied natural gas supplied under the existing agreement.

Imua Alliance is a Hawai‘i-based organization dedicated to ending sexual exploitation and gender violence, and combating the climate emergency that exacerbates rates of gender abuse for vulnerable populations.

LNG is not a “clean bridge fuel” when its full lifecycle emissions are counted. This measure correctly recognizes that LNG poses serious environmental risks due to upstream and midstream emissions, especially methane leakage across extraction, processing, liquefaction, shipping, and regasification. Methane is a powerful climate pollutant.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) notes that methane’s global warming potential is roughly 84–87 times that of CO<sub>2</sub> over a 20-year timeframe, meaning short-term leakage can erase claimed climate benefits. The IEA estimates the energy sector emitted about 145 Mt of methane in 2024, with major contributions from oil and natural gas systems, precisely the supply chain that LNG expands.

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LNG expansion also carries well-documented public health harms. Methane emissions contribute to formation of ground-level ozone, a pollutant linked to asthma attacks and other respiratory harm. LNG infrastructure and associated operations (including episodic events like flaring) can emit additional harmful air pollutants, and recent peer-reviewed research warns that environmental assessments often undercount these episodes and their health impacts.

Importantly, national and international energy agencies have raised concerns about LNG's climate implications. The U.S. Department of Energy's 2024 LNG Export Study assessed energy, economic, and environmental impacts of LNG expansion, including greenhouse gas implications at scale. In parallel, the IEA's 2025 analysis emphasizes that methane leakage alone accounts for a large share of LNG supply emissions and that controlling these emissions is essential—but not guaranteed—across complex supply chains.

Finally, this proposal is necessary to prevent Hawai'i from being locked into fossil fuel pathways through opaque decision-making. In 2024, the State announced an agreement between Governor Josh Green's administration and JERA Co., Inc. of Japan involving approximately \$2 billion in proposed grid upgrades and energy investments, including LNG-related infrastructure components. This agreement was not subjected to legislative approval, public hearings, or a formal public comment process, despite its scale and long-term implications for Hawai'i's energy system.

Large-scale energy decisions that shape infrastructure, costs, and climate outcomes for decades should be made transparently, with legislative oversight and public participation, not through executive agreements negotiated behind closed doors. This bill helps ensure that Hawai'i's energy future is determined through democratic, accountable processes consistent with the state's climate commitments, rather than through ad hoc arrangements that risk locking in fossil fuel dependence.

Banning LNG aligns with Hawai'i's clean energy pathway and avoids locking the state into new fossil infrastructure. Hawai'i's policy direction is toward a fully renewable electric system and achieving 100% renewable electricity by 2045. LNG infrastructure investments risk becoming stranded costs while delaying cleaner alternatives that undermine true decarbonization.

With aloha,

*Kris Coffield*

President, Imua Alliance



**Testimony to The Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection  
Tuesday, February 10, 2026  
9:05 AM  
Conference Room 325 & VIA videoconference  
Hawaii State Capitol  
HB 1568**

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso and members of the committee, Hawaii Gas respectfully submits this testimony in **opposition to HB 1568**.

Hawaii Gas is the state's only regulated gas utility, providing essential energy services to homes, businesses, and critical facilities across all islands. The company is committed to Hawaii's transition to a cleaner, more sustainable energy system by advancing renewable fuels such as renewable natural gas and hydrogen while maintaining the reliable infrastructure needed to keep energy affordable and resilient for Hawaii's communities.

Even as we accelerate these renewable pathways, Hawaii cannot afford to shut down its energy options prematurely. HB 1568 would narrow the tools available to meet the state's energy needs at a time when affordability and reliability are already under significant strain. Hawaii residents face some of the highest energy costs in the country and preventing analysis on a viable alternative source to serve as firm, dispatchable energy risks driving those costs even higher and potentially further imperiling reliability. The *Alternative Fuels, Repowering, and Energy Transition Study* reinforces this concern, emphasizing that maintaining flexibility across multiple fuel and technology pathways is critical to ensuring reliability and managing costs during Hawaii's transition away from petroleum.

Natural gas deserves consideration as part of a balanced, affordable, and resilient energy strategy for Hawaii. Keeping this option available will help ensure that the state's clean energy transition remains both achievable and equitable for all residents.

We urge the committee to consider the unintended consequences of HB 1568 and to support policies that expand, rather than restrict, the tools available to achieve our climate goals.

Thank you for your consideration.



Testimony of Nā Alaka‘i o ‘Ahahui o Hawai‘i

**Re: In STRONG SUPPORT of HB1568**

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

We are the alaka‘i of ‘Ahahui o Hawai‘i (“the Hui”), an organization of law student advocates at the William S. Richardson School of Law. For over 50 years, the Hui has advocated for Native Hawaiian justice in all areas of law, especially those affecting Native Hawaiian communities, traditional and customary practices, resource management, and environmental protection.

We **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB1568.

Climate experts agree: with a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, and with a lifecycle climate impact worse than coal, we must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade. Doing so may be the best and only way to buy us desperately needed time, before the climate crisis spirals beyond our control.

Despite this, the Hawai‘i State Energy Office has put forward a short-sighted proposal for Hawai‘i to embrace methane, or liquified natural gas (LNG), as a “temporary” “bridge” fuel, with no specific strategy to transition to a renewable alternative by 2045. To make matters worse, the Governor has signed a “Strategic Partnering Agreement” with fossil fuel giant JERA, to force O‘ahu’s HECO customers to invest in this planet-destroying corporation through their electrical bills - and with the vision of using Hawai‘i to market LNG to other Pacific nations. In other words, Hawai‘i is poised to lead Oceania in accelerating the end of humanity, and humankind as we know it.

This measure may be the only way to ensure the Governor and Hawai‘i State Energy Office cease and desist in their efforts to bring LNG to Hawai‘i, and to other places far beyond our shores.

To be clear, cost overruns alone for the proposed \$2B LNG infrastructure investment could leave HECO customers on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars or more; maintenance issues, human error, or a hurricane, earthquake, or fire - like we've seen as recently as [this past Tuesday](#) - would make the financial consequences even worse.

However, the true costs of the current Hawai‘i-JERA proposal - to have us embrace LNG, and market this fossil fuel to nations far and wide - would be immeasurable.

This bill may be the only way to ensure that Hawai‘i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path of existential destruction – a path that may condemn our children and grandchildren to a future of unthinkable devastation.

**Nā Alaka‘i o ‘Ahahui o Hawai‘i**

Advocates for Native Hawaiian Justice

William S. Richardson School of Law | University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa



**‘AHAHUI  
O HAWAI‘I**

Advocates for Native Hawaiian Justice

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide this testimony.

Aloha ‘Āina!

Nā Alaka‘i o ‘Ahahui o Hawai‘i

Nā Alaka‘i:

Kyle K. Moriguchi (‘26)

Bronson Gonzales (‘26)

Lenei Sousa Naipo (‘27)

Derek Kamakanaaloha Soong (‘27)

Ka‘ohi Gomera (‘27)

Kyson Kainalu James-Foree (‘27)

Justice Kaeo Castroverde-Moniz (‘27)

Kukui Akana (‘28)

Kalāmanamana Harman (‘28)

Sonny Dryden Kuehuikapono Seto Myers (‘28)

Kiana Kekoa (‘28)

**JERA Americas Inc.**  
1000 Main Street, Suite 3100  
Houston, TX 77002



February 9, 2026

**Testimony of**  
ERIK MONTAGUE, JERA AMERICAS

**before the**  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
Tuesday, February 10, 2026  
9:05 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

**In Opposition to**  
HOUSE BILL NO. 1568 – RELATING TO ENERGY

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee:

JERA Americas respectfully submits testimony in strong opposition to House Bill 1568, which would prohibit the importation and storage of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and the construction, expansion, or operation of LNG infrastructure in Hawai'i, with limited exemptions. This prohibition would unnecessarily remove a proven transitional fuel option that has been demonstrated globally to reduce both costs and carbon emissions and enable greater renewable integration into the grid than oil-fired generation, thus supporting long-term decarbonization goals.

As one of the world's leading energy companies with significant experience in LNG, renewable energy, and large-scale decarbonization technologies, JERA is committed to supporting Hawai'i's transition to a cleaner, more resilient, and affordable energy future.

Hawai'i stands apart from other U.S. states in its continued reliance on low sulfur fuel oil (LSFO) and diesel for electricity generation. This dependence contributes to some of the highest electricity costs in the United States and remains a major source of carbon emissions. LNG offers immediate and meaningful reductions in both cost and emissions compared to oil-based fuels, while providing the reliability that Hawai'i's grid requires.

Analyses conducted by JERA and supported by respected external consultants align with the State's own Alternative Fuels, Repowering, and Energy Transition study, which identified LNG as the most cost-effective transitional fuel available today. Transitioning to LNG on a reasonable timeline could eliminate an estimated 50+ million tons of carbon from power generation between the early 2030s and 2045.

Much of Hawai'i's existing oil-fired generation fleet is aging, inefficient, and in urgent need of costly upgrades. Investment will be necessary regardless of future fuel choice. Passing HB 1568 would eliminate LNG as a potential replacement option, forcing continued reliance on imported oil at significantly higher cost and greater carbon intensity.

Modern high-efficiency gas-fired power plants also play a critical role in enabling higher levels of renewable energy penetration. These facilities are designed for rapid cycling and flexible operation, allowing them to quickly respond to fluctuations in solar and wind output. JERA's experience in Japan demonstrates this clearly: as renewable penetration has increased, modern gas-fired plants in our portfolio now start up, shut

down, and adjust output nearly three times as often as they did over 5 years ago to balance fluctuations in solar and wind generation. Without this flexibility, renewable generation would be curtailed.

Additionally, alongside renewables such as solar, wind, and battery storage, JERA is investing in emerging clean fuel technologies—including hydrogen blending, zero-emissions ammonia, and next-generation biofuels. As these cleaner fuels mature and become commercially viable, pairing them with modern power plants and gas storage and distribution infrastructure, which are capable of utilizing hydrogen, biofuels, synthetic natural gas, in addition to today's oil and natural gas, can serve as the foundation for deeper decarbonization by transitioning beyond LNG to the right fuel choice for the state.

Finally, advances in LNG technology have further reduced the cost and permanence of storage and regasification infrastructure. Of the roughly \$2 billion required to modernize the State's power plants and develop natural-gas infrastructure, only about 10% is at risk of becoming stranded if the future fuel of choice is not a gas-based solution. Importantly, anticipated cost savings from LNG over the next 10-15 years will be many times greater than any potentially underutilized infrastructure.

Support for HB 1568 is effectively a decision to continue importing and burning oil for years to come—at the expense of Hawai'i's residents, businesses, and climate goals. Removing LNG from consideration eliminates a cost-effective transitional option at a moment when the State needs more flexibility, not less, to achieve its affordability and clean energy goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Erik Montague  
Vice President  
Erik.montague@jeraamericas.com



**Hawaiian  
Electric**

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**HB 1568  
Relating to Energy**

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

9:05 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso and Members of the Committee,

Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc. (the “Company”) provides the following **comments and concerns regarding HB 1568**, Relating to Energy.

The Company is firmly committed to its role to achieve Hawai‘i’s law and state policy to transition to 100% renewable energy and economy-wide decarbonization by 2045. While we share the Legislature’s goal of reducing emissions and advancing clean energy, we respectfully submit that HB 1568, as drafted, would prematurely remove options that should be considered at a time when the global and national energy landscape is shifting and Hawai‘i needs flexibility, particularly in this environment, to manage reliability, resiliency, affordability, and timing risks during the transition.

**More Options are Needed to Support Clean Energy Transition**

The company supports all options that would support Hawai‘i’s decarbonized renewable energy future, reduce emissions, enhance resilience and make electricity more affordable. Critically, LNG should be considered as an interim substitute for the oil that continues to be used in our system, not a substitute for renewable energy. This was our position when, in 2014, the Company considered LNG as a bridge fuel.

This is not to say that questions around LNG should not be asked and answered. As for any energy source or proposed infrastructure project, there should be a strong factual record and a clear understanding of costs, benefits, risks, and alternatives.

### **HB 1568 Imposes an Inflexible Ban That Bypasses Regulatory Oversight**

Beginning July 1, 2026, HB 1568 would prohibit:

1. Importation or storage of LNG
2. Construction, expansion, or operation of LNG infrastructure
3. Issuance of any permit or lease enabling LNG development
4. PUC approval of any new or renewed LNG supply agreement, or modifications that extend term or increase volume

These restrictions amount to a categorical prohibition, not a framework for reasoned decision-making. By bypassing the PUC's transparent and evidence-based review process, the bill would prevent the State from evaluating options holistically - across affordability, reliability, resilience, environmental impacts, and timing risks.

### **Hawaii's Development Timelines and Risks Require Flexibility**

Major clean-energy projects depend on multiple external factors, including permitting, supply chains, construction conditions, financing, and community engagement. Even under ideal circumstances, Hawaii's project timelines are lengthy, and unforeseen delays are common.

A recent *Star-Advertiser* editorial ("Put ban-LNG bill on back burner," February 3, 2026) warns that project execution challenges and tightening financial conditions leave little margin for error. In this environment, well-governed contingency options - evaluated through a transparent process - can be essential to maintaining reliable service on isolated island grids.

Eliminating entire classes of options by statute removes tools that may be needed if projects slip for reasons outside the utilities' control. The Company fully

supports Hawaii's clean-energy trajectory and agrees that the public deserves clarity about the path ahead. However, the prudent approach is not to legislate away options on an expedited timeline. Deferral of HB 1568 would allow for fuller consideration of options to provide for the critical grid reliability, resilience, affordability, and decarbonization needs of our State.

TO: Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

FROM: Clint Churchill  
President, Practical Policy Institute of Hawaii  
808-544-3208

HEARING: 9:00a.m. Tuesday, February 10, 2026

SUBJECT: HB 1568 Relating to Energy--OPPPOSE

Aloha Chair Lowen and Committee Members:

The Practical Policy Institute of Hawaii is opposed to this bill and is submitting several enclosures for the Committee's review and consideration. A ban on LNG would be a big mistake, codifying and carrying forward an unfortunate decision by Governor Ige some 10 years ago—a decision that has cost Oahu ratepayers well in excess of \$1 billion. And which will continue to cost ratepayers at least that much per decade in the future, should this bill become law. And which would also be a mistake for our environment by effectively preventing a 30% reduction in CO2 emissions to the extent that the Kahe and Waiau power plants continue to burn thick, black fuel oil as we move forward, at whatever pace, to achieve a higher percentage of renewables. Attachment #1 depicts a comparison of both the cost and emissions of various fuels relative to our continuing to burn oil. Three myths need dispelling.

First, we would like to dispel a myth that has been offered to justify banning LNG, that LNG infrastructure cost, some \$2 billion, will be prohibitive. We suggest that just the opposite is true: the infrastructure cost of reliability, to make 100% renewable energy for Oahu reliable, will be far in excess of LNG infrastructure. HECO's utility solar farms are required to provide only 4 hours of battery backup, nowhere near enough to power the island from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. every day, much less on overcast days. There will be a need for utility battery farms; the first such farm at Kapolei cost some \$220 million but provides only 565 megawatt hours of power availability—less than 3% of a day's demand. To achieve reliable electricity from the grid, we will need 10 to 20 such farms at a cost well in excess of LNG infrastructure. And the batteries will have to be completely replaced some 10 to 20 years after placement in service vs. a 30 to 40-year life of LNG infrastructure.

Second, we feel that the argument that transitioning to LNG will slow the adoption of renewables is ill-founded. We're now a full decade into the quest for 100% renewables since the de facto ban—yet a full 69% of Oahu's power comes from burning oil. Our view is that we should absolutely continue to encourage and subsidize rooftop solar. But it's going to hit the

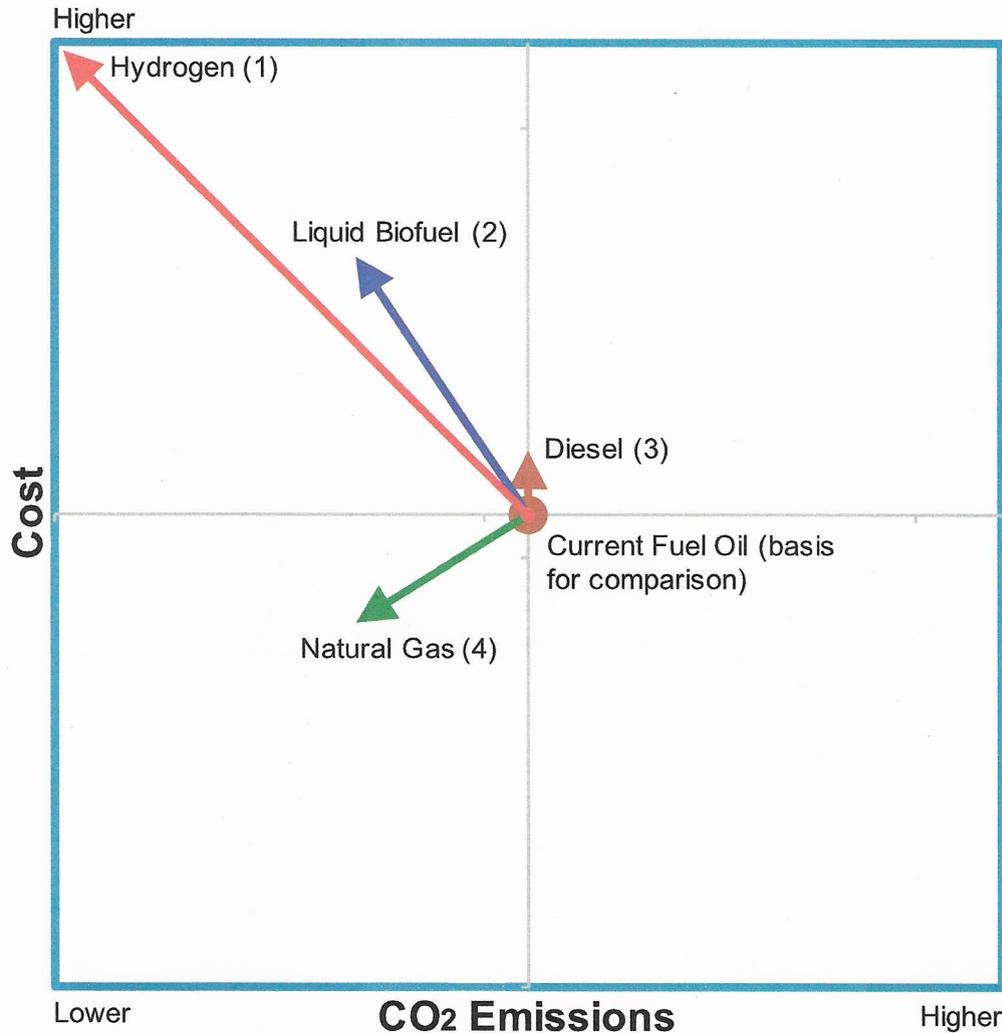
wall. We're at more than 50% rooftop penetration on Oahu, but that provides only 15% of total demand; at an optimistic 75% penetration, we'll be at about 23%. There will clearly be a need for utility solar farms. But they will hit a wall as well, in the form of how much land will be required to get to even 50% total renewables. Our view is that the 13,000 acres that will be required from utility solar farms (based on the Climate Change Mitigation Commission's 3,882 gigawatt hours of generation) will be excessive. The footnotes to Attachment #2 provide additional detail. In summary, these barriers, not allowing LNG, will determine the practicality of 100% renewable.

Third, those opposed to LNG point to the volatility of depending on oil. By banning LNG, we would miss an opportunity to significantly reduce such volatility as we move forward to 2045. Attachment #3 provides a useful comparison of oil vs. natural gas price volatility, the latter based on Canadian natural gas which has emerged as a "Canada to the rescue" source of shipping LNG to Hawaii. More than 15 million metric tons of annual export capacity from British Columbia will be availability within two years—see Attachment #4. Contracts ranging from 5 to 20 years should well be available, indexed for example as discussed in the footnotes to the attachment. The stars have somehow aligned for relief to Oahu ratepayers. And should there ever be an exception to or repeal of the Jones Act, Hawaii will have access to the world's largest exporter of LNG, the United States Gulf Coast. Attachment #5, an Op Ed in the Star Advertiser a year ago, provides additional useful information.

Our Institute has consistently encouraged the conversion of HECO's aging generation units to natural gas as we transition to 2045. And we have consistently encouraged rooftop and parking lot solar, while encouraging utility solar farms consistent with prudent land use. And we have pointed out the following: "what if," despite all of our best efforts, we simply can't get to 100% renewables by 2045? Would we be better off having natural gas-based electricity in place or a continuation of burning higher cost, more volatile, and higher-emitting oil? Banning LNG would assure the latter. Passage of this bill would be a huge disservice to Oahu's residents and businesses.

## Generating Cost vs. CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions for Alternative Fuels

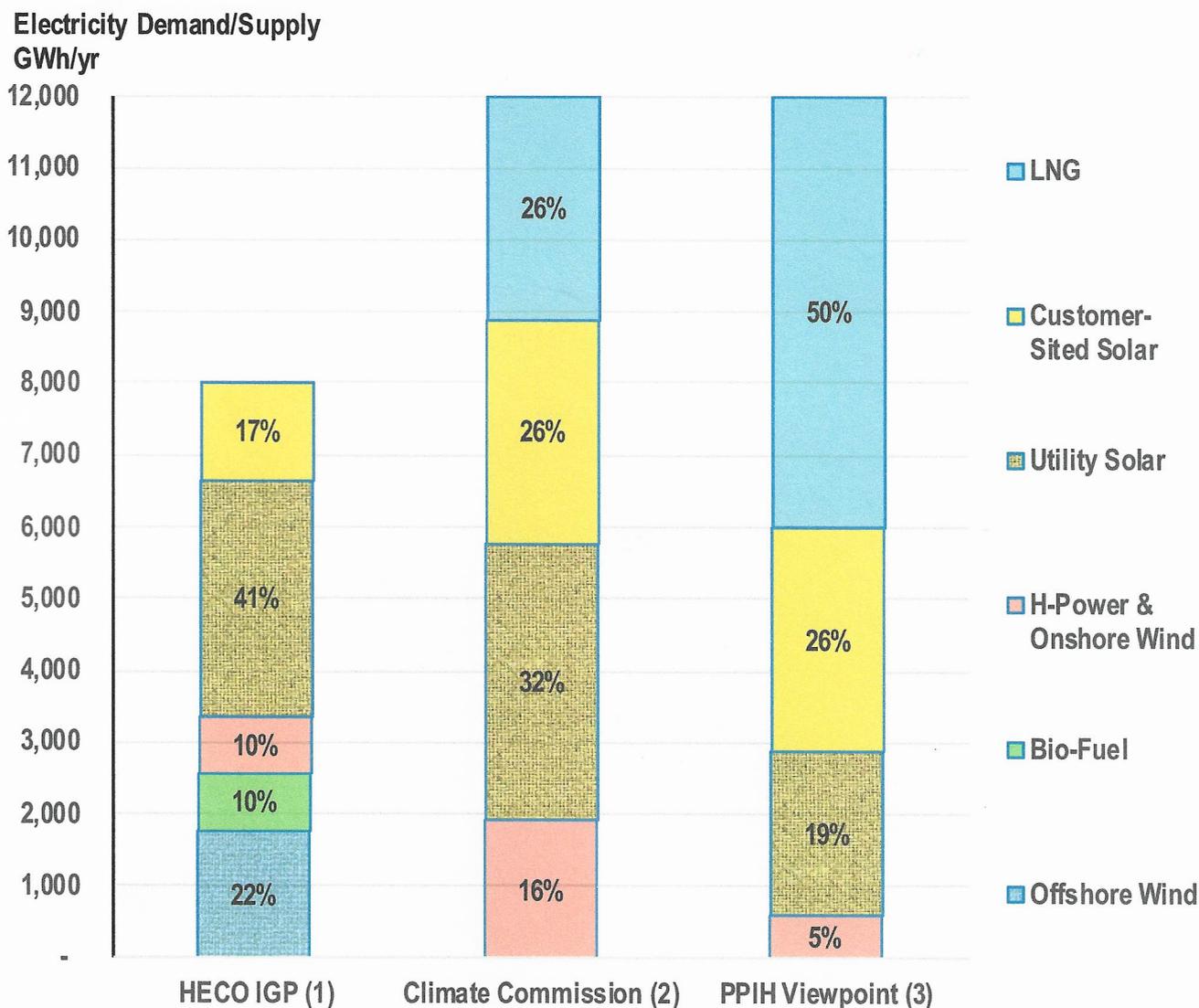
Since prudent and acceptable renewable sources of power on Oahu will be insufficient to meet demand, what fuel should be used?



1. **Hydrogen**: not including CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to produce; if other than from a renewable resource, the hydrogen vector moves significantly right.
2. **Liquid Biofuel**: emission level based on “out the stack” in Hawaii; if CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to produce the liquid from feedstock and if forest acres are cleared to grow feedstock (loss of CO<sub>2</sub> absorption) are taken into consideration, the liquid biofuel vector moves significantly right.
3. **Diesel**: reflects diesel having a higher refinery costs vs. fuel oil; if burned in an efficient combined cycle power plant, the diesel vector moves down to possibly being less costly than fuel-oil steam units.
4. **Natural Gas**: shipped to Hawaii as LNG and gasified offshore or onshore, with gas pipelines connecting to generating plants. Excludes CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to liquefy; if included, the LNG vector moves to the right.

**Source:** Practical Policy Institute of Hawaii (PPIH) analysis, February 2024.

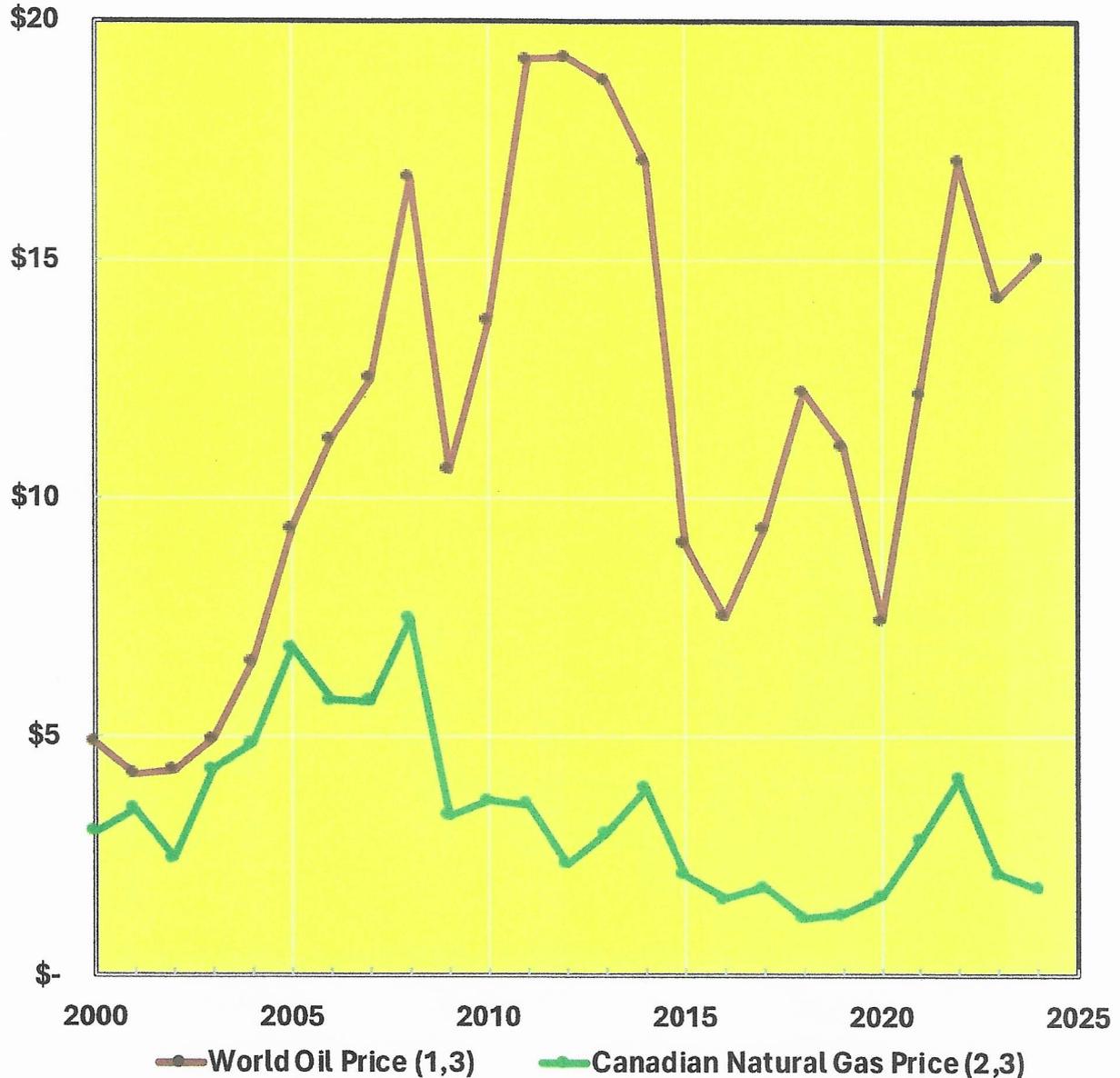
## Oahu 2045 Electrical Energy Sources: Three Viewpoints



1. Demand level and source-of-power percentages from Hawaiian Electric's Integrated Grid Plan (IGP) Preferred Plans and Next Steps, November, 2023.
2. Demand level and source-of power percentages from the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission's "Hawaii Climate Action Pathways," August, 2025 Draft.
3. Viewpoint of the Practical Policy Institute of Hawaii (PPIH). Comments on the various power sources:
  - a. Onshore Wind: The PPIH view is that existing onshore wind projects on or near the North Shore will be at or after their useful lives and that community pushback will negate any new or replacement wind projects.
  - b. Utility Solar Farms: The PPIH view is that a plan for 3,882 gigawatt hours (GWh) would necessitate imprudent land use, requiring more than 13,000 acres of land and be in conflict with other land-use priorities.
  - c. Customer-sited Solar: No change from the Commission's projection, with the caveat that 3,088 GWh of customer-generated power is highly aspirational (127% more than the IGP projection) and will necessitate as much as one-third of the projected generation from retail, industrial, and military customers.
  - d. LNG: The aggregate of the Commission's 26% projection plus incremental reductions in onshore wind and utility solar farm projections as discussed above.

## World Oil Price vs. Canadian Natural Gas Price, 2000 to 2024

\$ per million Btu (\$mmBtu)



1. World oil price: average Brent crude oil price, equated to \$mmBtu.

2. Canadian natural gas price: average AECO (Alberta Energy Company) price. This benchmark price is frequently used in long-term LNG contracts for price adjustments.

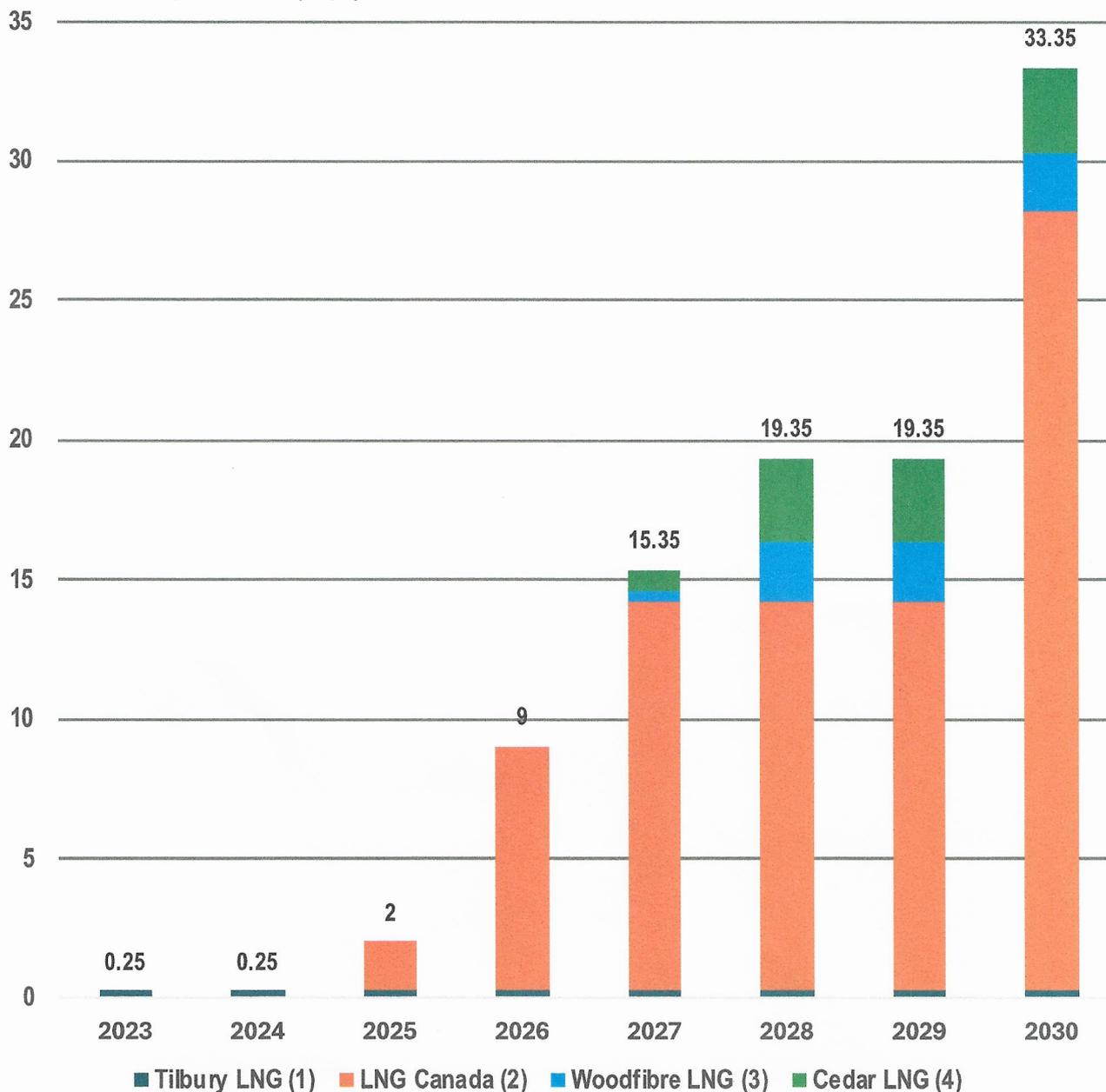
3. When used for heat energy, oil emits 163 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> per mmBtu vs. 117 for natural gas (39% more).

**Sources:** Facts Global Energy (2024) for prices; U.S. Energy Information Administration for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

## Canada LNG Liquefaction Capacity by Project

Projects under Construction or Likely to Proceed as of February 2024

Million Tonnes per Annum (mtpa)



1. 0.25 mtpa facility commissioned in 2018 at Delta, B.C.
2. 14 mtpa facility under construction at Kitimat, B.C. Completion of planned Phase 2 expansion of an additional 14 mtpa projected for 2030.
3. 2.1 mtpa facility under construction at Squamish, B.C.
4. 3 mtpa facility planned for Kitimat, B.C.

**Source:** Facts Global Energy (FGE), February 2024.

## Let LNG flow for cheap, clean energy

*(Honolulu Star-Advertiser "Island Voices" Article, February 16, 2025)*

By Clint Churchill and Ed MacNaughton

In two under-reported but hugely significant events, Oahu electricity ratepayers now have hope to be liberated from misguided State policies that have resulted in both the highest cost per kilowatt-hour of any state (36% higher than the next-worst state) and the highest average greenhouse gas emissions intensity for electrical power generation. Dead last in both with (up to now) blinders-on stubbornness.

Some quick background: Natural gas, shipped to Oahu in the form of liquified natural gas (LNG) was proposed by Hawaiian Electric (HECO) nine years ago as a cleaner, lower cost fuel for generating electricity. Customer savings were estimated to be as much as \$3.7 billion over 30 years. But then-Gov. David Ige issued a de facto ban on LNG by opposing the building of LNG facilities: "It's time to focus all of our efforts on renewables." HECO withdrew its proposal. Despite noble renewable energy efforts by homeowners and HECO, more than 70% of power generation on Oahu comes from burning residual fuel oil.

To his brave credit, Governor Green has now initiated a major shift in Oahu energy policy thinking: empathy for ratepayers.

Over a year ago, he tasked his Energy Office to develop a new strategy addressing (1) electricity cost, (2) unreliability, and (3) CO2 emissions vs. the current burning of residual oil. The result of \$900,000 in consultant studies is a very thorough and impressive "Alternative Fuel, Repowering, and Energy Transition Study" released on January 27th. The bottom line: the best pathway to address these issues on Oahu is to convert from oil to natural gas—all while continuing to strive for 100% renewable energy by 2045.

Governor Green's Executive Order No. 25-01 accelerates the Neighbor Island 100% renewable goal to 2035—great, but with concerns (more on that in a subsequent proposed article). But tellingly, the Order also sets a new Oahu electricity sector policy goal of 70% greenhouse gas reductions (from 2005 levels)

by 2035. The Order explains, “to provide the lowest cost to ratepayers, this requires...(various actions and) fuel switching to balance new renewable energy projects with affordability, reliability, land use, and resilience.”

While perhaps tiptoeing around “switch to what?” the Order avoids mentioning LNG. But the extensively documented Study makes it quite clear that the pathway ahead is LNG, as our Institute has previously encouraged (“Hawaii should reverse costly multi-billion-dollar LNG policy,” March 28, 2024). In a Hawaii Public Radio (HPR) interview, Chief Energy Officer Mark Glick stated that of “every possible fuel that is available for import into Hawaii for commercial viability, cost-effectiveness, and carbon intensity, the only one in the near-term that could meet all of those criteria was natural gas.”

An LNG future for Oahu will not be easy. As the Star Advertiser noted in its February 2 editorial, “LNG is controversial: cleaner and cheaper than oil, it would require building costly infrastructure, and many environmentalists oppose it vigorously...” But Governor Green’s focus on ratepayer cost looms important. Perhaps the time has come to strike a compromise between “100% renewable at any cost” and “providing the lowest cost to ratepayers.” The 70% emissions reduction by 2035 (no doubt infeasible without the LNG conversion) seems eminently sensible.

A critical issue is HECO’s financial capability to make the LNG infrastructure investment. The HPR interview reveals the interest of JERA, Japan’s largest importer of LNG, to invest in HECO. Telling is Glick’s comment in the HPR interview: “JERA has great comfort in operating their systems on natural gas and was quite surprised at the fact that Hawaii still uses residual oil.”

In summary, kudos to Governor Green, the State Energy Office, and their very competent consultants. Our hope is that the key stakeholders, notably the Public Utilities Commission and HECO, will proceed with due haste to implement this worthy new energy strategy.

*Retired businessmen Clint Churchill and Ed MacNaughton represent the Practical Policy Institute of Hawaii.*



P.O. Box 8637, Honolulu, HI 96830 808.468.1686 [www.mgfhawaii.org](http://www.mgfhawaii.org)

TESTIMONY OF THE MOANALUA GARDENS FOUNDATION  
To the House Committee on Education  
February 10, 2026  
**In Support of**

**HB 1568 - RELATING TO ENERGY**

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee:

The Moanalua Gardens Foundation submits testimony in **strong support of HB 1568.**

The Moanalua Gardens Foundation strongly believes that Hawai‘i must chart a forward-looking, just, and climate-safe energy future that aligns with our islands’ environmental values, economic resilience, ancestral stewardship, and constitutional obligations to protect a life-sustaining climate system for present and future generations.

HB1568 is consistent with these imperatives. Under this measure, the State would:

- Prohibit the importation or storage of LNG — a fossil fuel primarily composed of methane — which has a global warming potential far greater than carbon dioxide and contributes significantly to climate disruption through extraction, transport, and use.
- Ban the construction, expansion, or operation of LNG infrastructure, including import terminals, regasification facilities, pipelines, and storage units, which threaten our fragile coastal ecosystems and cultural landscapes.
- Prevent state agencies and counties from issuing permits or leases for LNG projects, stopping new fossil fuel development at its roots.
- Prohibit new or renewed LNG purchase agreements and modifications that would deepen Hawai‘i’s dependence on fossil fuels.

We recognize that these provisions would not only help safeguard Hawai‘i’s climate commitments — including 100% renewable energy by 2045 — but also protect ratepayers from the risk of multi-billion-dollar stranded assets, volatile fuel markets, and long-term utility lock-in.

This measure recognizes what science and community advocates have been saying loudly and clearly: LNG is not a bridge to a clean energy future — it is a detour that threatens public health, economic stability, and ecological integrity. Even proponents of LNG admit that P.O. Box 168, Holualoa, HI 96725 / [www.hulihi.com](http://www.hulihi.com) / [info@hulihi.com](mailto:info@hulihi.com) any “bridge” fuel risks becoming a long-term fossil fuel dependency, undermining renewable investment and climate goals.

The Moanalua Gardens Foundation urges the committee **to pass HB 1568.** Mahalo for your attention and consideration.

*Me ke aloha,*



Ian Keali'i Custino

*Executive Director*

*Moanalua Gardens Foundation*

[ian@mgfhawaii.org](mailto:ian@mgfhawaii.org)

Aloha, Chair Lowen and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong opposition** to HB1568.

I want to begin by acknowledging a fundamental truth: businesses do what they are designed to do—operate within the landscape provided to them and maximize returns for their shareholders. This is not criticism; this is capitalism functioning as intended. The question before us today is not about vilifying any business, but about the policy landscape we have created and whether this bill makes it better or worse for the people of Hawaii.

### **The Current Landscape:**

We currently power approximately 70% of our electric grid with a fuel that is, by all accounts I can find, one of the lowest valued residual products—often sold at a loss or significant discount. Yet here in Hawaii, this locally-produced fuel is priced as if it were being shipped from overseas. Apparently, the term is "import parity pricing" simply because the only other option is actually shipping in the replacement product.

For those unfamiliar with this term, I encourage you to research "import parity pricing," and the "Energy Cost Recovery Clause," then ask why we pay three times the national average for electricity when the majority of our fuel is essentially the lowest or near lowest valued product produced right here on this island. Our legislators are aware of this dynamic. If they are not, we must ask why they are introducing bills with such far-reaching consequences without understanding the full scope of their impact.

The Energy Cost Recovery Clause (ECRC) allows the cost of this fuel to pass directly through to consumers. For most Hawaii households, the electric bill ranks in the top 2-4 highest monthly expenses—often approaching or exceeding the cost of rent itself. This is often a contributing factor for increasing monthly maintenance fees in apartment buildings as well.

From personal experience, my electric bill was approximately \$600 per month. Then, with the best of intentions, advocates worked with the legislature to close the AES coal plant—despite warnings from some legislators that the renewables were not in place to compensate for the increased demand. The result was predictable: HECO burned more of this locally-produced fuel, priced at import parity, and my bill jumped to \$800-900 per month and stayed there. While those who can afford to purchase solar+battery systems opt out of this system all together, I live in Waianae, and many in my community simply cannot afford to do this.

When residents became angry at the utility for these rate increases, many of those who championed the plant closure remained quiet. None stepped forward to proudly claim credit for their work. Yet some of those same voices are here today, supporting this bill.

HB1568 does not propose a conversation about energy diversity. It proposes an outright ban on even considering alternatives. It does not offer residents a path to lower costs—it eliminates options before we've had a chance to consider them.

The pattern is concerning: ban coal, ban LNG, ban alternatives—but the locally-produced “bottom of the barrel” residuals that we pay 3-4 times more for than anywhere else on the globe remains somehow acceptable and continues unchallenged. When we ban every option except the most expensive one, we must ask: who benefits from this policy, and who pays the price?

**This bill assumes the current path is acceptable.** It is not acceptable when families must choose between electricity and rent. It is not acceptable when people are being priced out of their homes. It is not acceptable when we claim to care about Hawaii's cost of living while simultaneously banning any discussion of fuel diversification and grid resiliency. This is done under the claim of promoting renewables as the ultimate replacement, but this ignores a practical reality: the battery storage needed to provide firm power for just 5 days without sun would cost tens of billions of dollars. Who do they propose pays for that?

If this bill passes, I respectfully submit that no supporter of this measure should speak about affordability for Hawaii's people—unless they are prepared to stand up and convince us all that continuing to pay for a “local” product under a “foreign” pricing model where we essentially pay for shipping that doesn't happen is acceptable.

When electric rates continue to climb—especially if this same pricing model is transferred from LSFO (essentially a byproduct) to biofuels (a product in much higher demand)—when more families become houseless because their utility bill exceeds their rent, when small businesses close because they cannot afford to operate—let the record show who voted to eliminate alternatives without even allowing a conversation.

These outcomes won't be determined by the refinery or the utility. They will be determined by the policy choices we make today. We have the power to require a conversation before banning options. We have the power to put people first.

We diversify retirement portfolios to manage risk. We all agree we should diversify our economy from being so dependent on tourism. Yet when it comes to energy—where Hawaii families pay near the highest prices in the nation—this bill says diversification isn't even worth a conversation. It asks us to continue relying on a locally-produced byproduct sold at premium prices that get passed directly to consumers.

Rigidity breaks, while flexibility endures. Banning options is rigid. Maintaining a single-source fuel dependency is fragile. True resilience comes from diversity—diversity in fuel sources, diversity in approaches, diversity in solutions.

Hawaii families are struggling. They need relief, not restrictions. They need options, not outright bans. They need legislators who understand the energy landscape and are willing to have difficult conversations about real solutions.

**I urge you to defer bill HB1568 in favor of diversity.**

Guardrails on the possible adoption of Let us have the conversation about energy diversity before we ban the possibilities. Let us put the people of Hawaii—their ability to afford to live here, to keep their lights on, to stay in their homes.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.



## **POLLUTERS PAY HAWAI'I**

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Maka Gibson, and I **strongly support** HB1568, which would prohibit the importation, storage, and development of liquefied natural gas (LNG) infrastructure in Hawai'i after June 30, 2026. This bill is essential not only to meeting Hawai'i's climate commitments, but to protecting the long-term affordability and economic security of Hawai'i's residents.

### **Affordability Is Hawai'i's Central Energy Challenge**

Hawai'i families already face the highest electricity costs in the nation, driven largely by our dependence on imported fossil fuels whose prices are dictated by volatile global markets. Any serious affordability strategy must reduce — not simply reshuffle — our exposure to fuel price risk.

LNG is often described as a “bridge fuel” that could lower costs relative to oil in the near term. But bridges only make sense if they lead somewhere affordable and durable. In Hawai'i's case, LNG does not.

### **LNG Does Not Deliver Long-Term Cost Stability**

While LNG may appear cheaper than oil at certain moments, it remains a globally traded fossil fuel subject to:

- International supply disruptions
- Geopolitical instability
- Significant shipping, storage, and safety costs unique to island states

Recent global LNG price spikes have demonstrated that natural gas is neither stable nor predictable. Building LNG terminals, storage facilities, and associated infrastructure would lock Hawai'i ratepayers into decades of exposure to these same risks — precisely at the moment when the state is legally required to transition away from fossil fuels.

### **“Bridge” Infrastructure Becomes a Financial Burden**

Hawai'i law requires 100% renewable electricity by 2045. LNG infrastructure built in the late 2020s or 2030s would have an expected lifespan extending well beyond that date, creating a serious risk of stranded assets — costly facilities that must be paid for even after they are no longer usable.

Those costs do not disappear. They are borne by ratepayers through higher utility bills, undermining affordability rather than improving it.

## **Clean Energy Is the True Affordability Strategy**

The most effective way to protect Hawai'i households from rising energy costs is to eliminate fuel costs altogether. Investments in:

- Solar paired with battery storage
- Grid modernization and advanced inverter technologies
- Demand response and energy efficiency

offer fixed, predictable costs over decades. Once built, these systems are insulated from fuel price swings, shipping disruptions, and global market volatility.

Importantly, we already see this model working in Hawai'i today, demonstrating that reliability and affordability can improve together without new fossil fuel infrastructure.

## **HB 1568 Provides Clarity and Market Certainty**

HB 1568 establishes a clear and necessary guardrail. It ensures that public and private investment is directed toward solutions that:

- Align with Hawai'i law
- Reduce long-term ratepayer risk
- Accelerate, rather than delay, the transition to cost-stable clean energy

By drawing a firm line on LNG, the Legislature can help prevent costly detours and redirect capital toward strategies that lower bills over time, strengthen energy independence, and keep Hawai'i on track to meet its 2045 mandate.

## **Conclusion**

LNG may be framed as a short-term fix, but it represents a long-term liability for Hawai'i families. True affordability comes from reducing dependence on imported fuels — not replacing one volatile fossil fuel with another.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB 1568 and keep Hawai'i focused on an energy future that is not only clean, but stable, predictable, and affordable for generations to come.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Maka Gibson  
Kāne'ohe, HI



REPRESENTATIVE NICOLE E. LOWEN, CHAIR  
REPRESENTATIVE AMY A. PERRUSO, VICE CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 1568

Tuesday, February 10, 2026, 9:05 a.m.  
Conference Room 325, State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Committee Members:

Earthjustice **supports House Bill 1568** to prohibit the importation and development of liquefied natural gas (“LNG”) in Hawai'i. LNG would undermine our economic, energy, and climate security and would saddle ratepayers with excessive costs and risks for decades to come. If nothing else, a ban will help avoid the huge waste of time and resources from this administration's misplaced priorities, seeking simply to trade one costly fossil fuel for another, when it should be focusing faithfully on maximizing the real cost savings from clean energy for both present and future generations.

The Green administration, led by its State Energy Office, touts the familiar and false promise of LNG as a “cost-effective,” “transitional” fuel and “bridge” to renewable energy. On the contrary, the LNG supply infrastructure would cost as much as a billion dollars or more and, like every oversized project before it, would be destined for cost overruns and delays over early optimistic projections.<sup>1</sup> These massive costs maximize the incentive to prolong the project and its returns on investment. The price of the fuel will also depend on the volume that can be sold, and the sole-source supplier will have undue leverage to dictate supplies and prices and oppose alternatives once Hawai'i becomes committed to this path.

The LNG diversion will further entrench our fossil fuel dependency in the islands and raise the costs of living for local families and businesses for generations. Instead of maximizing renewable energy resources that are already more affordable than fossil fuels, providing fixed and stable prices and zero fuel costs, LNG would continue to subject ratepayers to excessive and volatile bills based on the whims of a monopoly supplier and foreign influences outside of our control. The risks of LNG also include explosions and fires, which not only endanger the

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<sup>1</sup> See, e.g., Kevin Dayton, *Another Honolulu Rail Contractor Demands More Money, Citing Years of Delay*, Civil Beat (Dec. 24, 2024), <https://www.civilbeat.org/2024/12/another-honolulu-rail-contractor-demands-more-money-citing-years-of-delays/>; Ben Angarone, *Honolulu Mayor Defends \$1 Billion Ala Wai Canal Flood Plan*, Civil Beat (Dec. 12, 2023), <https://www.civilbeat.org/2023/12/honolulu-mayor-defends-1-billion-ala-wai-canal-flood-plan/>.

safety of our 'āina and people but also impose their own heavy financial costs.<sup>2</sup> All of this would exacerbate the already burdensome energy costs on Hawai'i ratepayers.<sup>3</sup>

Record-high costs of living in Hawai'i are forcing many residents to leave the islands. Moreover this administration itself is trying to pursue recovery of damages from fossil fuel companies for the untold financial costs climate change for Hawai'i's people, the last thing this administration should be doing is gambling with everyday people's money and mortgaging our children's and grandchildren's future to buy into fossil fuel plans that the previous administration already rejected 10 years ago.

In passing the nation's first 100% renewable mandate, the Legislature recognized that "a stronger local economy depends on a transition away from imported fuels and toward renewable local resources that provide a secure source of affordable energy."<sup>4</sup> This commitment conforms with our constitutional public trust doctrine, which requires the State to "conserve and protect Hawaii's natural beauty and all natural resources, including . . . energy sources" and "promote the development and utilization of these resources . . . in furtherance of the self-sufficiency of the State."<sup>5</sup> This bill aligns with and stays true to Hawai'i's renewable mandates and constitutional public trust imperatives.

Passing this bill to ban LNG would deter this administration from straying further off course and help keep Hawai'i on the path to a more affordable and secure energy future. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration of this critical issue in this decisive historical juncture.

Harley M. Broyles, Esq.  
Associate Attorney  
Earthjustice, Mid-Pacific Office

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<sup>2</sup> See e.g., Shardul Sharma, *JERA to Book \$75MN Loss Related to Freeport LNG Fire*, Natural Gas World (Oct. 28, 2022), [Jera to book \\$751mn loss related to Freeport LNG fire](#); Naman Trivedi, *Louisiana Pipeline Explosion: WATCH As Natural Gas Pipeline Explodes In Cameron Parish, Injuries Reported*, Times Now (Feb. 4, 2026), <https://www.timesnownews.com/world/us/us-news/louisiana-pipeline-explosion-natural-gas-pipeline-explodes-in-cameron-parish-injuries-reported-article-153556635>.

<sup>3</sup> Hawai'i ratepayers pay the highest average electricity price of any state, at more than triple the U.S. average price. U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Hawai'i* (last updated May 15, 2025) <https://www.eia.gov/states/HI/analysis>.

<sup>4</sup> 2015 Haw. Sess. Laws Act 97.

<sup>5</sup> Haw. Const. art. XI, § 1.



# Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

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February 9, 2026

To: Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair  
Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair, and  
Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection  
Re: HB 1568 re LNG – Liquefied Natural Gas  
Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2026, 9:05 am, Conf Room 325 & video  
Position: STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha, Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection!

The approximately 6,680 members of the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i strongly support HB 1568. Our concerns reflect the many concerns that are already stated in Section 1 of the bill: LNG is highly polluting, it requires massive infrastructure to be constructed if it is to be used at the scale that the Executive proposes, it is dangerous, and it seriously deflects from our direction toward true renewable energy. Far better that the infrastructure investment contemplated for LNG be diverted to solar panels!

Moreover, we understand that about 75% of LNG is derived from fracking, which is an environmentally destructive process at its source. We should not be encouraging that conduct, even though – for now – it does not seem to adversely affect us directly.

Please pass this bill! Mahalo, and thank you, Committee Vice Chair Amy Perruso for introducing it.

Respectfully,

Alan B. Burdick and Mike Ewall, co-chairs  
Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

[Burdick808@gmail.com](mailto:Burdick808@gmail.com) 808-927-1500

[Mike@energyjustice.net](mailto:Mike@energyjustice.net)

House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection  
Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair  
Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

February 10, 2026  
9:05 a.m.  
Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection,

Castle & Cooke Homes Hawai'i, Inc. respectfully submits testimony in **opposition to HB1568**.

As one of Hawai'i's longstanding homebuilders, Castle & Cooke is committed to delivering high-quality housing that meets the needs of local families. Reliable and affordable energy is essential to that mission. Policies that limit viable energy options can increase costs, create uncertainty, and ultimately make housing less attainable for residents.

HB1568 would prohibit the importation, storage, and development of liquefied natural gas infrastructure after June 30, 2026, and would prevent utilities from entering into new or renewed LNG supply agreements. This represents a significant policy shift that removes an important transitional fuel option without fully considering the impacts to energy reliability and affordability.

Hawai'i faces unique energy challenges due to its geographic isolation and dependence on imported fuels. A premature ban on LNG limits the State's flexibility and could make our energy supply more vulnerable to disruptions. Maintaining a diverse set of energy options is critical as the State continues its transition to renewable resources.

Affordability is also a key concern. Energy costs directly affect the cost of construction, infrastructure, and daily living expenses for homeowners. Removing viable fuel options without fully developed and cost-effective alternatives risks increasing energy prices for families and businesses across the State.

Finally, HB1568 effectively closes the door on an important policy discussion. Rather than imposing a ban, the State should continue studying all available options and engaging stakeholders to determine the most practical and cost-effective path forward. Keeping the dialogue open allows Hawai'i to balance environmental goals with reliability, affordability, and economic realities.

For these reasons, Castle & Cooke respectfully urges the Committee to **defer HB1568**.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

# Testimony in Support of HB1568

Submitted to the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture, and the Arts  
by Evan Weber on behalf of Our Hawai'i, 2/9/2026

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Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Our Hawai'i and our over 38,000 supporters across the pae 'āina and beyond, we submit testimony in strong support of HB1568.

In short, this bill will save the people, taxpayers, and ratepayers of Hawai'i money and time. How? By allowing us to get to work on the real solutions that local working families have been promised by law since 2015 — for over a decade now — but the State, Hawaiian Electric, and the counties have failed to live up their legal kuleana to deliver. 100%, homegrown and affordable, renewable energy.

We know from Kaua'i, from local entrepreneurs and companies who have persisted despite the obstacles placed in front of them, and from all around the world that this is the quickest and surest way to deliver affordable energy to our people. And that combined with aggressive energy efficiency, a modern utility structure, and advances in storage technology it is totally sufficient to meet our energy needs.

In opposing the legislation before us today, the Star Advertiser Editorial Board said we should have this “debate” about how to advance our energy future. Is it groundhog day? We already had the debate!

We had this debate in the early 2010s when we debated and then ultimately set into law a 100% renewable electricity goal. Then we doubled down on that goal with an economy-wide carbon negative goal. And 100% transportation goals. And so on and so forth. We had the debate when at multiple points proposals came before the PUC and Governor Ige to consider LNG imports as part of our energy portfolio and they were rejected.

Since then, the State has done little to invest in energy efficiency or renewable energy access for the working class. Hawaiian Electric has blocked people from getting solar. And the counties have delayed permitting streamlining for both residential and commercial projects. So only the wealthiest have reaped in the benefits of solar while electricity bills for everyone else have continued to rise.

Now, the State Energy Office, Governor, and Hawaiian Electric seem to want to throw in the towel without even showing up to training or fully stepping into the arena. All because a company across the ocean over invested in fossil fuels and is desperate to offload it to us and other countries in the Pacific, knowing that their own climate goals in Japan would prevent them from fully utilizing their gas resource.

This major infrastructure project and investment risks leaving taxpayers and ratepayers with huge stranded assets and a project that will almost certainly take much longer and be much more expensive than projected — just so a few investors, developers, and gas executives can get rich. Do you as legislators really want to be accountable to and responsible for another Rail-style-boondoggle? If the legislature is ready to make an investment in our energy infrastructure, how about allocating money towards energy efficiency and renewables for working class households? Something it has rejected for several years in a row?

150 Hamakua Drive #341  
Kailua, HI 96734

[our-hawaii.org](http://our-hawaii.org)

So, please, in the spirit of energy efficiency — save us all the headache, time, and resources of having this debate again and let's get real about the actual solutions that will move Hawai'i forward towards affordable energy, stable power, and energy sovereignty.

*See attached an analysis from GridLab (<https://gridlab.org/portfolio-item/hawaii-lng/>), an independent research non-profit with technical expertise in grid reliability and transformation, in the severe flaws in HSEO's Alternative Energy Pathways Study (which was not written by an impartial energy office but actually contracted their economic analysis out out to an Oil and Gas consulting firm which specializing only in oil and natural gas markets).*



# 100% Renewable or Fossil Fuel Lock-in?

## WHY LNG IS A CRITICAL MISSTEP

DECEMBER 2025

### Introduction

The State of Hawaii faces a critical decision regarding its energy infrastructure to meet the 100% Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) by 2045. This working paper evaluates the proposal to utilize Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) as a transitional fuel for power generation on Oahu, specifically analyzing 'Alternative 3A' as presented by the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO). This strategy entails significant capital investment, estimated between \$700 million – \$1 billion in import terminals, subsea pipelines, and Floating Storage Regasification Units (FSRU).

The most critical, yet under-analyzed, risk of Alternative 3A (see Appendix A) is the operational incompatibility between large-scale LNG infrastructure and a high-penetration renewable grid. By committing this capital to this specific asset class, the proposal introduces a structural rigidity that directly jeopardizes the 100% RPS.

While the proposal forecasts significant ratepayer savings (Net Present Value of \$867 million), our analysis finds this economic justification relies on highly sensitive volume assumptions and an unrealistic baseline of widespread biofuel conversion.

We argue that the capital expenditure required for LNG infrastructure establishes a 'lock-in' effect, generating perverse incentives to delay renewable deployment. This paper proposes that a direct reallocation of capital toward renewable energy and storage offers a more financially robust and risk-averse pathway to the state's 2045 net-zero goals.

### Underlying Strategic Flaw is the Opportunity Cost

The immediate economic incentive to spend the estimated \$700 million to \$1 billion on the temporary LNG infrastructure is significantly diminished if that capital were instead spent on projects that unlock permanent renewable energy (RE) capacity. The core challenge to RE deployment is no longer financing, as IPPs have demonstrated the ability to secure capital on favorable terms, but rather transmission and permitting bottlenecks.



The leading strategic question is whether the money spent on an import terminal would be better spent on a combination of projects that directly address the grid’s constraints, such as investments in T&D infrastructure to high-renewable zones, maximizing flexibility from current distributed resources (customer solar plus storage), enabling new demand management (managed EV charging), and supporting emerging long-duration energy storage (LDES) solutions. Committing all of the capital now to a time-limited fossil fuel facility risks locking out these more flexible, high-impact opportunities necessary for a true 2045 net-zero grid.

While Alternative 3A forecasts significant ratepayer savings (estimated at \$867 million NPV and 15.2% residential savings), this is contingent on several optimistic assumptions: sustained **high LNG purchases (more than a million tons per annum (mtpa))**, **displacement of expensive planned fuels such as biodiesel**, and **successful future reuse of LNG infrastructure for hydrogen (H2) by 2045**. If contracted volumes drop below this level (e.g., to the 0.4 mtpa range), the unit cost of the LNG skyrockets (regas tariff doubles), severely eroding the economic justification and turning the investment into a financial loss.

**Our review highlights that if any of these conditions are not met, the economic benefits disappear.**

Key Concerns and Risks:

- **Volume Sensitivity:** The most significant risk to Hawaii’s 100% RPS goal embedded within the LNG proposal (particularly Alternative 3A) is the economic necessity of volume lock-in, which is increasingly detached from current energy reality.

The regasification tariff and per-MMBtu cost are highly sensitive to the volume of LNG. The LNG proposal is essentially “**locking in**” the island to fossil fuels, forcing the island to purchase a fixed, large volume of fossil fuel (estimated between 0.7 and 1.0 mtpa) for the next 15 years simply to make the \$700 million infrastructure investment financially viable.

This creates a powerful economic incentive — a “take-or-pay” dilemma to prioritize consuming the expensive contracted LNG over deploying new, zero-fuel-cost renewables. Any gigawatt-hour generated by a new solar farm is a gigawatt-hour not generated by the LNG facility, risking financial penalties and forcing the utility to either slow RE projects or ask ratepayers to cover the cost of unused LNG capacity.

Investing the same capital in renewables today, builds permanent clean capacity that accelerates the energy transition without the burden of long-term fossil fuel procurement obligations.

- **Stranded Asset Risk:** There is a risk that LNG-specific infrastructure will become stranded if the state meets its goals through installing renewables. The LNG infrastructure would be expected to be operational around 2030 (HSEO timeline). By this time, the island grid will have already integrated a significant volume of RE from the current project pipeline, leading to a fundamental collapse in the volume of dispatchable fuel needed
- **High Upfront Costs and Risks:** Large capital expenditures are required for LNG infrastructure (floating regasification unit, subsea pipelines, onshore works), ranging from \$400 –\$700M. Cost overruns, which are common in Hawaii and in today’s uncertain economic environment, can quickly degrade economic viability.
- **Fuel Displacement Assumptions:** The financial viability of LNG, as presented in Alternative 3A, rests on a highly unrealistic and financially flawed premise. The projected savings are largely due to LNG displacing expensive and high volumes of biofuels which are planned but not currently widely used, and some utility-scale solar projects, rather than just less expensive fossil fuels (LSFO). This inflates the perceived benefits, as the LNG is not being compared against today’s baseline. Furthermore, the timeline for delivering measurable fuel cost savings is highly problematic: public promises of immediate cost impact contrast with the analysis showing that fuel could not be delivered until ~2030, and the major financial benefits are speculative and backloaded, accruing only in the final years when mass biofuel conversion is assumed to occur. Overall, the reliance on these speculative savings means the debt-financed LNG project fails to provide the assured, near-term cost relief expected by the public.
- **Optimistic H2 Transition:** The viability of LNG relies heavily on the assumption that its infrastructure can be repurposed for H2 by 2045. However, H2 is currently not commercially viable, and projections indicate green H2 will be significantly more expensive than LNG or even biofuels in 2040. H2 is also notoriously difficult to transport.
- **Regulatory and Permitting Challenges:** The complexities of FSRU charter/purchase, Jones Act concerns<sup>1</sup>, and lengthy permit timelines introduce significant schedule and legal risks.
- **Fuel-Price and Contract Risk:** LNG pricing formulas are susceptible to changes, and fluctuations in oil prices can significantly impact costs.

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<sup>1</sup> The Jones Act prevents foreign-flagged ships from carrying cargo between the contiguous U.S. and certain noncontiguous parts of the U.S., such as Hawaii. [https://www.cbp.gov/sites/default/files/2024-12/Jones%20Act%20ICP\\_Complete\\_04DEC24.pdf](https://www.cbp.gov/sites/default/files/2024-12/Jones%20Act%20ICP_Complete_04DEC24.pdf)

## An Alternative Solution

A \$700m investment directly into renewables instead of LNG infrastructure buys permanent capacity and goes directly to meet 100% Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) goal by 2045, rather than a “bridge infrastructure spend”. The same spend can allow the state to build ~175 MW of new solar capacity paired with 160 MW of 4hr battery energy storage systems (BESS).

In fact, if we include the additional capital requirement of new combustion turbines and combined cycle power plants that are not included in the \$700m estimate, we would have an additional ~\$1b available to transition to solar+BESS.

The HSEO study reference permitting challenges as one of the drivers behind the LNG option. The logic is, that LNG infrastructure could, in theory, be delivered more predictably than the many separate renewable projects facing long permitting queues and interconnection studies. However, if the same permitting streamlining is extended to renewable energy projects then the economics shift significantly. Easing permits makes renewables more viable, and directly challenges the “immediacy” argument for LNG in the HSEO document. If renewable energy projects can be deployed more quickly due to streamlined permitting, the need for LNG as a “firm” dispatchable power source while renewables are being built becomes less urgent and less economically attractive. **The economic incentive to spend \$1b on the temporary LNG infrastructure is significantly diminished, if the ease of permitting is also extended to renewable build out.**

Renewables paired with Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) offer a cleaner, faster, and lower-risk pathway to meet Hawaii’s energy needs and achieve its 100% clean energy goal.

## Conclusions and Recommendations

The analysis suggests that “Alternative 3A” presents a high risk of fossil fuel lock-in. The economic benefits are contingent on delaying renewable deployment to satisfy LNG volume constraints and relying on speculative future fuel prices (Biofuel and Hydrogen).

While LNG is considered a near-term bridge option in some analyses, its economic and environmental benefits are highly risky and subject to substantial risks and uncertainties. LNG infrastructure is characterized by high fixed capital costs and relatively lower marginal fuel costs. To ensure economic viability and amortize the initial capital outlay, the facility requires a high capacity factor, essentially, it must run frequently and at high volumes to keep the unit cost of energy affordable. This economic imperative creates a “must-run” status for fossil fuel generation. In a grid increasingly saturated with variable renewable energy, the ideal backup resource is highly flexible, low capital cost generation that can remain idle when renewable production is high. LNG represents the opposite – it is a high capital asset that penalizes idleness.

Policy makers should consider a “Direct Renewable Investment” scenario. Redirecting the LNG infrastructure capital toward utility-scale solar, BESS, and grid transmission upgrades avoids the volatility of global fuel markets and the risk of stranded assets, providing a more secure pathway to the 100% RPS target.

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### Source Documents:

1. Alternative Fuel, Repowering, and Energy Transition Study, HSEO (Jan 2025)
  2. Testimony of MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer before the House Committee On Energy & Environmental Protection (Mar 2025)
  3. Economics of Accelerating Hawaii's Energy Transition via LNG and other Alternative Fuels, FGE (Aug 2024)
- 

## APPENDIX A

### Background and Assumptions detailed in Alternative 3A:

The implementation of Alternative 3A follows a three-stage operational timeline:

- **Today–2030:** Existing LSFO and biofuels fill the gap.
- **2030–2040:** LNG imports displace LSFO + biodiesel + some solar; LNG infrastructure operates at scale.
- **Post-2040 toward 2045:** Infrastructure assumed to be converted to handle hydrogen (or similar).

Alternative 3A's attractive NPV (~\$867m and 15.2% ratepayer savings) is largely generated by challenging the existing regulatory baseline.

- The dramatic savings are generated by assuming LNG displaces expensive biofuels and solar projects that would otherwise be approved and built under Hawaiian Electric's current plans. The modeling suggests that achieving high cost savings requires displacing some utility scale PV projects. This is why 3A looks much more favorable than Alternative 1A or 2A (where LNG only displaces LSFO). Without that displacement, the savings shrink dramatically (comparable to Alt. 1A with NPV ~ \$150M).
- Renewable Diesel (RD), is shown to cost 190% to 236% the price of LSFO in 2024 (and more in 2040).
- Widespread biofuel use for power generation is misleading. The true comparison should be limited to displacing the current fossil fuel (LSFO) - in which case the benefits will be minimized.
- Assumes the LNG infrastructure can be successfully transitioned to H2 by 2045. Also, FGE report projects Green H2 will cost 284% the price of LSFO in 2040. This extreme cost makes it highly improbable that hydrogen will be the economic fuel of choice for large-scale grid firming by 2045
- The promised reuse of pipelines is partial. The H2 supply chain using ammonia as a carrier requires additional infrastructure (+ more permitting, etc)



Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Francois Rogers, and I represent Blue Planet Foundation, a Hawai‘i-founded non-profit organization working to support islands, states, and nations in achieving 100 percent renewable energy by 2045 through collaborative action.

I hereby respectfully submit this testimony in **strong support of HB1568**.

Scientific consensus clearly establishes that methane has a global warming effect significantly greater than carbon dioxide, particularly over the near term, and that its full lifecycle climate impact can exceed that of coal. Meaningful reductions in methane use during this decade are widely recognized as one of the most effective strategies for mitigating the most severe and irreversible impacts of climate change.

In this context, proposals advanced by the Hawai‘i State Energy Office to expand the use of liquefied natural gas (LNG) as a “bridge fuel” raise serious concern, particularly in the absence of a defined, enforceable pathway to transition away from LNG and toward renewable energy. Further concern arises from the State’s Strategic Partnering Agreement with JERA, which would obligate Hawai‘i electricity customers to underwrite new fossil fuel infrastructure needed through their utility rates while positioning Hawai‘i as a platform for LNG expansion throughout the Pacific region. Such actions are inconsistent with Hawai‘i’s longstanding commitment to climate leadership, environmental stewardship, and intergenerational responsibility.

LNG infrastructure represents a substantial long-term financial and policy commitment. Large-scale capital investments—estimated in the billions of dollars—carry significant risk of cost overruns and expose ratepayers to ongoing expenses associated with fuel price volatility, maintenance, and operational disruptions. As renewable energy deployment continues to accelerate and costs decline, LNG facilities risk becoming underutilized or stranded assets, leaving customers responsible for infrastructure that no longer serves the State’s energy or climate objectives.

Hawai‘i is well positioned to meet its energy needs without further investment in fossil fuel infrastructure. The State benefits from a diverse and mature renewable energy portfolio that includes solar, wind, geothermal, hydropower, energy storage, distributed generation, and grid modernization technologies. These resources can support a reliable, resilient, and affordable electrical system while reducing dependence on imported fuels. The experience of Kaua‘i, which has achieved periods of 100 percent renewable energy with competitive rates and improved reliability, demonstrates that this transition is both feasible and practical.

Hawai‘i’s commitment to achieving 100 percent renewable electricity has also established the State as a trusted leader and model for other island jurisdictions and regions facing similar climate and economic vulnerabilities. Retreating from this commitment would undermine that leadership and weaken the credibility of Hawai‘i’s clean energy example at a critical time.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS HB1568** and to reaffirm Hawai'i's commitment to a clean, reliable, and sustainable energy future that protects current and future generations.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your consideration of this important measure.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Francois Rogers', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Francois Rogers  
Interim Executive Director

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 2:40:14 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONG OPPOSE!

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 4:22:55 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Perle Besserman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Perle Besserman and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1568**.

Climate experts agree: with a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, and with a lifecycle climate impact worse than coal, we must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade. Doing so may be the best and only way to buy us desperately needed time, before the climate crisis spirals beyond our control.

Despite this, the Hawai‘i State Energy Office has put forward a short-sighted proposal for Hawai‘i to embrace methane, or liquified natural gas (LNG), as a “temporary” “bridge” fuel, with no specific strategy to transition to a renewable alternative by 2045. To make matters worse, the Governor has signed a “Strategic Partnering Agreement” with fossil fuel giant JERA, to force O‘ahu’s HECO customers to invest in this planet-destroying corporation through their electrical bills - and with the vision of using Hawai‘i to market LNG to other Pacific nations. In other words, Hawai‘i is poised to lead Oceania in accelerating the end of humanity, and humankind as we know it.

This measure may be the only way to ensure the Governor and Hawai‘i State Energy Office cease and desist in their efforts to bring LNG to Hawai‘i, and to other places far beyond our shores.

To be clear, cost overruns alone for the proposed \$2B LNG infrastructure investment could leave HECO customers on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars or more; maintenance issues, human error, or a hurricane, earthquake, or fire - like we’ve seen as recently as [this past Tuesday](#) - would make the financial consequences even worse.

However, the true costs of the current Hawai‘i-JERA proposal - to have us embrace LNG, and market this fossil fuel to nations far and wide - would be immeasurable.

This bill may be the only way to ensure that Hawai‘i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path of existential destruction – a path that may condemn our children and grandchildren to a future of unthinkable devastation.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure.

Sincerely,

Perle Besserman

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 6:17:26 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marcia Kemble	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of HB1568. It is imperative that we move away from all types of fossil fuels and toward renewable energy systems. We have the technologies to do it and they are improving all the time. Clean renewable energy will obviously be much better for the environment and it will also reduce the dangerous dependence Hawaii has on outside sources to get energy.

Mahalo for your attention.

Marcia Kemble

Makiki

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 7:04:55 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ann Dorsey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge you to support HB1568, which prohibits the use of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) as an energy source for Hawai'i. LNG is derived from fossil fuels and emits greenhouse gases. We must transition away from fossil fuel use to clean renewable energy ASAP, to have a livable future.

Please help make our future better by passing HB1568.

Thank you

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 7:40:45 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jacob Wiencek	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

This bill places unnecessary and onerous restrictions on being flexible with our energy mix. While I strongly support our broader clean energy/economy transition, it is clear the transition is troubled. We are not bringing enough renewables online to reduce energy costs and increase our energy abundance. Natural gas is a cleaner fossil fuel that should be added to our energy mix. We've got to get prices down and buy more time to build out our renewable transition.

Therefore, I **STRONGLY** urge this committee to **OPPOSE** HB1568!

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 8:38:49 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Ho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the House Energy and Economic Planning Committee:

I wish to advocate strongly for passage of HB1568.

**HB 1568:**

- a) bans the importation or storage of methane-based liquified natural gas, or “LNG.”**
- b) Prohibits the development of infrastructure to deliver and burn LNG, and**
- c) Prohibits the issuance of permits to otherwise allow LNG to become Hawai‘i’s next fossil fuel addiction.**

These three prohibitions would accomplish what Hawai‘i absolutely needs to do, if we are to have any hope of ensuring that Hawai‘i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path of existential destruction.

LNG is primarily composed of methane—a harmful greenhouse gas that is more than eighty times more powerful at trapping heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide.

The huge dangers of METHANE cannot be emphasized enough. Every stage of the LNG production life cycle leaks massive amounts of climate-killing methane emissions into the atmosphere.

It scares me to hear that Gov. Green has signed an agreement with JERA, a Japanese methane supplier long accused by watchdog organizations of greenwashing, market manipulation, predatory business practices and ignoring concerns from those living near its projects. This should be a major concern for all who call Hawai‘i home.

I appeal to this committee to resoundingly reject the use of Liquid Natural Gas as a "bridge" solution for our energy needs. Please pass HB1568!!!

Mahalo nui,

Cheryl O. Ho, Nu‘uanu



**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 9:39:23 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
kevin landers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

Respectfully, it's difficult to have confidence in government when LNG is being revisited after 10 years. I hope lawmakers will remember Governor Ige's leadership from then and pass this ban.

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 12:07:21 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter Wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Peter Wilson and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1568**.

Climate experts agree: with a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, and with a lifecycle climate impact worse than coal, we must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade. Doing so may be the best and only way to buy us desperately needed time, before the climate crisis spirals beyond our control.

Despite this, the Hawai‘i State Energy Office has put forward a short-sighted proposal for Hawai‘i to embrace methane, or liquified natural gas (LNG), as a “temporary” “bridge” fuel, with no specific strategy to transition to a renewable alternative by 2045. To make matters worse, the Governor has signed a “Strategic Partnering Agreement” with fossil fuel giant JERA, to force O‘ahu’s HECO customers to invest in this planet-destroying corporation through their electrical bills - and with the vision of using Hawai‘i to market LNG to other Pacific nations. In other words, Hawai‘i is poised to lead Oceania in accelerating the end of humanity, and humankind as we know it.

This measure may be the only way to ensure the Governor and Hawai‘i State Energy Office cease and desist in their efforts to bring LNG to Hawai‘i, and to other places far beyond our shores.

To be clear, cost overruns alone for the proposed \$2B LNG infrastructure investment could leave HECO customers on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars or more; maintenance issues, human error, or a hurricane, earthquake, or fire - like we’ve seen as recently as [this past Tuesday](#) - would make the financial consequences even worse.

However, the true costs of the current Hawai‘i-JERA proposal - to have us embrace LNG, and market this fossil fuel to nations far and wide - would be immeasurable.

This bill may be the only way to ensure that Hawai‘i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path of existential destruction – a path that may condemn our children and grandchildren to a future of unthinkable devastation.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure.

Sincerely,  
Peter Wilson

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 12:08:37 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bo Breda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Bo Breda and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1568**.

Climate experts agree: with a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, and with a lifecycle climate impact worse than coal, we must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade. Doing so may be the best and only way to buy us desperately needed time, before the climate crisis spirals beyond our control.

Despite this, the Hawai‘i State Energy Office has put forward a short-sighted proposal for Hawai‘i to embrace methane, or liquified natural gas (LNG), as a “temporary” “bridge” fuel, with no specific strategy to transition to a renewable alternative by 2045. To make matters worse, the Governor has signed a “Strategic Partnering Agreement” with fossil fuel giant JERA, to force O‘ahu’s HECO customers to invest in this planet-destroying corporation through their electrical bills - and with the vision of using Hawai‘i to market LNG to other Pacific nations. In other words, Hawai‘i is poised to lead Oceania in accelerating the end of humanity, and humankind as we know it.

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However, the true costs of the current Hawai‘i-JERA proposal - to have us embrace LNG, and market this fossil fuel to nations far and wide - would be immeasurable.

This bill may be the only way to ensure that Hawai‘i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path of existential destruction – a path that may condemn our children and grandchildren to a future of unthinkable devastation.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure.

Sincerely,  
Bo Breda

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 7:57:24 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joan Heller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

NO liquid natural gas development or infrastructure build-ups on these islands whether for commercial or military use!

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 8:26:29 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kealii Pang. I am a retired federal biologist from Kaimukī, Hawai‘i, with thirty-six years of experience working in Hawaiian and Pacific ecosystems, including research in Hawaiian ethnobotany. I offer this testimony from a perspective grounded in the long-term health of our islands' life support systems. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1568.

The scientific consensus is unequivocal. Methane, marketed as "natural gas" or LNG, is a super-pollutant with a global warming potential over 80 times that of carbon dioxide in the near term. Its full lifecycle climate impact can be worse than coal. Dramatically reducing methane emissions this decade is not just one option among many; it is a critical, time-sensitive action to slow feedback loops and buy our species the time we desperately need to adapt. To embrace it as a "bridge" is to light a fuse on a bridge we are still crossing.

It is therefore both scientifically baffling and morally shortsighted that the Hawai‘i State Energy Office would propose LNG as a "temporary" fuel without a binding, enforceable strategy to transition \*off\* of it well before 2045. Furthermore, the Governor’s “Strategic Partnering Agreement” with the fossil fuel conglomerate JERA is a profound betrayal of our kuleana. It forces O‘ahu’s families and businesses to finance, through their electric bills, a planet-destroying corporation. Perhaps most egregious is the stated vision to use Hawai‘i as a showcase to market LNG to other vulnerable Pacific nations. Instead of leading our Pacific ‘ohna toward resilience and renewable energy independence, this policy positions Hawai‘i to lead Oceania in accelerating a climate catastrophe that threatens the very foundations of island life and culture.

My work in ethnobotany has taught me that traditional Hawaiian knowledge is built upon observations over millennia—understanding interconnections, cause and effect, and the necessity of pono balance. The current proposal ignores all these lessons. It severs the connection between action (investing in fossil gas) and consequence (climate disruption). It creates dangerous dependencies instead of fostering resilience. It is the opposite of pono.

HB1568 is a necessary circuit breaker. Financially, the proposed \$2 billion LNG infrastructure is a massive gamble. As we were reminded this past Tuesday with the fires, our islands are vulnerable to hurricane, earthquake, and wildfire. Cost overruns, accidents, or a single disaster could leave ratepayers liable for hundreds of millions, all for a stranded asset we must abandon to meet our own climate laws.

But the true, immeasurable cost is to our future. To our mo‘opuna’s ability to grow kalo in flowing streams, to fish in healthy reefs, to live in a stable climate. This bill may be our last, best chance to ensure Hawai‘i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lock us—and our Pacific neighbors—onto a path of existential destruction.

As a scientist and a kama‘āina who has spent a lifetime studying how life persists in these islands, I respectfully but with great urgency implore you to PASS HB1568. E mālama i ka ‘āina, for it is the ‘āina that mālama us.

Mahalo nui loa,  
Kealii Pang, Ph.D.  
Kaimukī, Hawai‘i

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 11:27:04 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANDREW ISODA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

--LNG threatens our safety not just through greenhouse gas emissions, pollution, but also explosions and fires that directly threaten the health and lives of workers and nearby communities. We can and must move to safer energy sources, and stop wasting taxpayers' money on outdated, destructive fossil fuel infrastructure. It's time we phase out fossil gas for good, let's start by passing HB1568 and banning all LNG projects in Hawai'i now!

-- According to leading scientific consensus, there is no room for new fossil fuel projects, including those that use LNG, if we are to combat the climate crisis. I strongly support HB1568 that reaffirms Hawai'i's commitment to reject energy sources, like LNG, found to be harmful or destabilizing to our climate system and environment.

--LNG isn't a clean solution—it's a dangerous fossil fuel that puts our health, environment, and future at risk, while locking us into outdated systems that our communities will end up paying for. To be clear, cost overruns alone for the proposed \$2B LNG infrastructure investment could leave HECO customers on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars or more; maintenance issues, human error, or a hurricane, earthquake, or fire - like we've seen as recently as this past Tuesday - would make the financial consequences even worse. Why would we want to invest *billions* into more fossil fuel infrastructure, infrastructure that will be obsolete by 2045 when the state must achieve 100% renewable energy?

--LNG is primarily composed of methane—a harmful greenhouse gas that is more than eighty times more powerful at trapping heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide. Every stage of the LNG production life cycle leaks massive amounts of climate-killing methane emissions into the atmosphere.

--LNG is extremely harmful to the environment and the communities that live near extraction sites. LNG poisons clean water, air, and soil, and poses unacceptable health hazards to farmers and communities that live near LNG fracking operations, with numerous reports linking fracking activities to birth defects, cancer, and asthma.

--In the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) report that proposes importing LNG to Hawai'i, British Columbia (BC) was identified as the likely source for the LNG, despite the fact that studies have found that the LNG boom is threatening the whale population near BC, due to the increased tanker traffic from the LNG export terminal that happens to be located near critical whale habitat for mom-calf pairs, and where whales are killed from ship strikes every year.

--Investing in LNG would be a costly diversion from Hawai'i achieving our clean energy goals. While being touted that it would "lower costs and build resilience," LNG would actually do the opposite. Price volatility of LNG is a well-established fact. Relying on imports for our energy, as we've already painfully learned, only increases our vulnerability to global market shocks.

--Importing LNG goes against Hawai'i's values and the importance we place on our responsibility to be good stewards and respect the natural environment. Dirty LNG has no place in Hawai'i's clean energy future. I urge you to pass HB1568, reject LNG, and commit to truly clean, renewable energy and the values of Hawaii's residents.

Mahalo,  
Andrew Isoda  
Lahaina, Mau'i

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 11:29:53 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
brett gobar	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii is the best candidate to take advantage of solar and wind energy and we will never need LNG. LNG is a disaster for the planet and is super expensive and Hawaiians are already living in the most expensive state in the United States. Hawaiian legislators are testifying in US Congress about how expensive it is to live here pay attention to your constituents not the oil and gas industry lobby.

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 11:38:46 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Importing LNG not only undermines Hawaii's clean energy mandate by burning fossil fuels instead of ramping up renewable energy - it also requires a massive investment in infrastructure that will lock Hawaii into burning this extremely climate-damaging fossil fuel for decades to come, and, of course, keeps us dependent upon external sources of energy that must be imported by ship. For a fraction of the cost of developing new port facilities, storage tanks, and other infrastructure to accommodate LNG, which will inevitably leak dangerous methane into our atmosphere, we could instead invest in pumped storage infrastructure to safely, and locally, store energy produced locally by solar and wind. This could be combined with additional wells to provide for our growing water needs while saving on the energy costs to pump that water. Or it could be invested in geothermal exploration and development, which could potentially provide reliable, firm, carbon-free energy for many decades into the future. I strongly support HB1568.

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 11:41:21 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
irene kloepfer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. If we are serious about savings our islands from disasters of climate change then we have to start making critical changes now. I urge you to Pass this bill prohibiting LNG (there is nothing natural about this gas). Nor is it clean. Mahalo

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 1:19:03 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jodi Robinson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jodi Robinson and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1568**.

Climate experts agree: with a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, and with a lifecycle climate impact worse than coal, we must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade. Doing so may be the best and only way to buy us desperately needed time, before the climate crisis spirals beyond our control.

Despite this, the Hawai‘i State Energy Office has put forward a short-sighted proposal for Hawai‘i to embrace methane, or liquified natural gas (LNG), as a “temporary” “bridge” fuel, with no specific strategy to transition to a renewable alternative by 2045. To make matters worse, the Governor has signed a “Strategic Partnering Agreement” with fossil fuel giant JERA, to force O‘ahu’s HECO customers to invest in this planet-destroying corporation through their electrical bills - and with the vision of using Hawai‘i to market LNG to other Pacific nations. In other words, Hawai‘i is poised to lead Oceania in accelerating the end of humanity, and humankind as we know it.

This measure may be the only way to ensure the Governor and Hawai‘i State Energy Office cease and desist in their efforts to bring LNG to Hawai‘i, and to other places far beyond our shores.

To be clear, cost overruns alone for the proposed \$2B LNG infrastructure investment could leave HECO customers on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars or more; maintenance issues, human error, or a hurricane, earthquake, or fire - like we’ve seen as recently as [this past Tuesday](#) - would make the financial consequences even worse.

However, the true costs of the current Hawai‘i-JERA proposal - to have us embrace LNG, and market this fossil fuel to nations far and wide - would be immeasurable.

This bill may be the only way to ensure that Hawai‘i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path of existential destruction – a path that may condemn our children and grandchildren to a future of unthinkable devastation.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure.



**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 3:57:01 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Roger Hamada	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1568.

I believe that, while liquified natural gas is touted as a relatively cheap and cleaner alternative while Hawaii transitions away from fossil-fuel reliant energy generation, it is a dangerous alternative.

There are a number of dangers associated with LNG including to communities near LNG facilities, risks associated with its extraction and refinement. But most concerning to me is the leaking of methane into the atmosphere at every stage of the LNG production life cycle. We know that methane traps more than 80% more heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide!

It seems to me that this fact alone undermines the whole reason Hawaii is committed to 100% green energy. Importing LNG to Hawaii therefore seems hypocritical.

Thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony.

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 3:59:12 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christy Shaver	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christy Shaver from Lahaina, and I am writng in **strong support of HB1568**—as a community member, a resident of Hawai‘i, and someone deeply concerned about the health and future of our people.

I am not speaking about climate change in the abstract. I live with its impacts. Like many in Hawai‘i, I have witnessed firsthand how climate-driven disasters—wildfires, extreme heat, drought, and poor air quality—are already harming our communities. These impacts are not only environmental; they are **public health emergencies**.

Methane is not a “clean” or “temporary” solution. It has a global warming potential more than 80 times greater than carbon dioxide over the short term, and its full lifecycle climate impact is worse than coal. Continued reliance on methane accelerates the very conditions that increase respiratory illness, cardiovascular disease, heat-related illness, and mental health stress—especially for kūpuna, children, and those with preexisting conditions. After fires, floods, and extreme heat events, we see spikes in asthma, anxiety, displacement-related trauma, and long-term community health decline.

Despite this reality, the Hawai‘i State Energy Office has proposed liquefied natural gas (LNG) as a so-called “bridge fuel,” without a clear or enforceable pathway to renewables. The Governor’s Strategic Partnering Agreement with JERA further deepens this concern, forcing O‘ahu ratepayers to financially support a fossil fuel corporation while positioning Hawai‘i as a testing ground—and marketing hub—for LNG expansion across the Pacific.

This is not just a climate issue. It is a **health, equity, and intergenerational justice issue**.

The proposed LNG infrastructure—estimated at \$2 billion—poses serious financial risks to ratepayers. Cost overruns, maintenance failures, or damage from hurricanes, earthquakes, or wildfires would only compound the burden. But the true cost cannot be measured in dollars alone. It would be measured in worsened health outcomes, increased medical costs, community displacement, and irreversible harm to our children’s future.

HB1568 represents a critical opportunity to say no—to stop Hawai‘i from locking itself into decades more of fossil fuel dependence and from exporting that harm to other island nations already on the frontlines of climate change.

For the health of our people, the protection of our ‘āina, and the future of generations yet to come, I respectfully and strongly urge the Committee to **PASS HB1568**.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Warm regards,  
Christy

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 4:04:13 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Shay Chan Hodges. I am a co-founder of the Upcountry Energy Resilience Project and a co-founder of the #PowerBack Project, two initiatives that support energy resilience in Hawaii and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1568.

Climate experts agree: with a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, and with a lifecycle climate impact worse than coal, we must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade. Doing so may be the best and only way to buy us desperately needed time, before the climate crisis spirals beyond our control.

Despite this, the Hawai‘i State Energy Office has put forward a short-sighted proposal for Hawai‘i to embrace methane, or liquified natural gas (LNG), as a “temporary” “bridge” fuel, with no specific strategy to transition to a renewable alternative by 2045. To make matters worse, the Governor has signed a “Strategic Partnering Agreement” with fossil fuel giant JERA, to force O‘ahu’s HECO customers to invest in this planet-destroying corporation through their electrical bills - and with the vision of using Hawai‘i to market LNG to other Pacific nations. In other words, Hawai‘i is poised to lead Oceania in accelerating the end of humanity, and humankind as we know it.

This measure may be the only way to ensure the Governor and Hawai‘i State Energy Office cease and desist in their efforts to bring LNG to Hawai‘i, and to other places far beyond our shores.

To be clear, cost overruns alone for the proposed \$2B LNG infrastructure investment could leave HECO customers on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars or more; maintenance issues, human error, or a hurricane, earthquake, or fire - like we've seen as recently as [this past Tuesday](#) - would make the financial consequences even worse.

However, the true costs of the current Hawai‘i-JERA proposal - to have us embrace LNG, and market this fossil fuel to nations far and wide - would be immeasurable.

This bill may be the only way to ensure that Hawai‘i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path of existential destruction – a path that may condemn our children and grandchildren to a future of unthinkable devastation.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to PASS this measure.

Sincerely, Shay Chan Hodges

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 4:32:55 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John Aeto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I can NOT believe with the high cost of housing, taxation and all the imported goods that are shipped it - that add to expense of everyday goods. That we would consider taking anything off the table to help make our already highest electricity rates in the country even higher!!!

We need access to every and all energy solutions.

When you took outlawed coal, my electric bill increased almost 30%. I am all for clean energy, but we cant do it at any cost to the rate payer.

Our Native Hawaiian people are leaving thier homelands because of the cost of living and electricity is one the driving forces of that high costs.

Please vote no on HB 1568- No, No , No

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 4:57:12 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura E Morihara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Regarding LNG, I am concerned about safety due to potential LNG vapor leakage and potential fire/explosion hazard.

I am concerned about the extremely high methane production from LNG and it's huge effect on greenhouse gases. This further promotes detrimental climate change.

I am also concerned about our continued reliance on fossil fuel products. Importing our energy just makes Hawaii more dependent and less self-sufficient.

Cost overruns, which will likely happen, will leave Hawaii consumers paying an enormous bill for many years to come. And, with our State's pledge for 100% renewable energy in 2045 - just 19 years from now - this will make LNG unneeded, at great financial cost to the State of Hawaii. I see LNG as an enormous financial boondoggle.

LNG, and the fracking that is required to obtain it, will pose serious health risks to nearby communities and result in pollution to air, water and soil.

I hope that with your support of this bill, Hawaii can look to safer, clean and proven energy sources.

Mahalo.

Laura Morihara

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 5:13:33 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pamela burrell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha House Members,

**LNG has a larger greenhouse gas footprint than coal.**

Please don't spend time and money on a energy profile that takes us backwards!

Thank you for supporting this measure.

Regards,

pamela burrell, Kalihiwai, Kaua'i

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 6:17:48 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bonnie Fraser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Once we build long-tem LNG infrastructure, we're stuck paying for it, and using it, for decades. That makes it much harder to shift to clean energy later, even if (when) better options become available.

This isn't about turning off the lights tomorrow. It's about not making expensive, long-lasting decisions that box us in and raise costs for customers down the line.

Hawai'i has said it wants a clean energy future. Building new fossil fuel systems without a clear exit plan works against that goal and shifts the risk onto everyday people through their power bills.

This bill is about slowing down and asking: does this investment still make sense ten or twenty years from now?

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 6:58:44 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorna Holmes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this measure to keep us on track toward a clean energy future. Why would we want to invest *billions* into more fossil fuel infrastructure, infrastructure that will be obsolete by 2045 when the state must achieve 100% renewable energy?

LNG is primarily composed of methane—a harmful greenhouse gas that is more than eighty times more powerful at trapping heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide. Every stage of the LNG production life cycle leaks massive amounts of climate-killing methane emissions into the atmosphere.

It is extremely harmful to the environment and the communities that live near extraction sites. LNG poisons clean water, air, and soil, and poses unacceptable health hazards to farmers and communities that live near LNG fracking operations, with numerous reports linking fracking activities to birth defects, cancer, and asthma. Please say no to LNG.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Dr. Lorna Holmes, Mo'ili'ili 96826

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 7:03:03 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Renee Hall	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Relating to Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)

Support

I am writing in strong support of HB1568.

Hawai‘i families are already burdened by some of the highest costs of living in the nation. Expanding liquefied natural gas (LNG) infrastructure would lock our state into volatile fuel prices, environmental risk, and long-term dependence on imported fossil fuels — all of which ultimately increase household costs and threaten public health.

HB1568 takes a responsible, forward-looking approach by stopping new LNG contracts and permitting, protecting families from unpredictable price swings and pollution while keeping Hawai‘i aligned with its clean energy goals. This bill prioritizes affordability, community health, and long-term energy resilience rather than short-term fixes that create deeper problems down the road.

A just and sustainable energy future is essential for working families, keiki, and future generations. I respectfully urge you to pass HB1568 and continue moving Hawai‘i toward cleaner, safer, and more stable energy solutions.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 7:10:16 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Benjamin Narwold	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

LNG threatens our safety not just through greenhouse gas emissions, pollution, but also explosions and fires that directly threaten the health and lives of workers and nearby communities. We can and must move to safer energy sources, and stop wasting taxpayers' money on outdated, destructive fossil fuel infrastructure. It's time we phase out fossil gas for good, let's start by passing HB1568 and banning all LNG projects in Hawai'i now!

Mahalo,

Benjamin Narwold, Kapaa, Hawaii

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 7:56:22 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Star Carlin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

We need clean and safe energy sources in Hawaii. LNG is not clean or safe and takes us down the wrong road. At this time it is Important for Hawaii to be a leader in clean energy solutions rather than adopt regressive policies. Fossil fuels are not the answer for today or tomorrow. Please look ahead to a more positive future for our state.

Respectfully,

Star Carlin

Mountain View, Hawaii

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 8:26:14 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kathy Shimata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

LNG isn't a "clean" solution—it's a volatile fossil fuel that puts our health, environment, and future at risk, while locking us into outdated systems that our communities will end up paying for. To be clear, cost overruns alone for the proposed \$2B LNG infrastructure investment could leave HECO customers on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars or more; maintenance issues, human error, or a hurricane, earthquake, or fire - like we've seen as recently as this past Tuesday - would make the financial consequences even worse. Why would we want to invest *billions* into more fossil fuel infrastructure, infrastructure that will be obsolete by 2045 when the state must achieve 100% renewable energy?

I urge you to support HB1568.

Mahalo,

Kathy Shimata

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 9:25:15 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Georgia L Hoopes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members!

LNG threatens our safety not just through greenhouse gas emissions, pollution, but also explosions and fires that directly threaten the health and lives of workers and nearby communities. We can and must move to safer energy sources, and stop wasting taxpayers' money on outdated, destructive fossil fuel infrastructure. It's time we phase out fossil gas for good, let's start by passing HB1568 and banning all LNG projects in Hawai'i now!

-- According to leading scientific consensus, there is no room for new fossil fuel projects, including those that use LNG, if we are to combat the climate crisis. I strongly support HB1568 that reaffirms Hawai'i's commitment to reject energy sources, like LNG, found to be harmful or destabilizing to our climate system and environment.

--LNG isn't a clean solution—it's a dangerous fossil fuel that puts our health, environment, and future at risk, while locking us into outdated systems that our communities will end up paying for. To be clear, cost overruns alone for the proposed \$2B LNG infrastructure investment could leave HECO customers on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars or more; maintenance issues, human error, or a hurricane, earthquake, or fire - like we've seen as recently as [this past Tuesday](#) - would make the financial consequences even worse. Why would we want to invest *billions* into more fossil fuel infrastructure, infrastructure that will be obsolete by 2045 when the state must achieve 100% renewable energy?

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--LNG is extremely harmful to the environment and the communities that live near extraction sites. LNG poisons clean water, air, and soil, and poses unacceptable health hazards to farmers and communities that live near LNG fracking operations, with numerous reports linking fracking activities to birth defects, cancer, and asthma.

--In the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) report that proposes importing LNG to Hawai'i, British Columbia (BC) was identified as the likely source for the LNG, despite the fact that studies have found that the LNG boom is threatening the whale population near BC, due to the

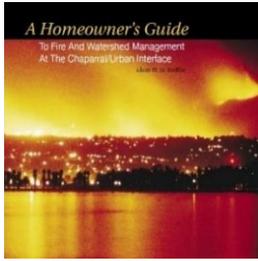
increased tanker traffic from the LNG export terminal that happens to be located near critical whale habitat for mom-calf pairs, and where whales are killed from ship strikes every year.

--Investing in LNG would be a costly diversion from Hawai'i achieving our clean energy goals. While being touted that it would "lower costs and build resilience," LNG would actually do the opposite. Price volatility of LNG is a well-established fact. Relying on imports for our energy, as we've already painfully learned, only increases our vulnerability to global market shocks.

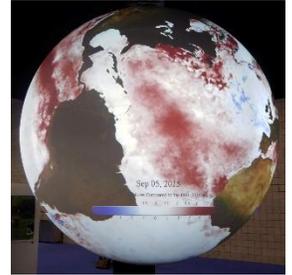
--Importing LNG goes against Hawai'i's values and the importance we place on our responsibility to be good stewards and respect the natural environment. Dirty LNG has no place in Hawai'i's clean energy future. I urge you to pass HB1568, reject LNG, and commit to truly clean, renewable energy and the values of Hawaii's residents.

Mahalo for supporting HB1568!

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo



From the Desk of Klaus Radtke, Ph.D. (U.C. Berkeley)  
Wildland Resource Sciences  
Fire-, Vegetation-, Watershed Management  
Disaster Mitigation  
[www.firesafetyus.com](http://www.firesafetyus.com) <http://cmislr.org>  
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February 10, 2026

Aloha Chair Lowen, Members of the House Energy and Environmental Protection Committee

Re: HB1568 (It prevents LNG from becoming Hawaii's next fossil fuel)

I strongly support HB1568.

Has Climate Science not documented that methane (exported as liquified natural gas=LNG) heats up our planet 80 times faster than carbon dioxide and that we must greatly reduce its use everywhere now to still save a habitable planet earth for everyone (*without nature we will die*)? Why are we ignoring this for perceived short-term financial gains while also encouraging the spread of LNG to other Pacific Nations throughout Oceania? Do we really care for the earth and a meaningful future for our children?

Let us all work together for the common good.

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 12:32:32 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

LNG threatens our safety not just through greenhouse gas emissions, pollution, but also explosions and fires that directly threaten the health and lives of workers and nearby communities. We can and must move to safer energy sources, and stop wasting taxpayers' money on outdated, destructive fossil fuel infrastructure. It's time we phase out fossil gas for good, let's start by passing HB1568 and banning all LNG projects in Hawai'i now!

-- According to leading scientific consensus, there is no room for new fossil fuel projects, including those that use LNG, if we are to combat the climate crisis. I strongly support HB1568 that reaffirms Hawai'i's commitment to reject energy sources, like LNG, found to be harmful or destabilizing to our climate system and environment.

--LNG isn't a clean solution—it's a dangerous fossil fuel that puts our health, environment, and future at risk, while locking us into outdated systems that our communities will end up paying for. To be clear, cost overruns alone for the proposed \$2B LNG infrastructure investment could leave HECO customers on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars or more; maintenance issues, human error, or a hurricane, earthquake, or fire - like we've seen as recently as this past Tuesday - would make the financial consequences even worse. Why would we want to invest *billions* into more fossil fuel infrastructure, infrastructure that will be obsolete by 2045 when the state must achieve 100% renewable energy?

--LNG is primarily composed of methane—a harmful greenhouse gas that is more than eighty times more powerful at trapping heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide. Every stage of the LNG production life cycle leaks massive amounts of climate-killing methane emissions into the atmosphere.

--LNG is extremely harmful to the environment and the communities that live near extraction sites. LNG poisons clean water, air, and soil, and poses unacceptable health hazards to farmers and communities that live near LNG fracking operations, with numerous reports linking fracking activities to birth defects, cancer, and asthma.

--In the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) report that proposes importing LNG to Hawai'i, British Columbia (BC) was identified as the likely source for the LNG, despite the fact that studies have found that the LNG boom is threatening the whale population near BC, due to the increased tanker traffic from the LNG export terminal that happens to be located near critical whale habitat for mom-calf pairs, and where whales are killed from ship strikes every year.

--Investing in LNG would be a costly diversion from Hawai'i achieving our clean energy goals. While being touted that it would "lower costs and build resilience," LNG would actually do the opposite. Price volatility of LNG is a well-established fact. Relying on imports for our energy, as we've already painfully learned, only increases our vulnerability to global market shocks.

--Importing LNG goes against Hawai'i's values and the importance we place on our responsibility to be good stewards and respect the natural environment. Dirty LNG has no place in Hawai'i's clean energy future. I urge you to pass HB1568, reject LNG, and commit to truly clean, renewable energy and the values of Hawai'i's residents.

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 8:22:03 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J. Kehau Lucas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,**

**I strongly support HB1568.**

Methane—the primary component of liquefied natural gas (LNG)—poses a serious and well-documented climate risk. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, methane has a global warming potential approximately 80 times greater than carbon dioxide over a 20-year period. Because methane leaks occur throughout extraction, processing, transport, and combustion, multiple peer-reviewed studies have concluded that LNG’s full lifecycle climate impact can rival or exceed that of coal. For this reason, climate scientists widely agree that rapid reductions in methane emissions this decade are essential to avoiding the most severe climate outcomes.

Despite this scientific consensus, the Hawai‘i State Energy Office has advanced proposals that would increase the state’s reliance on LNG as a so-called “bridge fuel,” without a clearly defined or enforceable pathway to transition off methane consistent with Hawai‘i’s statutory 100% renewable energy goal by 2045. Long-lived fossil fuel infrastructure built today risks locking the state into decades of continued emissions, undermining both climate targets and energy independence.

In addition to climate concerns, LNG presents significant financial risks for Hawai‘i ratepayers. Proposed LNG infrastructure investments—estimated in the billions of dollars—would likely be recovered through utility rates. Cost overruns, fuel price volatility, maintenance expenses, and disaster-related disruptions pose substantial risk to consumers, particularly in a state already facing high electricity costs. Hawai‘i’s geographic isolation also heightens supply chain vulnerability, increasing exposure to global market shocks.

Further, recent state actions, including strategic partnerships with large international fossil fuel companies, raise concerns that Hawai‘i may be positioning itself not only as a consumer of LNG, but as a regional advocate for its expansion. This approach conflicts with Hawai‘i’s stated climate leadership and undermines efforts to support clean, locally controlled renewable energy solutions across the Pacific.

HB1568 provides a critical safeguard to ensure that Hawai‘i does not invest in new fossil fuel infrastructure that is incompatible with climate science, fiscal prudence, and the state’s clean

energy commitments. The bill helps prevent the long-term locking-in of methane dependence and protects ratepayers from avoidable financial and environmental harm.

Hawai‘i has the opportunity—and responsibility—to align its energy decisions with scientific evidence, economic reality, and the well-being of future generations. For these reasons, I respectfully and strongly urge the Committee to **pass HB1568**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha ‘āina,

J Kēhau Lucas

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 9:21:17 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharde Freitas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sharde Freitas and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1568.

Climate experts agree: with a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, and with a lifecycle climate impact worse than coal, we must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade. Doing so may be the best and only way to buy us desperately needed time, before the climate crisis spirals beyond our control.

Despite this, the Hawai‘i State Energy Office has put forward a short-sighted proposal for Hawai‘i to embrace methane, or liquified natural gas (LNG), as a “temporary” “bridge” fuel, with no specific strategy to transition to a renewable alternative by 2045. To make matters worse, the Governor has signed a “Strategic Partnering Agreement” with fossil fuel giant JERA, to force O‘ahu’s HECO customers to invest in this planet-destroying corporation through their electrical bills - and with the vision of using Hawai‘i to market LNG to other Pacific nations. In other words, Hawai‘i is poised to lead Oceania in accelerating the end of humanity, and humankind as we know it.

This measure may be the only way to ensure the Governor and Hawai‘i State Energy Office cease and desist in their efforts to bring LNG to Hawai‘i, and to other places far beyond our shores.

To be clear, cost overruns alone for the proposed \$2B LNG infrastructure investment could leave HECO customers on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars or more; maintenance issues, human error, or a hurricane, earthquake, or fire - like we've seen as recently as [this past Tuesday](#) - would make the financial consequences even worse.

However, the true costs of the current Hawai‘i-JERA proposal - to have us embrace LNG, and market this fossil fuel to nations far and wide - would be immeasurable.

This bill may be the only way to ensure that Hawai‘i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path of existential destruction – a path that may condemn our children and grandchildren to a future of unthinkable devastation.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to PASS this measure.

Sincerely,

Sharde Freitas

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 9:56:31 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ron Brown	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill which is also supported by 350.org. It is no argument that LNG is cleaner than coal, for example, since coal itself is horribly bad: it is terrible for climate change and costs more than current sustainable energy sources like solar and wind. Indeed we must invest heavily in these good sources of energy because they are critical for the environment and the economy.

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 10:18:00 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ezgi Green	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ezgi Green and I support HB1568.

According to climate scientists, methane has a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide over a 20-year period, and its lifecycle climate impact exceeds that of coal. Reducing methane use as an energy source by the end of the decade is considered essential for mitigating climate change.

The Hawai‘i State Energy Office has proposed adopting liquified natural gas (LNG) as a temporary bridge fuel. This proposal does not include a specific transition strategy to renewable alternatives by 2045. Additionally, the Governor has signed a Strategic Partnering Agreement with JERA, a fossil fuel company, which would require O‘ahu HECO customers to fund this investment through their electrical bills. The agreement also envisions using Hawai‘i as a platform to market LNG to other Pacific nations.

This measure would prevent the Governor and Hawai‘i State Energy Office from proceeding with plans to bring LNG to Hawai‘i and promote it beyond our state.

The proposed LNG infrastructure investment is estimated at \$2 billion. Cost overruns could result in HECO customers paying hundreds of millions of dollars in additional expenses. Infrastructure vulnerabilities—including maintenance issues, operational errors, or natural disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes, or fires—would increase financial risks further.

Beyond financial considerations, adopting and promoting LNG as proposed under the Hawai‘i-JERA agreement would commit the state to expanded fossil fuel dependence with long-term consequences for future generations.

This bill provides a mechanism to ensure Hawai‘i does not proceed with infrastructure and partnerships that conflict with climate mitigation goals.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass this measure.

Sincerely,

Ezgi Green, Waialua

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 10:29:43 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
William Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee,

I am testifying in strong support of HB1568, which would enact a comprehensive prohibition on the importation, storage, and infrastructure development for methane-based liquefied natural gas (LNG) in Hawai‘i.

This bill is a critical and urgent measure to protect our state’s clean energy future, shield ratepayers from catastrophic financial risk, and affirm our commitment to combating the climate crisis.

HB1568 directly counters a dangerous proposal that seeks to lock our state into a new, long-term fossil fuel dependency with the global giant JERA. This is not a “bridge fuel.” Rather, it is a bridge to climate and economic failure. Embracing LNG would represent a profound betrayal of our state’s legal mandate to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2045. It would shackle future generations to a volatile, imported fossil fuel at the precise moment we must be accelerating our transition to truly clean, local sources of power like solar, which is now the most economical way to generate power.

The financial risks of this proposed LNG pivot are staggering and would be borne entirely by Hawaiian Electric customers. The initial infrastructure investment is estimated at \$2 billion, a cost guaranteed to balloon due to overruns. Customers would be left on the hook for hundreds of millions, if not billions, of dollars for a stranded asset as the world moves beyond fossil fuels.

This week’s fire at a critical energy facility is a stark reminder of our infrastructure’s vulnerability; a hurricane, earthquake, or accident at an LNG import terminal or storage facility would be catastrophic, posing unacceptable safety and reliability risks.

However, the greatest cost of the JERA proposal is immeasurable: its climate impact. LNG is primarily methane, a greenhouse gas over 80 times more potent than CO2 in the short term. Leaks across its supply chain make it a dire threat to the climate. By partnering with JERA to potentially market LNG across Oceania, Hawai‘i would not only fail in its own climate duties but become an accomplice in exporting planetary destruction to our Pacific neighbors. This is incompatible with our values of mālama honua and our responsibility as island stewards.

HB1568 provides the clear, statutory barrier necessary to stop this dangerous detour. It protects our ratepayers, our renewable energy targets, and our moral standing. It ensures our investments flow toward resilient, local renewables—not toward a fossil fuel corporation's profits and our own existential risk.

I urge you to pass HB1568 and keep Hawai'i on the only path that ensures a livable future: a swift, just, and definitive transition to 100% renewable energy.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 10:49:53 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kealakai Hammond	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Sample testimony for HB1568

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

Climate experts agree: with a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, and with a lifecycle climate impact worse than coal, we must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade. Doing so may be the best and only way to buy us desperately needed time, before the climate crisis spirals beyond our control.

Despite this, the Hawai‘i State Energy Office has put forward a short-sighted proposal for Hawai‘i to embrace methane, or liquified natural gas (LNG), as a “temporary” “bridge” fuel, with no specific strategy to transition to a renewable alternative by 2045. To make matters worse, the Governor has signed a “Strategic Partnering Agreement” with fossil fuel giant JERA, to force O‘ahu’s HECO customers to invest in this planet-destroying corporation through their electrical bills - and with the vision of using Hawai‘i to market LNG to other Pacific nations. In other words, Hawai‘i is poised to lead Oceania in accelerating the end of humanity, and humankind as we know it.

This measure may be the only way to ensure the Governor and Hawai‘i State Energy Office cease and desist in their efforts to bring LNG to Hawai‘i, and to other places far beyond our shores.

To be clear, cost overruns alone for the proposed \$2B LNG infrastructure investment could leave HECO customers on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars or more; maintenance issues, human error, or a hurricane, earthquake, or fire - like we've seen as recently as [this past Tuesday](#) - would make the financial consequences even worse.

However, the true costs of the current Hawai‘i-JERA proposal - to have us embrace LNG, and market this fossil fuel to nations far and wide - would be immeasurable.

This bill may be the only way to ensure that Hawai‘i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path of existential destruction – a path that may condemn our children and grandchildren to a future of unthinkable devastation.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to PASS this measure.

Sincerely,

Kealakai Hammond, Honolulu

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 10:50:05 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Harter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nancy Harter and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1568**.

Climate experts agree: with a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, and with a lifecycle climate impact worse than coal, we must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade. Doing so may be the best and only way to buy us desperately needed time, before the climate crisis spirals beyond our control.

Despite this, the Hawai‘i State Energy Office has put forward a short-sighted proposal for Hawai‘i to embrace methane, or liquified natural gas (LNG), as a “temporary” “bridge” fuel, with no specific strategy to transition to a renewable alternative by 2045. To make matters worse, the Governor has signed a “Strategic Partnering Agreement” with fossil fuel giant JERA, to force O‘ahu’s HECO customers to invest in this planet-destroying corporation through their electrical bills - and with the vision of using Hawai‘i to market LNG to other Pacific nations. In other words, Hawai‘i is poised to lead Oceania in accelerating the end of humanity, and humankind as we know it.

This measure may be the only way to ensure the Governor and Hawai‘i State Energy Office cease and desist in their efforts to bring LNG to Hawai‘i, and to other places far beyond our shores.

To be clear, cost overruns alone for the proposed \$2 billion LNG infrastructure investment could leave HECO customers on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars or more; maintenance issues, human error, or a hurricane, earthquake, or fire - like we’ve seen as recently as [this past Tuesday](#) - would make the financial consequences even worse.

However, the true costs of the current Hawai‘i-JERA proposal - to have us embrace LNG, and market this fossil fuel to nations far and wide - would be immeasurable.

This bill may be the only way to ensure that Hawai‘i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path of existential destruction – a path that may condemn our children and grandchildren to a future of unthinkable devastation.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Harter, Lahaina, HI

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 10:50:21 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Stephanie Austin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill - Hawaii needs independence from mainland polluting fuels.

We are in the enviable position of being able to utilize both wind and solar most of the time!

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 11:11:45 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Hunt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT for HB1568

Hawaii needs to take RESPONSIBLE steps to safeguard our climate, our financial stability, and our energy independence.

TETHERING us ALL to LNG and the wealthy corporations and lobbyists trying to push us ALL into LNG dependency serves only in THEIR profit driven corporate greed... The same greed that is bringing our entire civilization to the brink of destruction. LNG is NOT in OUR interest.

I respect our Gov., but he is simply WRONG on LNG and out of step with the huge majority of Hawaiians who want CLEAN energy independence and economic, energy, and climate security



Aloha, Peace, Love, Music & Gratitude

The shortest path to happiness is gratitude. The shortest path to misery is unregulated desire.

**Greed** is a persistent contagion. Arrogant, entitled greed is the super variant that has brought us to the brink of extinction.

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 11:52:37 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Katherine Fryer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1568, which would prohibit LNG in Hawaii and effectively prevent Governor Green’s “Strategic Partnering Agreement” with the fossil fuel company JERA. This agreement, if enacted, would raise the electricity bills of Oahu HECO customers to invest in LNG infrastructure. LNG has been advertised as an affordable energy source, but the estimated \$2B price tag for this project is anything but affordable. Budget overruns and long term maintenance could drive the cost to consumers even higher, as could any future damage due to accidents or natural disasters. Hawaii’s families are already facing a cost of living crisis and cannot afford more financial strain.

We also cannot afford more damage to our climate and environment. LNG is not the clean, renewable energy source that fossil fuel companies claim it to be. Its main ingredient is methane, a disastrous climate change accelerant with 80 times the atmosphere-heating power of carbon dioxide. Massive quantities of methane are released at every stage of LNG production, distribution and usage, giving this fuel a carbon footprint 33% higher than coal. Climatologists agree that if we are serious about solving the climate crisis, we must transition away from all fossil fuels, including LNG.

In 2015, Governor Ige wisely stated that adopting LNG would not bring Hawaii closer to its mandated goal of 100% renewable energy by 2045. Any money spent on LNG is a wasted opportunity to invest in locally-based clean energy that would build our resilience and bring us true energy independence.

As a HECO customer, I do not want to fund new fossil fuel projects. I do not want to be in any way responsible for enabling JERA’s plans to market climate-killing LNG across Oceania. I care what happens to this planet and to future generations, including the many living beings who are not human and have no power to protest against environmental devastation. We need our legislators to stand firm against the fossil fuel mega-corporations that are destroying our world.

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 12:20:58 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Pam Murphy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 12:34:51 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hermina Morita	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO H.B. 1568 – RELATING TO ENERGY**

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to H.B. 1568.

Throughout my legislative (Chair of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection; 1998–2011) and regulatory career (Chair of the Hawai‘i Public Utilities Commission; 2011–2015), I have supported Hawai‘i’s clean energy transition grounded in three interdependent goals: increasing renewable energy, ensuring grid stability and reliability, and maintaining energy costs that are stable, equitable, and affordable for Hawai‘i’s families and businesses.

H.B. 1568 fails to balance these important goals. Hawai‘i law already requires energy decisions to be based on comprehensive comparisons of long-term economic, environmental, social, cultural, and public-health costs and benefits. By categorically prohibiting liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation, infrastructure, and purchase agreements after June 30, 2026, the bill removes a potential least-cost transitional fuel rather than allowing regulators to evaluate it through established planning and cost-effectiveness frameworks.

Energy affordability directly affects household budgets, small businesses, and the overall cost of living. Former Governor Ige’s edict not to advance LNG in 2015 likely cost residents an estimated \$1.5–\$3.5 billion in potential fuel savings that could have stabilized prices, reduced carbon intensity, improved efficiency, and accelerated renewable integration. Eliminating flexibility in fuel choices risks higher electricity rates, greater exposure to supply disruptions on isolated island grids, and increased financial burdens on working families and local businesses.

Grid reliability must remain central to Hawai‘i’s energy transformation. Our small, isolated island grids still depend heavily on imported fuel and have limited backup options during disruptions. Planning studies and audits have highlighted the urgent need to replace aging, inefficient oil-fired generators and modernize infrastructure to support renewable integration and resilience. Eliminating transitional firm-power options before adequate replacement capacity is secured increases the risks of reduced reliability, slower renewable integration, and higher system costs to be borne by ratepayers.

A strategic LNG transition can also enable Hawai‘i’s long-term shift toward a renewable hydrogen economy. The State has already identified hydrogen as a priority through initiatives led by the Hawai‘i State Energy Office and the Hawai‘i Natural Energy Institute, including renewable hydrogen demonstration projects, power-to-gas research, and clean transportation deployment. Hydrogen produced from renewable electricity offers zero-carbon firm power, long-duration energy storage, and deep decarbonization across power, transportation, and industry. Infrastructure, workforce capability, and market experience developed through LNG and other gaseous fuels can provide a practical bridge toward scalable green hydrogen—supporting full decarbonization while maintaining affordability and reliability.

Hawai‘i’s clean-energy transformation depends on well thought-out sequencing due to large, long-lived and expensive infrastructure investments required. Limited LNG use—paired with aggressive renewable and hydrogen investment—can provide the bridge to a resilient, affordable, fully decarbonized energy future.

Hawai‘i’s path to a clean energy future will require time, persistence, collaboration, and significant investment that extend well beyond election cycles. Strategic partnerships and diversified technologies can strengthen energy security while advancing carbon-reduction goals. H.B. 1568 instead imposes rigidity and only feel good soundbites at a moment when pragmatic flexibility is most needed.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to defer H.B. 1568 and instead support policies that truly advance Hawai‘i’s clean energy future while protecting affordability, reliability, and the economic well-being of Hawai‘i’s residents. Attached below is a brief on the transition from LNG to a renewable hydrogen economy in Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

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### **Transitioning from LNG to a Renewable Hydrogen Economy in Hawai‘i**

A limited, strategic use of liquefied natural gas (LNG) can support Hawai‘i’s transition to a fully renewable, hydrogen-enabled energy system that is reliable, affordable, and carbon-free. Hawai‘i’s isolated island grids face unique reliability and cost challenges due to dependence on imported oil and limited firm renewable capacity. A transitional firm fuel like LNG can stabilize the grid while renewable generation, storage, and transmission scale.

#### **Why LNG Can Be a Bridge**

- Lower carbon intensity and higher efficiency than oil-fired generation
- Flexible, dispatchable power that can support increased renewable integration
- Infrastructure and workforce capabilities transferable to future zero-carbon fuels

## **Hydrogen as the Long-Term Solution**

Renewable hydrogen—produced via electrolysis using wind, solar, or other renewable electricity—can:

- Provide zero-carbon firm generation and long-duration storage
- Decarbonize transportation, shipping, aviation, and industry
- Enhance energy security through local fuel production

## **Hawai‘i Hydrogen Initiatives**

State and research partners are already advancing hydrogen through:

- Hawai‘i State Energy Office renewable hydrogen strategy and demonstrations
- Hawai‘i Natural Energy Institute research on hydrogen production, storage, and use
- Clean transportation pilots including hydrogen fueling and fuel-cell deployment

## **Policy Implications**

A prohibition on LNG without viable firm renewable or hydrogen alternatives risks:

- Higher electricity costs
- Reduced reliability
- Slower decarbonization

Conversely, a managed LNG-to-hydrogen pathway can:

- Maintain affordability and grid stability
- Enable large-scale renewable deployment
- Accelerate the transition to a zero-carbon hydrogen economy

## **Conclusion**

Hawai‘i’s clean-energy transformation depends on pragmatic sequencing. Limited LNG use—paired with aggressive renewable and hydrogen investment—can provide the bridge to a resilient, affordable, fully decarbonized energy future.

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Hermina "Mina" Morita

P.O. Box 791, Hanalei, HI 96714

[minamoritaenergy@gmail.com](mailto:minamoritaenergy@gmail.com)

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 1:18:29 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandi-Ann Uyemura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Brandi-Ann Uyemura and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1568.

Climate experts agree: with a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, and with a lifecycle climate impact worse than coal, we must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade. Doing so may be the best and only way to buy us desperately needed time, before the climate crisis spirals beyond our control.

Despite this, the Hawai‘i State Energy Office has put forward a short-sighted proposal for Hawai‘i to embrace methane, or liquified natural gas (LNG), as a “temporary” “bridge” fuel, with no specific strategy to transition to a renewable alternative by 2045. To make matters worse, the Governor has signed a “Strategic Partnering Agreement” with fossil fuel giant JERA, to force O‘ahu’s HECO customers to invest in this planet-destroying corporation through their electrical bills - and with the vision of using Hawai‘i to market LNG to other Pacific nations. In other words, Hawai‘i is poised to lead Oceania in accelerating the end of humanity, and humankind as we know it.

This measure may be the only way to ensure the Governor and Hawai‘i State Energy Office cease and desist in their efforts to bring LNG to Hawai‘i, and to other places far beyond our shores.

To be clear, cost overruns alone for the proposed \$2B LNG infrastructure investment could leave HECO customers on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars or more; maintenance issues, human error, or a hurricane, earthquake, or fire - like we've seen as recently as [this past Tuesday](#) - would make the financial consequences even worse.

However, the true costs of the current Hawai‘i-JERA proposal - to have us embrace LNG, and market this fossil fuel to nations far and wide - would be immeasurable.

This bill may be the only way to ensure that Hawai‘i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path of existential destruction – a path that may condemn our children and grandchildren to a future of unthinkable devastation.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to PASS this measure.

Sincerely,

Brandi-Ann Uyemura

February 8, 2026

The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair  
The Honorable Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair  
and Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Subject: Testimony: HB 1568, Relating to Energy  
Hearing: February 10, 2026, at 9:05 AM, Conference Room 325

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee:

Stanford Carr Development opposes HB1568, which proposes to ban the trade of liquified natural gas in Hawaii.

Removing a competitive fuel option like LNG—especially before reliable alternatives are fully in place—would further constrain the energy market and amplify upward pressure on rates. Hawai‘i already has the highest electricity prices in the United States, with average retail rates around 40¢ per kilowatt-hour (kWh) for residential customers—more than double the national average. These costs translate into monthly bills often exceeding \$200–\$260 for typical residential use. These high prices place a disproportionate burden on families, particularly low- and moderate-income households.

An energy transition should be carefully managed to balance environmental goals with reliability and affordability. LNG has been identified by the Hawai‘i State Energy Office as a near-term fuel that can help reduce volatility and support grid reliability while renewables scale up.

Consumers should have access to a resilient and competitively priced energy supply during the transition period. Restricting access to LNG removes choice and makes the energy system less adaptable to changing economic and technological conditions. At a time when Hawai‘i is already struggling with high energy costs, policy must avoid exacerbating rate pressures on families and local businesses.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to oppose this legislation and instead pursue policies that support a balanced, flexible, and secure energy transition for Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,



Stanford S. Carr

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 3:05:28 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keoni Shizuma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I stand in support of this bill to prohibit the importation or storage of Liquefied Natural Gas.

After doing my own research into Liquefied Natural Gas, I have come to realize that it is not a solution that we should be pursuing. It seems to be very problematic and not the direction we should be going in to improve our greenhouse gas emissions. This shifts our reliance and blame from petroleum to LNG and keeps all the same systematic structures in place that will not help the people of Hawaii or future generations. All the same issues with our current reliance on oil will remain, and new ones will be created.

Here are some of the main reasons we shouldn't be looking to LNG to solve our climate crisis and get us to a more sustainable future:

1. Becoming reliant on another imported resource is NOT a sustainable solution.
  1. Cost will always be reliant on the ever-increasing costs of gasoline to ship the resource here
  2. Resource stability will always at risk due to the ever-changing global political landscape
  3. Increasing greenhouse gas emissions from the ships we're using to ship in LNG is already negating any type of possible GNG reduction.
2. LNG is a very dangerous resource
  1. Methane being brought down to a very low temperature to keep it in liquid form comes with extreme challenges. Any reason for the temperature to increase (power-outage, material/packaging failures, miscalculations) will lead to the gas expanding and building up pressure, creating a very dangerous situation for those handling the product.
  2. Japan and China already reject the use of it due to its unreliability
3. Does not build the resilience of Hawaii or our communities
  1. We are simply shifting who we are dependent on – from petroleum importation to LNG importation. Hawaii will remain at the whim of those who produce and ship the resource to us.
  2. We should be focusing on how we empower our State and local communities – solutions like micro-grids, community-scale energy regeneration, at home energy

generation at an affordable price – like how is done in other countries around the world.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Keoni Shizuma

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 3:14:26 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cindy Turner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Due to the climate crisis, it is **foolish and irresponsible to pursue new fossil fuel projects**, including those that use LNG.

**I strongly support HB1568** that reaffirms Hawai'i's commitment to reject energy sources, like LNG, found to be harmful or destabilizing to our climate system and environment. **We have wind, solar and wave energy sources that we should be investing in.**

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 3:50:54 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Nishihara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ashley Nishihara and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1568.

Climate experts agree: with a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, and with a lifecycle climate impact worse than coal, we must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade. Doing so may be the best and only way to buy us desperately needed time, before the climate crisis spirals beyond our control.

Despite this, the Hawai‘i State Energy Office has put forward a short-sighted proposal for Hawai‘i to embrace methane, or liquified natural gas (LNG), as a “temporary” “bridge” fuel, with no specific strategy to transition to a renewable alternative by 2045. To make matters worse, the Governor has signed a “Strategic Partnering Agreement” with fossil fuel giant JERA, to force O‘ahu’s HECO customers to invest in this planet-destroying corporation through their electrical bills - and with the vision of using Hawai‘i to market LNG to other Pacific nations. In other words, Hawai‘i is poised to lead Oceania in accelerating the end of humanity, and humankind as we know it.

This measure may be the only way to ensure the Governor and Hawai‘i State Energy Office cease and desist in their efforts to bring LNG to Hawai‘i, and to other places far beyond our shores.

To be clear, cost overruns alone for the proposed \$2B LNG infrastructure investment could leave HECO customers on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars or more; maintenance issues, human error, or a hurricane, earthquake, or fire - like we've seen as recently as [this past Tuesday](#) - would make the financial consequences even worse.

However, the true costs of the current Hawai‘i-JERA proposal - to have us embrace LNG, and market this fossil fuel to nations far and wide - would be immeasurable.

This bill may be the only way to ensure that Hawai‘i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path of existential destruction – a path that may condemn our children and grandchildren to a future of unthinkable devastation.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to PASS this measure.

Sincerely,

Ashley Nishihara

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 4:28:38 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support.

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 4:35:00 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**SUPPORT**

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 6:22:58 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support HB 1568

Dana Keawe

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 6:42:14 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pahnelopi mckenzie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

**I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1568.**

Climate experts agree: with a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, and with a lifecycle climate impact worse than coal, we must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade. Doing so may be the best and only way to buy us desperately needed time, before the climate crisis spirals beyond our control.

Despite this, the Hawai‘i State Energy Office has put forward a short-sighted proposal for Hawai‘i to embrace methane, or liquified natural gas (LNG), as a “temporary” “bridge” fuel, with no specific strategy to transition to a renewable alternative by 2045. To make matters worse, the Governor has signed a “Strategic Partnering Agreement” with fossil fuel giant JERA, to force O‘ahu’s HECO customers to invest in this planet-destroying corporation through their electrical bills - and with the vision of using Hawai‘i to market LNG to other Pacific nations. In other words, Hawai‘i is poised to lead Oceania in accelerating the end of humanity, and humankind as we know it.

This measure may be the only way to ensure the Governor and Hawai‘i State Energy Office cease and desist in their efforts to bring LNG to Hawai‘i, and to other places far beyond our shores.

To be clear, cost overruns alone for the proposed \$2 billion LNG infrastructure investment could leave HECO customers on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars or more; maintenance issues, human error, or a hurricane, earthquake, or fire - like we’ve seen as recently as [this past Tuesday](#) - would make the financial consequences even worse.

However, the true costs of the current Hawai‘i-JERA proposal - to have us embrace LNG, and market this fossil fuel to nations far and wide - would be immeasurable.

This bill may be the only way to ensure that Hawai‘i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path of existential destruction – a path that may condemn our children and grandchildren to a future of unthinkable devastation.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure.

Sincerely,  
Pahnelopi McKenzie

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 7:23:55 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Beppie Shapiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Methane-based LNG is a terrible way to manage our energy needs. Incentivizing more solar and battery purchase, educating the public to accept windmills where appropriate, exploring geothermal - all far less destructive to our climate. I strongly support HB1568.

Mahalo, Beppie Shapiro

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 8:57:47 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taecia Kukui Akana	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

**‘O wau nō ‘o T. Kukui Akana and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1568.**

Climate experts agree: with a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, and with a lifecycle climate impact worse than coal, we must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade. Doing so may be the best and only way to buy us desperately needed time, before the climate crisis spirals beyond our control.

Despite this, the Hawai‘i State Energy Office has put forward a short-sighted proposal for Hawai‘i to embrace methane, or liquified natural gas (LNG), as a “temporary” “bridge” fuel, with no specific strategy to transition to a renewable alternative by 2045. To make matters worse, the Governor has signed a “Strategic Partnering Agreement” with fossil fuel giant JERA, to force O‘ahu’s HECO customers to invest in this planet-destroying corporation through their electrical bills - and with the vision of using Hawai‘i to market LNG to other Pacific nations. In other words, Hawai‘i is poised to lead Oceania in accelerating the end of humanity and humankind as we know it.

This measure may be the only way to ensure the Governor and Hawai‘i State Energy Office cease and desist in their efforts to bring LNG to Hawai‘i, and to other places far beyond our shores.

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However, the true costs of the current Hawai‘i-JERA proposal - to have us embrace LNG, and market this fossil fuel to nations far and wide - would be immeasurable.

This bill may be the only way to ensure that Hawai‘i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path of existential destruction – a path that may condemn our children and grandchildren to a future of unthinkable devastation.

**Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to PASS this measure.**

Na‘u mau,

T. Kukui Akana

No Waimānalo kēia.

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 9:06:09 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dina Shek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in strong SUPPORT of HB1568. Hawaii must take bold steps to address the climate crisis, and bringing in more fossil fuels and liquified natural gas is not the solution. We and must can do better for Hawaii and the Pacific.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony in strong support of HB 1568.

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 9:36:05 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mahealani Kamau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Māhealani Kamau and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1568.

Climate experts agree: with a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, and with a lifecycle climate impact worse than coal, we must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade. Doing so may be the best and only way to buy us desperately needed time, before the climate crisis spirals beyond our control.

Despite this, the Hawai‘i State Energy Office has put forward a short-sighted proposal for Hawai‘i to embrace methane, or liquified natural gas (LNG), as a “temporary” “bridge” fuel, with no specific strategy to transition to a renewable alternative by 2045. To make matters worse, the Governor has signed a “Strategic Partnering Agreement” with fossil fuel giant JERA, to force O‘ahu’s HECO customers to invest in this planet-destroying corporation through their electrical bills - and with the vision of using Hawai‘i to market LNG to other Pacific nations. In other words, Hawai‘i is poised to lead Oceania in accelerating the end of humanity, and humankind as we know it.

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To be clear, cost overruns alone for the proposed \$2B LNG infrastructure investment could leave HECO customers on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars or more; maintenance issues,

human error, or a hurricane, earthquake, or fire - like we've seen as recently as [this past Tuesday](#) - would make the financial consequences even worse.

However, the true costs of the current Hawai'i-JERA proposal - to have us embrace LNG, and market this fossil fuel to nations far and wide - would be immeasurable.

This bill may be the only way to ensure that Hawai'i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path of existential destruction – a path that may condemn our children and grandchildren to a future of unthinkable devastation.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to PASS this measure.

Mahalo,

Māhealani Kamau

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 9:37:39 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Reese Liggett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is William Reese Liggett and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1568**.

Climate experts agree: with a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, and with a lifecycle climate impact worse than coal, we must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade. Doing so may be the best and only way to buy us desperately needed time, before the climate crisis spirals beyond our control.

Despite this, the Hawai‘i State Energy Office has put forward a short-sighted proposal for Hawai‘i to embrace methane, or liquified natural gas (LNG), as a “temporary” “bridge” fuel, with no specific strategy to transition to a renewable alternative by 2045. To make matters worse, the Governor has signed a “Strategic Partnering Agreement” with fossil fuel giant JERA, to force O‘ahu’s HECO customers to invest in this planet-destroying corporation through their electrical bills - and with the vision of using Hawai‘i to market LNG to other Pacific nations. In other words, Hawai‘i is poised to lead Oceania in accelerating the end of humanity, and humankind as we know it.

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However, the true costs of the current Hawai‘i-JERA proposal - to have us embrace LNG, and market this fossil fuel to nations far and wide - would be immeasurable.

This bill may be the only way to ensure that Hawai‘i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path of existential destruction – a path that may condemn our children and grandchildren to a future of unthinkable devastation.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure.

Sincerely,  
William Reese Liggett

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 10:42:15 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Pua Naugle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Pua Naugle and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1568.

Climate experts agree: with a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, and with a lifecycle climate impact worse than coal, we must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade. Doing so may be the best and only way to buy us desperately needed time, before the climate crisis spirals beyond our control.

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human error, or a hurricane, earthquake, or fire - like we've seen as recently as [this past Tuesday](#) - would make the financial consequences even worse.

However, the true costs of the current Hawai'i-JERA proposal - to have us embrace LNG, and market this fossil fuel to nations far and wide - would be immeasurable.

This bill may be the only way to ensure that Hawai'i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path of existential destruction – a path that may condemn our children and grandchildren to a future of unthinkable devastation.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to PASS this measure.

Sincerely,

Pua Naugle

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 10:50:27 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michele Mitsumori	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in SUPPORT of HB1568.

HB1568 establishes a clear policy direction to end Hawai'i's reliance on liquified natural gas (LNG) by prohibiting the importation, storage, and expansion of LNG infrastructure, as well as new or renewed LNG purchase agreements.

By repealing State Planning Act language that treats LNG as a transitional fuel, HB1568 aligns with Hawai'i's energy policy with its 100% renewable energy and carbon-neutrality commitments, while avoiding long-term dependence on volatile global markets and costly fossil fuel infrastructure that could burden ratepayers and businesses.

We need to do everything we can to transition to renewables. This bill brings us closer. Please support HB1568.

Mahalo,

Michele Mitsumori  
Hilo 96720

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:00:36 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jeremy Garrett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure. Research by the International Institute for Sustainable Development and Cornell University indicates LNG can result in higher net methane emissions. There are also health concerns for communities near LNG processing facilities. Finally, the state should prioritize renewable sources (solar, wind, hydro, geothermal), which are becoming increasingly more affordable, to achieve its energy/ fossil fuel-free goals.

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 5:01:50 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sue Alana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Sue Alana and I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB3000.

After decades of deception and lies by the fossil fuel industry, the climate crisis they've created has already severely disrupted or destroyed thousands of lives and livelihoods in our islands, and threatens to destroy countless more. To add insult to injury, even residents not yet directly impacted by climate disasters are being forced to pay skyrocketing, climate-driven insurance premiums, while oil and gas corporations continue to rake in trillions of dollars in profits every year.

This is unacceptable.

SB3000 would accordingly allow Hawai'i to do its part to fight back against the fossil fuel companies that are killing our people and our planet, authorizing the state and insurance providers to file suit and make these corporations pay for the harms they cause. Funds recovered from these lawsuits will also help to stabilize our insurance rates, and keep insurers from leaving Hawai'i. This measure is a bold but common-sense approach to make the truly responsible parties pay for the crisis we are experiencing, while providing urgently needed relief to their victims - Hawai'i's people.

As we witness our children and grandchildren inherit a world and a future of unprecedented destruction, doing nothing is not an option. The legislature must act. We must act. Hawai'i can once again take the lead in responding to our climate crisis in a truly rational manner, while also protecting our people and future generations from its physical, spiritual, and financial harms that will only worsen over time.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Sue Alana

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 5:02:30 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Julia D Cramer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill and limitations on LNG infrastructure development in Hawai'i. LNG pipelines are prone to leaks of toxic and flammable gas and there is no need here in Hawai'i that justifies the cost and risk to public health and safety.

why would we spend money to support a system that then requires imported feedstock when we have an abundance of renewable energy inputs here in Hawai'i. Can we not invest in solar, wind, geothermal and other energy sources that will make us LESS dependent on external geopolitics and import expenses?

In a state like Hawai'i, why do we not have PV panels on every home? Let's see reform at HECO and strength from our public utilities commission and less LNG investment. Please support this bill and let's not stop here.

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 6:02:55 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Ballesteros-Watanabe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lauren and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1568**.

Climate experts agree: with a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, and with a lifecycle climate impact worse than coal, we must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade. Doing so may be the best and only way to buy us desperately needed time, before the climate crisis spirals beyond our control.

Despite this, the Hawai‘i State Energy Office has put forward a short-sighted proposal for Hawai‘i to embrace methane, or liquified natural gas (LNG), as a “temporary” “bridge” fuel, with no specific strategy to transition to a renewable alternative by 2045. To make matters worse, the Governor has signed a “Strategic Partnering Agreement” with fossil fuel giant JERA, to force O‘ahu’s HECO customers to invest in this planet-destroying corporation through their electrical bills - and with the vision of using Hawai‘i to market LNG to other Pacific nations. In other words, Hawai‘i is poised to lead Oceania in accelerating the end of humanity, and humankind as we know it.

This measure may be the only way to ensure the Governor and Hawai‘i State Energy Office cease and desist in their efforts to bring LNG to Hawai‘i, and to other places far beyond our shores.

To be clear, cost overruns alone for the proposed \$2B LNG infrastructure investment could leave HECO customers on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars or more; maintenance issues, human error, or a hurricane, earthquake, or fire - like we've seen as recently as [this past Tuesday](#) - would make the financial consequences even worse.

*However, the true costs of the current Hawai‘i-JERA proposal - to have us embrace LNG, and market this fossil fuel to nations far and wide - would be immeasurable.*

This bill may be the only way to ensure that Hawai‘i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path of existential destruction – a path that may condemn our children and grandchildren to a future of unthinkable devastation.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to **PASS this measure**.

Sincerely,

Lauren Ballesteros-Watanabe

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 7:12:59 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lelaine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lelaine and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB1568.

Climate experts agree: with a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, and with a lifecycle climate impact worse than coal, we must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade. Doing so may be the best and only way to buy us desperately needed time, before the climate crisis spirals beyond our control.

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However, the true costs of the current Hawai'i-JERA proposal - to have us embrace LNG, and market this fossil fuel to nations far and wide - would be immeasurable.

This bill may be the only way to ensure that Hawai'i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path of existential destruction – a path that may condemn our children and grandchildren to a future of unthinkable devastation.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure.

Sincerely,

Lelaine

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 7:32:55 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Osa Maiyanne Adaján	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Osa Maiyanne Adaján and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB1568.

Climate experts agree: with a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, and with a lifecycle climate impact worse than coal, we must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade. Doing so may be the best and only way to buy us desperately needed time, before the climate crisis spirals beyond our control.

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However, the true costs of the current Hawai‘i-JERA proposal - to have us embrace LNG, and market this fossil fuel to nations far and wide - would be immeasurable.

This bill may be the only way to ensure that Hawai‘i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path of existential destruction – a path that may condemn our children and grandchildren to a future of unthinkable devastation.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to PASS this measure.

Sincerely,

Dr. Osa Maiyanne Adaján,

Law Student, UH Mānoa Richardson School of Law

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 7:33:16 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donelle Sawyer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Donelle Sawyer and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1568**.

Climate experts agree: with a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, and with a lifecycle climate impact worse than coal, we must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade. Doing so may be the best and only way to buy us desperately needed time, before the climate crisis spirals beyond our control.

Despite this, the Hawai‘i State Energy Office has put forward a short-sighted proposal for Hawai‘i to embrace methane, or liquified natural gas (LNG), as a “temporary” “bridge” fuel, with no specific strategy to transition to a renewable alternative by 2045. To make matters worse, the Governor has signed a “Strategic Partnering Agreement” with fossil fuel giant JERA, to force O‘ahu’s HECO customers to invest in this planet-destroying corporation through their electrical bills - and with the vision of using Hawai‘i to market LNG to other Pacific nations. In other words, Hawai‘i is poised to lead Oceania in accelerating the end of humanity, and humankind as we know it.

This measure may be the only way to ensure the Governor and Hawai‘i State Energy Office cease and desist in their efforts to bring LNG to Hawai‘i, and to other places far beyond our shores.

To be clear, cost overruns alone for the proposed \$2 billion LNG infrastructure investment could leave HECO customers on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars or more; maintenance issues, human error, or a hurricane, earthquake, or fire - like we’ve seen as recently as [this past Tuesday](#) - would make the financial consequences even worse.

However, the true costs of the current Hawai‘i-JERA proposal - to have us embrace LNG, and market this fossil fuel to nations far and wide - would be immeasurable.

This bill may be the only way to ensure that Hawai‘i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path of existential destruction – a path that may condemn our children and grandchildren to a future of unthinkable devastation.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure.

Sincerely,  
Donelle Sawyer

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 7:34:45 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nanea Lo and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1568.

Climate experts agree: with a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, and with a lifecycle climate impact worse than coal, we must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade. Doing so may be the best and only way to buy us desperately needed time, before the climate crisis spirals beyond our control.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, 96826

Sierra Club of Hawai‘i Member

Hawai‘i Workers Center Board Member

Honolulu Tenants Union Member

350 Hawai‘i Member

Carbon Cashback Hawai‘i Member

Hawai‘i Tax Fairness Coalition Member

Despite this, the Hawai‘i State Energy Office has put forward a short-sighted proposal for Hawai‘i to embrace methane, or liquified natural gas (LNG), as a “temporary” “bridge” fuel, with no specific strategy to transition to a renewable alternative by 2045. To make matters worse, the Governor has signed a “Strategic Partnering Agreement” with fossil fuel giant JERA, to force O‘ahu’s HECO customers to invest in this planet-destroying corporation through their electrical bills - and with the vision of using Hawai‘i to market LNG to other Pacific nations. In other words, Hawai‘i is poised to lead Oceania in accelerating the end of humanity, and humankind as we know it.

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This bill may be the only way to ensure that Hawai'i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path of existential destruction – a path that may condemn our children and grandchildren to a future of unthinkable devastation.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to PASS this measure.

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 7:49:56 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Courtney Caranguian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

My name Courtney Caranguian and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1568.

Climate experts agree: with a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, and with a lifecycle climate impact worse than coal, we must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade. Doing so may be the best and only way to buy us desperately needed time, before the climate crisis spirals beyond our control.

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This bill may be the only way to ensure that Hawai'i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path of existential destruction – a path that may condemn our children and grandchildren to a future of unthinkable devastation.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to PASS this measure.

Mahalo,

Courtney Caranguian

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 7:53:43 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
JACK SHRIVER	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. In order for our state to maintain reliable and cost effective electrical supply while pursuing our renewable goals, the State should ensure that all options are considered fairly, and not eliminated before they have had the chance to be evaluated against other options.

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:05:37 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louella Aquino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Louella Aquino, and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1568.

Climate experts agree: with a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, and with a lifecycle climate impact worse than coal, we must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade. Doing so may be the best and only way to buy us desperately needed time, before the climate crisis spirals beyond our control.

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However, the true costs of the current Hawai'i-JERA proposal - to have us embrace LNG, and market this fossil fuel to nations far and wide - would be immeasurable.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to PASS this measure.

Sincerely,

Louella Aquino



**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:12:13 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Melissa Barker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members,

Please support HB1568 which would put the brakes on the Governor’s proposal to lock us into an indefinite dependency on fossil fuel giant JERA, and its planet-killing methane-based LNG. Cost overruns alone for the \$2B LNG infrastructure investment could leave HECO customers on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars.

Thank you for your consideration and attention.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:13:40 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Derek Kamakanaaloha Soong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Derek Kamakanaaloha Soong and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1568.

Climate experts agree: with a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, and with a lifecycle climate impact worse than coal, we must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade. Doing so may be the best and only way to buy us desperately needed time, before the climate crisis spirals beyond our control.

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This bill may be the only way to ensure that Hawai'i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path of existential destruction – a path that may condemn our children and grandchildren to a future of unthinkable devastation.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to PASS this measure.

Sincerely,

Derek Kamakanaaloha Soong

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:24:00 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pamela Elders	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

**I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1568.**

We must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade. Doing so may be the best and only way to buy us desperately needed time, before the climate crisis spirals beyond our control.

Despite this, the Hawai‘i State Energy Office has put forward a short-sighted proposal for Hawai‘i to embrace methane, or liquified natural gas (LNG), as a “temporary” “bridge” fuel, with no specific strategy to transition to a renewable alternative by 2045. To make matters worse, the Governor has signed a “Strategic Partnering Agreement” with fossil fuel giant JERA, to force O‘ahu’s HECO customers to invest in this planet-destroying corporation through their electrical bills - and with the vision of using Hawai‘i to market LNG to other Pacific nations. In other words, Hawai‘i is poised to lead Oceania in accelerating the end of humanity, and humankind as we know it.

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Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure.

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:26:59 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Ball	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this legislation.

David Ball,

Waiialae-Kahala

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:29:05 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

**I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1568.**

Climate experts agree: with a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, and with a lifecycle climate impact worse than coal, we must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade. Doing so may be the best and only way to buy us desperately needed time, before the climate crisis spirals beyond our control.

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This bill may be the only way to ensure that Hawai‘i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path of existential destruction – a path that may condemn our children and grandchildren to a future of unthinkable devastation.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure.



**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:40:24 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kahealani Mokuau Scales	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kahealani Mokuau Scales. I am a grandmother, and I am here for my mo‘opuna, my ‘ohana, and the soul of this place that we call home. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1568.

The experts tell us what my gut already knows...this methane gas, this LNG, is a poison. It’s a trap dressed up as a bridge. It’s worse than coal for our climate, and it steals the time we have left to do what’s right.

And yet, our own leaders ...DR. Governor Green and the State Energy Office—want to lock us into a deal with a fossil fuel giant named JERA. *They want my grandchildren to pay for this poison on their electric bills. They want to use our good name, the name of Hawai‘i, to sell this destruction to our island neighbors across the Pacific. This isn't leadership...it's a betrayal.*

Make no mistake, THIS is greed choosing a final profit over our eternal future.

This bill, HB1568, is the ‘ohana’s chance to say NO. To draw the line. It may be the only way to stop this administration from forcing a \$2 billion mistake onto our backs and from making us accomplices in a crime against our own future.

The financial cost alone would burden our families for generations. But what’s the true cost? **The TRUE COST is measured in the dying reefs our children will never see, the rising seas that will swallow our history, and the climate chaos that will threaten their very survival.** That is the immeasurable cost our leaders are so willing to risk.

I am a grandmother.

My kuleana is to look forward, seven generations. To protect. What I see coming down this path is a future of loss and devastation for everything we hold sacred. I will not stand by and let short sighted small *MINDED* men sell that future for a so-called temporary fix.

I am not just asking - Ladies Lowen & Perusso and the rest of the members of this committee ...

I am begging you, with every fiber of my being, PASS HB1568. Stop this LNG deal. Protect our people, our 'āina, and the futures of grandchildren. Do the right thing their generation will thank you for.

Mahalo nui,

Kahealani Mokuau Scales

Kona, Oahu

## House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

### Testimony on HB1568

#### Relating to Energy

February 10th, 2026

9:05 AM

Room 325

**I support HB1568, which would prohibit the expansion of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in Hawai'i.**

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

#### **Liquefied Natural Gas Is Not Health-Neutral**

From a public health perspective, liquefied natural gas contributes to health risks across its full lifecycle. Methane, the primary component of LNG, is a potent greenhouse gas that contributes to near-term warming. Rising temperatures are already associated with increased heat-related illness, respiratory and cardiovascular stress, and greater demand on emergency and health care systems.

The use of natural gas also contributes to air pollution. Pollutants associated with gas combustion have been linked to asthma and other respiratory conditions, with impacts that are often greater for keiki, kūpuna, and people with underlying health conditions. These exposures occur both outdoors and indoors, including in homes and buildings that rely on gas appliances.

#### **Health Equity and Household Impacts**

Continued reliance on imported fossil fuels exposes households to global fuel price fluctuations and supply disruptions. These costs are often passed on to ratepayers and can increase financial strain for lower-income households and communities already facing health and economic challenges.

Investing in additional LNG infrastructure extends dependence on fossil fuels and delays the transition to cleaner energy systems that reduce pollution and health risks at the source.

#### **Alignment With Hawai'i's Climate and Health Goals**

Last legislative session, the Legislature passed SCR111, declaring climate change a public health emergency in Hawai'i. That resolution recognized that rising temperatures, extreme heat, and climate-related disruptions are already affecting the health of residents and placing growing strain on health and emergency systems.

Continuing to invest in liquefied natural gas infrastructure is difficult to reconcile with that declaration. LNG contributes to greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution that worsen the same health risks identified in SCR111, including heat-related illness and respiratory disease. Expanding LNG also extends reliance on fossil fuels at a time when the State has committed to reducing climate-related health harms.

This measure helps align energy policy with the Legislature's recent recognition of climate change as a public health emergency and supports a transition toward energy systems that reduce pollution and protect community health.

#### **Conclusion**

Decisions about energy infrastructure have long-term implications for health, equity, and resilience. This bill provides an opportunity to align Hawai'i's energy policy with its public health and climate commitments and avoid additional health burdens associated with fossil fuel dependence.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to pass this measure

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Kiefer, MD MPH

Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine, JABSOM

The Climate Change & Health Working Group

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:58:58 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Maggie Anne Engebretson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Maggie Engebretson, a resident of Honolulu. I strongly oppose banning the use of Liquefied Natural Gas in HB 1568.

Of course we want to move as quickly as possible to energy from renewable sources. I have children in Hawai'i and worry about their future in these islands and on this planet. But as an electrical utility ratepayer and someone who relies on a functioning medical system 24/7, it would be absolutely shortsighted to ban LNG as a less-carbon intensive, cheaper option that could also provide our state with the resilient energy we need.

The fact is that we don't have the infrastructure yet for solar, wind, and geothermal. My husband doesn't even have a way to charge his electric car most of the time when out on the road (save a few charging stalls in a public mall here or there). While we focus on building up our renewable infrastructure, we can look to energy sources like LNG as alternatives to the dirty oil we currently use.

As a ratepayer and a taxpayer -- anything cheaper and cleaner than oil is a win for our family.

Mahalo,

Maggie

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:04:10 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Pamela Polland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

PLEASE pass this Bill. Of all the States in the USA, Hawai'i is MOST suited to develop renewable resources of which we have SO MANY - solar, wind, geothermal, etc. Imagine if we could set the tone for the entire nation by becoming the first State in the Union to be energy independent!!

Please support energy independence in Hawai'i by passing this Bill.

Thank you

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:06:07 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ken Stover	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

**I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1568.**

Climate experts agree: with a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, and with a lifecycle climate impact worse than coal, we must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade. Doing so may be the best and only way to buy us desperately needed time, before the climate crisis spirals beyond our control.

Ken Stover

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:11:42 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Linda Pizzitola	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a no brainer. Renewable energy is the future. Please legislate accordingly. Thank you for looking forward at the long game.

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:11:49 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mikaela Kuester	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

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However, the true costs of the current Hawai‘i-JERA proposal - to have us embrace LNG, and market this fossil fuel to nations far and wide - would be immeasurable.

This bill may be the only way to ensure that Hawai‘i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path of existential destruction – a path that may condemn our children and grandchildren to a future of unthinkable devastation.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure.



**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:20:13 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
TOM DIGRAZIA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

Please: Let our state not be swept up in yet another fossil fuel financial and ecocentric boondoogie that retards our planetary responsibility to end the use of of fossil fuels in our lifetimes.

Do the right thing and support HB1568.

Mahalo nui! Tom

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:25:10 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marion McHenry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support 1568.

Our state needs to invest in truly renewable energy sources. We need to stay focused on our climate goals and energy independence.

Mahalo,

Marion Mchenry

Princeville, Kauai

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:27:29 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Puppione	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Climate experts agree: with a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, and with a lifecycle climate impact worse than coal, we must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade. Doing so may be the best and only way to buy us desperately needed time, before the climate crisis spirals beyond our control.

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To be clear, cost overruns alone for the proposed \$2B LNG infrastructure investment could leave HECO customers on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars or more; maintenance issues, human error, or a hurricane, earthquake, or fire - like we've seen as recently as [this past Tuesday](#) - would make the financial consequences even worse.

However, the true costs of the current Hawai‘i-JERA proposal - to have us embrace LNG, and market this fossil fuel to nations far and wide - would be immeasurable.

This bill may be the only way to ensure that Hawai‘i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path of existential destruction – a path that may condemn our children and grandchildren to a future of unthinkable devastation.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure.

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:29:39 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Karen Luke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Yes, I whole heartedly support HB1568 to stop LNG because the cost to us and the aina is immeasurable.

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:33:04 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jackie Keefe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jackie Keefe and I am writing **in strong support of HB1568**, which prohibits the importation, storage, and expansion of liquefied natural gas in Hawai‘i.

I work in climate resilience and land stewardship on Maui and have been deeply involved in wildfire recovery efforts following the 2023 Lahaina fires. Those fires underscored the real-world consequences of delaying climate action and continuing to invest in fossil fuel systems that increase risk rather than resilience.

Liquefied natural gas is frequently marketed as a “bridge fuel,” but this framing is a form of greenwashing. Environmental experts have been clear: when full lifecycle emissions are accounted for—particularly methane leakage during extraction, transport, and regasification—LNG is incompatible with our climate goals. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas, and its impacts are especially concerning for an island state already facing accelerating climate disruption.

For Hawai‘i, LNG also poses economic and energy security risks. It deepens our dependence on imported fuel, exposes ratepayers to volatile global markets, and relies on long, fragile supply chains that are vulnerable to disruption. LNG infrastructure further threatens coastal ecosystems and nearby communities, while diverting investment away from locally owned, distributed renewable energy systems that build true resilience.

Hawai‘i has already committed to 100% renewable energy and carbon neutrality by 2045. Continuing to allow LNG undermines those commitments and ignores the consensus of environmental and public health experts who have warned against further fossil fuel lock-in.

This bill aligns our energy policy with science, community well-being, and our constitutional responsibility to protect Hawai‘i’s natural resources for future generations. I urge you to pass it.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Jackie Keefe, Lahaina

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:49:16 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keili McEvelly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Ke‘ili McEvelly from Waimanalo, O‘ahu, and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1568.

Climate experts agree: with a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, and with a lifecycle climate impact worse than coal, we must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade. Doing so may be the best and only way to buy us desperately needed time, before the climate crisis spirals beyond our control.

Despite this, the Hawai‘i State Energy Office has put forward a short-sighted proposal for Hawai‘i to embrace methane, or liquified natural gas (LNG), as a “temporary” “bridge” fuel, with no specific strategy to transition to a renewable alternative by 2045. To make matters worse, the Governor has signed a “Strategic Partnering Agreement” with fossil fuel giant JERA, to force O‘ahu’s HECO customers to invest in this planet-destroying corporation through their electrical bills - and with the vision of using Hawai‘i to market LNG to other Pacific nations. In other words, Hawai‘i is poised to lead Oceania in accelerating the end of humanity, and humankind as we know it.

This measure may be the only way to ensure the Governor and Hawai‘i State Energy Office cease and desist in their efforts to bring LNG to Hawai‘i, and to other places far beyond our shores.

To be clear, cost overruns alone for the proposed \$2B LNG infrastructure investment could leave HECO customers on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars or more; maintenance issues, human error, or a hurricane, earthquake, or fire - like we've seen as recently as [this past Tuesday](#) - would make the financial consequences even worse.

However, the true costs of the current Hawai'i-JERA proposal - to have us embrace LNG, and market this fossil fuel to nations far and wide - would be immeasurable.

This bill may be the only way to ensure that Hawai'i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path of existential destruction – a path that may condemn our children and grandchildren to a future of unthinkable devastation.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to PASS this measure.

Sincerely,

Ke'ili McEvilly

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:59:16 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Randy Roth	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE this bill for reasons detailed in testimony submitted by the Practical Policy Institute of Hawaii. If HB 1568 were to pass into law, I believe it would have dramatically negative impact on the people of Hawaii for generations to come. Mahalo for this opportunity to express my opinion.

Randall Roth

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:03:28 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dennis O'Shea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Make Hawaii energy self-sufficient with clean energy.

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:04:33 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Franz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,  
**I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1568.**

Climate experts agree: with a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, and with a lifecycle climate impact worse than coal, we must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade. Doing so may be the best and only way to buy us desperately needed time, before the climate crisis spirals beyond our control.

Despite this, the Hawai‘i State Energy Office has put forward a short-sighted proposal for Hawai‘i to embrace methane, or liquified natural gas (LNG), as a “temporary” “bridge” fuel, with no specific strategy to transition to a renewable alternative by 2045. To make matters worse, the Governor has signed a “Strategic Partnering Agreement” with fossil fuel giant JERA, to force O‘ahu’s HECO customers to invest in this planet-destroying corporation through their electrical bills - and with the vision of using Hawai‘i to market LNG to other Pacific nations. In other words, Hawai‘i is poised to lead Oceania in accelerating the end of humanity, and humankind as we know it.

This measure may be the only way to ensure the Governor and Hawai‘i State Energy Office cease and desist in their efforts to bring LNG to Hawai‘i, and to other places far beyond our shores.

To be clear, cost overruns alone for the proposed \$2B LNG infrastructure investment could leave HECO customers on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars or more; maintenance issues, human error, or a hurricane, earthquake, or fire - like we've seen as recently as [this past Tuesday](#) - would make the financial consequences even worse.

However, the true costs of the current Hawai‘i-JERA proposal - to have us embrace LNG, and market this fossil fuel to nations far and wide - would be immeasurable.

This bill may be the only way to ensure that Hawai‘i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path of existential destruction – a path that may condemn our children and grandchildren to a future of unthinkable devastation.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure.



**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:31:54 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Andrea Nandoskar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support!

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:39:30 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lois berger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee

My name is Lois Berger and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 1568.

The Hawaii State Energy Office has put forward a short sighted proposal for Hawaii to embrace methane, a liquified natural gas (LNG) as a temporary bridge fuel, with no specific strategy to transition to a renewable alternative by 2045. The Governor has also signed a Strategic Partnering Agreement with fossil fuel giant JERA, to force Oahu's HECO customers to invest in this planet destroying corporation through their electrical bills - with the vision of using Hawaii to market LNG to other Pacific Nations. In other words, Hawaii is poised to lead Oceania in accelerating the climate changes caused by global warming. Methane has a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, and a lifecycle climate impact worse than coal. Climate specialist recommend significantly cutting down methane use by the end of the decade to help preserve our climate, before it spirals beyond our control. Yet we do this??!! How can we doom ourselves and fellow islanders who face an even more imminent global warming issue with sea level changes that will wash away their very islands and countries? This measure may be the only to ensure the Governor and Hawaii State Energy Office stop their misguided efforts to bring LNG to Hawaii, and to other places far beyond our shores.

Additionally, cost overruns alone for the proposed \$2 Billion LNG infrastructure investment could leave HECO customers on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars more; maintenance issues, human error (which we have seen enough of!), hurricane, earthquake, or fire - like we've seen as recently as this past Tuesday - would make the financial consequences even worse.

However, the true coss of the current JERA proposal - to have us (Hawaii) embrace LNG, and market this fossil fuel to nations far and wide, would be immeasurable and unconscionable for us as a member of Oceania!

This bill may be the only way to ensure that Hawaii DOES NOT help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path of existential destruction - a path that may condemn our children and grandchildren to a future of unthinkable devastation and drag other nations down with us.

The pursuit of money under the guise of saving money for the people is warped, considering the cost to the climate and the regular people. Of course, the wealthy always find a better place to move to, while the rest suffer at the cost of their gains.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to PASS this measure. Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely

Lois Berger

February 10, 2026

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso and members of the committee:

**Strong support for HB1568:**

To build out LNG infrastructure in Hawaii will be very expensive, likely to generate stranded assets. This burden will show up in ratepayer utility bills one way or another and will be substantial. My view is an outlay of this enormity must fund energy independence, not dependence. Whether it's some combination of solar, wind, battery, or geothermal it is far better than to have our island future tied to the vagaries of energy markets and geopolitical risks. Hawaii must strive for energy self-sufficiency and resiliency.

LNG is not a bridge, it promises to be an abbreviated walk on a very short pier.

I urge the committee to pass **HB1568**.

Thank you for your consideration.

Keith Neal

Waimea

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:57:13 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cedric Duarte	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please keep all options on the table to reduce electricity costs.

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:10:10 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brodie Lockard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1568.

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:39:09 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ronald Fujiyoshi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Perruso and members of the committee!

My name is Ronald Fujiyoshi. I am a retired missionary who worked in Japan for 15 years from 1973 to 1988. I decided to be arrested at the Wao Kele O Puna demonstration in 1989 because I was convinced that geothermal energy was not clean and an affront to Native Hawaiians.

I strongly support HB1568 as it stops the attempt to look for another polluting energy source.

Mahalo for allowing me to testify on this bill.

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:41:31 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kapulei Flores	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in SUPPORT of HB1568, relating to energy, which would prohibit the importation, storage, and infrastructure development of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in Hawai‘i. LNG is a fossil fuel primarily composed of methane — which has a global warming potential far greater than carbon dioxide and contributes significantly to climate disruption through extraction, transport, and use. This is the last thing Hawai‘i and the world needs as we face the fast rise of climate change and its impacts here to our environment and resources. This would ban the construction, expansion, or operation of LNG infrastructure, including import terminals, regasification facilities, pipelines, and storage units, which threaten our fragile coastal ecosystems and cultural landscapes. It would also prevent state agencies and counties from issuing permits or leases for LNG projects, stopping new fossil fuel development at its roots. By prohibiting new or renewed LNG purchase agreements and modifications, it would lessen Hawai‘i’s dependence on fossil fuels. Please help protect our ‘āina, our islands, and our people from something that would not only be detrimental to Hawai‘i, but also to the state of our world and our climate.

Mahalo, Kapulei

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 12:23:40 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bonnie Marsh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

Please protect Hawaiian energy sovereignty.

Mahalo,

Dr. Bonnie Marsh

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 12:34:37 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sigrid Howard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a lifelong resident of Hawai'i, I feel I have a responsibility to advocate for a better future and I'm sure our public servants feel the same. LNG is not a better future. It is an economic and environmental disaster waiting to happen. We should be exploring options that actually reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, not committing to a flammable and environmentally destructive so-called bridge fuel. We do not need more outside companies coming in and exploiting us, we need to put our effort toward real solutions. Putting off actual action towards climate goals while risking methane leaks or explosions and pretty much guaranteeing an extremely over-cost project at taxpayers' expense would be an absolute failure of the government to fulfill its duties. I support HB1568 because it would keep Hawai'i from committing to a dangerous and costly path.

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:04:46 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Diane Ware and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1568

Why should Hawaii sue the fossil fuel industry and also promote a new fossil fuel industry that will lead to decades of fossil fuel dependence and/or stranded assets?

Climate experts agree: with a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, and with a lifecycle climate impact worse than coal, we must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade. Doing so may be the best and only way to buy us desperately needed time, before the climate crisis spirals beyond our control.

Despite this, the Hawai'i State Energy Office has put forward a short-sighted proposal for Hawai'i to embrace methane, or liquified natural gas (LNG), as a "temporary" "bridge" fuel, with no specific strategy to transition to a renewable alternative by 2045. To make matters worse, the Governor has signed a "Strategic Partnering Agreement" with fossil fuel giant JERA, to force O'ahu's HECO customers to invest in this planet-destroying corporation through their electrical bills - and with the vision of using Hawai'i to market LNG to other Pacific nations. In other words, Hawai'i is poised to lead Oceania in accelerating the end of humanity, and humankind as we know it.

This measure may be the only way to ensure the Governor and Hawai'i State Energy Office cease and desist in their efforts to bring LNG to Hawai'i, and to other places far beyond our shores.

To be clear, cost overruns alone for the proposed \$2B LNG infrastructure investment could leave HECO customers on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars or more; maintenance issues, human error, or a hurricane, earthquake, or fire - like we've seen as recently as [this past Tuesday](#) - would make the financial consequences even worse.

Climate experts agree: with a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, and with a lifecycle climate impact worse than coal, we must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade. Doing so may be the best and only way to buy us desperately needed time, before the climate crisis spirals beyond our control.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Diane Ware Volcano HI 96785-0698



**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:32:57 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,  
**I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1568.**

Climate experts agree: with a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, and with a lifecycle climate impact worse than coal, we must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade. Doing so may be the best and only way to buy us desperately needed time, before the climate crisis spirals beyond our control.

Despite this, the Hawai‘i State Energy Office has put forward a short-sighted proposal for Hawai‘i to embrace methane, or liquified natural gas (LNG), as a “temporary” “bridge” fuel, with no specific strategy to transition to a renewable alternative by 2045. To make matters worse, the Governor has signed a “Strategic Partnering Agreement” with fossil fuel giant JERA, to force O‘ahu’s HECO customers to invest in this planet-destroying corporation through their electrical bills - and with the vision of using Hawai‘i to market LNG to other Pacific nations. In other words, Hawai‘i is poised to lead Oceania in accelerating the end of humanity, and humankind as we know it.

This measure may be the only way to ensure the Governor and Hawai‘i State Energy Office cease and desist in their efforts to bring LNG to Hawai‘i, and to other places far beyond our shores.

To be clear, cost overruns alone for the proposed \$2B LNG infrastructure investment could leave HECO customers on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars or more; maintenance issues, human error, or a hurricane, earthquake, or fire - like we've seen as recently as [this past Tuesday](#) - would make the financial consequences even worse.

However, the true costs of the current Hawai‘i-JERA proposal - to have us embrace LNG, and market this fossil fuel to nations far and wide - would be immeasurable.

This bill may be the only way to ensure that Hawai‘i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path of existential destruction – a path that may condemn our children and grandchildren to a future of unthinkable devastation.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure.



**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:08:35 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
April Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Energy & Environmental Protection Committee,**

**I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1568.**

**We have such confusion over climate change, I affirm you do the complicated job of weeding through the hype and falsehoods for the ultimate benefit of the Hawai'i citizenry. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. The Governor and profit-motivated factions want you to invest in methane...just go up to a big ranch like Kahua off Kohala Mtn Rd and you will roll your windows up for the noxious environment methane creates. This is symbolic of where we will be if we do not put our investment into what has done the best for us in all of our history...the sun. We have huge corporations building solar farms...but only for them! The Counties have buildings sitting idle and land doing nothing for us, who are at the mercy of the highest electric rates in the Country. Sell the idle buildings & utilize the land for those who will be every grateful for your wise action. Act with intelligence and pass this bill (although I am sure you are being pressured to cave to political power). Please vote for permanent solutions not corporate control. VOTE YES for your grandchildren!**

**MAHALO NUI**

**April Lee & Ohana; Hawi, HI**

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:18:29 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelle Lindenmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

I am submitting testimony today in strong support of HB1568.

Climate experts agree: with a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, and with a lifecycle climate impact worse than coal, we must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade. Doing so may be the best and only way to buy us desperately needed time, before the climate crisis spirals beyond our control.

Despite this, the Hawai‘i State Energy Office has put forward a short-sighted proposal for Hawai‘i to embrace methane, or liquified natural gas (LNG), as a “temporary” “bridge” fuel, with no specific strategy to transition to a renewable alternative by 2045. To make matters worse, the Governor has signed a “Strategic Partnering Agreement” with fossil fuel giant JERA, to force O‘ahu’s HECO customers to invest in this planet-destroying corporation through their electrical bills - and with the vision of using Hawai‘i to market LNG to other Pacific nations. In other words, Hawai‘i is poised to lead Oceania in accelerating the end of humanity, and humankind as we know it.

This measure may be the only way to ensure the Governor and Hawai‘i State Energy Office cease and desist in their efforts to bring LNG to Hawai‘i, and to other places far beyond our shores.

To be clear, cost overruns alone for the proposed \$2B LNG infrastructure investment could leave HECO customers on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars or more; maintenance issues, human error, or a hurricane, earthquake, or fire - like we’ve seen as recently as [this past Tuesday](#) - would make the financial consequences even worse.

However, the true costs of the current Hawai‘i-JERA proposal - to have us embrace LNG, and market this fossil fuel to nations far and wide - would be immeasurable.

This bill may be the only way to ensure that Hawai‘i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path of existential destruction – a path that may condemn our children and grandchildren to a future of unthinkable devastation.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to PASS this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.  
Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 3:09:45 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Beth McDermott	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB1568

Our state of Hawaii, and recently our Governor, have been commended as national leaders in moving our state away from fossil fuels with forward thinking investments in green energy.

So why would we go backward now, asking HECO rate payers to foot the bill for a massive investment in one of the most polluting gases on the planet?? Methane/LNG. And with no plan to transition away from it. In fact this would include efforts to market LNG across the Pacific. This is insanity for a state and region on the front lines of climate change impacts.

This bill wisely saves us from making such a foolhardy mistake. Hell no am I going to be left on the hook for years paying for infrastructure for a fuel we should have long ago put to bed. Climlatae chaos is here, and worsening rapidly, bringing ecological collapse, human disasters and displacement across our planet. Let's continue to lead, pointing the way forward to a greener future.

I strongly urge the Committee to PASS this measure!!

Beth McDermott

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 4:00:38 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keri Zacher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Keri Zacher and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1568**.

Climate experts agree: with a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, and with a lifecycle climate impact worse than coal, we must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade. Doing so may be the best and only way to buy us desperately needed time, before the climate crisis spirals beyond our control.

Despite this, the Hawai‘i State Energy Office has put forward a short-sighted proposal for Hawai‘i to embrace methane, or liquified natural gas (LNG), as a “temporary” “bridge” fuel, with no specific strategy to transition to a renewable alternative by 2045. To make matters worse, the Governor has signed a “Strategic Partnering Agreement” with fossil fuel giant JERA, to force O‘ahu’s HECO customers to invest in this planet-destroying corporation through their electrical bills - and with the vision of using Hawai‘i to market LNG to other Pacific nations. In other words, Hawai‘i is poised to lead Oceania in accelerating the end of humanity, and humankind as we know it.

This measure may be the only way to ensure the Governor and Hawai‘i State Energy Office cease and desist in their efforts to bring LNG to Hawai‘i, and to other places far beyond our shores.

To be clear, cost overruns alone for the proposed \$2 billion LNG infrastructure investment could leave HECO customers on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars or more; maintenance issues, human error, or a hurricane, earthquake, or fire - like we’ve seen as recently as [this past Tuesday](#) - would make the financial consequences even worse.

However, the true costs of the current Hawai‘i-JERA proposal - to have us embrace LNG, and market this fossil fuel to nations far and wide - would be immeasurable.

This bill may be the only way to ensure that Hawai‘i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path of existential destruction – a path that may condemn our children and grandchildren to a future of unthinkable devastation.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure.

Sincerely,  
Keri Zacher

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 4:13:25 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kamalei Pai	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kamalei Pai and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1568.

Climate experts agree: with a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, and with a lifecycle climate impact worse than coal, we must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade. Doing so may be the best and only way to buy us desperately needed time, before the climate crisis spirals beyond our control.

Despite this, the Hawai‘i State Energy Office has put forward a short-sighted proposal for Hawai‘i to embrace methane, or liquified natural gas (LNG), as a “temporary” “bridge” fuel, with no specific strategy to transition to a renewable alternative by 2045. To make matters worse, the Governor has signed a “Strategic Partnering Agreement” with fossil fuel giant JERA, to force O‘ahu’s HECO customers to invest in this planet-destroying corporation through their electrical bills - and with the vision of using Hawai‘i to market LNG to other Pacific nations. In other words, Hawai‘i is poised to lead Oceania in accelerating the end of humanity, and humankind as we know it.

This measure may be the only way to ensure the Governor and Hawai‘i State Energy Office cease and desist in their efforts to bring LNG to Hawai‘i, and to other places far beyond our shores.

To be clear, cost overruns alone for the proposed \$2B LNG infrastructure investment could leave HECO customers on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars or more; maintenance issues,

human error, or a hurricane, earthquake, or fire - like we've seen as recently as [this past Tuesday](#) - would make the financial consequences even worse.

However, the true costs of the current Hawai'i-JERA proposal - to have us embrace LNG, and market this fossil fuel to nations far and wide - would be immeasurable.

This bill may be the only way to ensure that Hawai'i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path of existential destruction – a path that may condemn our children and grandchildren to a future of unthinkable devastation.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to PASS this measure.

Sincerely

Kamalei Pai

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 4:20:54 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Alexander	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,  
**I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1568.**

Climate experts agree: with a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, and with a lifecycle climate impact worse than coal, we must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade. Doing so may be the best and only way to buy us desperately needed time, before the climate crisis spirals beyond our control.

Despite this, the Hawai‘i State Energy Office has put forward a short-sighted proposal for Hawai‘i to embrace methane, or liquified natural gas (LNG), as a “temporary” “bridge” fuel, with no specific strategy to transition to a renewable alternative by 2045. To make matters worse, the Governor has signed a “Strategic Partnering Agreement” with fossil fuel giant JERA, to force O‘ahu’s HECO customers to invest in this planet-destroying corporation through their electrical bills - and with the vision of using Hawai‘i to market LNG to other Pacific nations. In other words, Hawai‘i is poised to lead Oceania in accelerating the end of humanity, and humankind as we know it.

This measure may be the only way to ensure the Governor and Hawai‘i State Energy Office cease and desist in their efforts to bring LNG to Hawai‘i, and to other places far beyond our shores.

To be clear, cost overruns alone for the proposed \$2B LNG infrastructure investment could leave HECO customers on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars or more; maintenance issues, human error, or a hurricane, earthquake, or fire - like we've seen as recently as [this past Tuesday](#) - would make the financial consequences even worse.

However, the true costs of the current Hawai‘i-JERA proposal - to have us embrace LNG, and market this fossil fuel to nations far and wide - would be immeasurable.

This bill may be the only way to ensure that Hawai‘i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path of existential destruction – a path that may condemn our children and grandchildren to a future of unthinkable devastation.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure.

Mary Alexander  
5905 Ahakea Street  
Kapaa, HI 96746  
808-635-0178

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 4:47:53 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Una Greenaway	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen and Vice Chair Perruso;

Thanks for the opportunity to testify on this important bill. As a long time democrat and environmentalist, I am very happy to support this bill banning LNG in our state. Hawaii has such an abundance of solar and wind power capabilities, it would be absurd and costly to go down the LNG pathway. The infrastructure costs alone would be huge, not to mention the environmental cost. We would be better off spending more on battery storage to make solar more dependable when the sun does not shine.

Mahalo, Una Greenaway

**LATE**

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 5:17:17 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lenley Lewis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,  
I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB1568.

Climate experts agree: with a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, and with a lifecycle climate impact worse than coal, we must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade.

Despite this, the Hawai‘i State Energy Office has put forward a short-sighted proposal for Hawai‘i to buy methane, or liquified natural gas (LNG), as a “temporary bridge” fuel, with no specific strategy to transition to a renewable alternative by 2045.

Governor Greene has signed a “Strategic Partnering Agreement” with fossil fuel giant JERA, a planet-destroying corporation.

Passing HB 1568 is likely the best way to stop bringing JERA & LNG to Hawai‘i, and other places beyond our shores.

Cost overruns alone for the proposed \$2B LNG infrastructure investment could leave HECO customers on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars or more. maintenance issues, human error, or a hurricane, earthquake, or fire - like we've seen as recently as [this past Tuesday](#) - would make the financial consequences even worse.

I strongly urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure.

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 6:15:41 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan Wiener	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

I support HB1568, and strongly urge the Committee pass it.

This bill may be the only way to ensure that the Governor and HSEO do not commit us to this non-renewable, climate-decimating and infrastructure-intensive energy source. Thank you for your commitment to much more intelligent energy solutions.

**LATE**

**Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,**

My name is Kayla Economou and I am a current resident of Kahuku. **I strongly support HB1568.**

A defining moment in my life was witnessing the Kū Kia'i Kahuku movement—when hundreds of community members and elders were arrested protesting industrial wind turbine construction despite longstanding opposition. Watching my neighbors fight for their voices to be heard in decisions that would shape our community fundamentally shaped my understanding that climate solutions must center the communities most impacted, not replicate the same extractive patterns that created the climate crisis.

This experience is why I'm testifying today in strong support of HB1568—not because I oppose clean energy, but because I believe how we reach our 2045 goals matters just as much as reaching them. LNG infrastructure would repeat the mistakes we've already made: imposing costly, long-term burdens on communities without their genuine consent or benefit.

### **1) Climate Credibility: Moving Forward, Not Backward**

Hawai'i has made significant commitments—and sacrifices—to reach our 2045 renewable energy goals. In Kahuku, our community has lived through the challenges of large-scale renewable energy development. Projects like the AES wind turbines were built, despite community concerns, with the promise that they were necessary steps toward our clean energy future.

**To now introduce LNG infrastructure would undermine all of that work.** It sends the message that after everything our communities have shouldered to advance clean energy, the state is willing to backtrack and lock us into decades of more fossil fuel dependence.

- With a 30-40 year lifespan, LNG infrastructure would extend well past our 2045 deadline, creating stranded assets that ratepayers must fund even after they're obsolete.
- It also sends contradictory signals to investors, developers, and communities about whether Hawai'i is actually serious about 100% renewable energy.

**I strongly support our 2045 goals and clean energy development.** LNG is not that path and would only take us backward.

### **2) Affordability: Eliminating Fuel Costs, Not Reshuffling Them**

Hawai'i residents pay 40.2 cents per kilowatt-hour—more than double the national average. Our electricity rates have increased over 50% in the past decade. LNG doesn't solve this. It simply replaces one volatile fossil fuel with another. While LNG may appear cheaper than oil at certain moments, it remains subject to:

- International supply disruptions and geopolitical instability

- Global market price volatility (recent LNG price spikes demonstrate this)
- Significant shipping, storage, and safety costs unique to island states

**True affordability comes from eliminating fuel costs altogether for long term affordability.**

### **3) Strategic Focus: Stop Fighting Yesterday's Battles**

HB1568 provides essential clarity that allows us to focus our limited time, resources, and political capital on solutions that actually advance our 2045 goals. Without this bill, Hawai'i will spend the next several years fighting LNG proposals instead of:

- Accelerating clean energy solutions that work for Hawai'i that align with our 2045 mandate
- Building out grid infrastructure and modernization
- Developing workforce training for clean energy jobs
- Supporting a just transition to renewable energy

**Every legislative session spent debating LNG is a session we're not spending advancing real solutions.** HB1568 draws a clear line so we can redirect all that energy toward what actually works.

I respectfully urge you to pass HB1568 and keep Hawai'i focused on energy solutions that are clean, affordable, and supported by the communities they serve.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Kayla Economou  
Kahuku, HI

**LATE**

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:14:37 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Nawahine Mansfield, Jr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Cair, Rep Nicole E. Lowen, Vice-Chair, Amy A. Peruso**

**Committee On Energy & Environmental Protection**

**HB 1568**

**10 February 2026**

09:05 a.m. Conference Room 325

Hello,

I am Robert Nawahine Mansfield, Jr and I urge you to join me in supporting this bill as it concerns our inherited stewardship of this fragile ‘aina, this planet; for our sake and the sake of generations yet to be born.

And this sums up my testimony.

**Please support HB 1568 for the sake of generations to come.**

Thank you for representing us and guiding our governance for the common good.

Sincerely,

Robert Nawahine Mansfield, Jr.

Moiliili - 96826



**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:57:59 PM  
Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Lum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

**I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1568.**

Climate experts agree: with a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, and with a lifecycle climate impact worse than coal, we must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade. Doing so may be the best and only way to buy us desperately needed time, before the climate crisis spirals beyond our control.

Despite this, the Hawai‘i State Energy Office has put forward a short-sighted proposal for Hawai‘i to embrace methane, or liquified natural gas (LNG), as a “temporary” “bridge” fuel, with no specific strategy to transition to a renewable alternative by 2045. To make matters worse, the Governor has signed a “Strategic Partnering Agreement” with fossil fuel giant JERA, to force O‘ahu’s HECO customers to invest in this planet-destroying corporation through their electrical bills - and with the vision of using Hawai‘i to market LNG to other Pacific nations. In other words, Hawai‘i is poised to lead Oceania in accelerating the end of humanity, and humankind as we know it.

This measure may be the only way to ensure the Governor and Hawai‘i State Energy Office cease and desist in their efforts to bring LNG to Hawai‘i, and to other places far beyond our shores.

To be clear, cost overruns alone for the proposed \$2B LNG infrastructure investment could leave HECO customers on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars or more; maintenance issues, human error, or a hurricane, earthquake, or fire - like we've seen as recently as [this past Tuesday](#) - would make the financial consequences even worse.

However, the true costs of the current Hawai‘i-JERA proposal - to have us embrace LNG, and market this fossil fuel to nations far and wide - would be immeasurable.

This bill may be the only way to ensure that Hawai‘i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path of existential destruction – a path that may condemn our children and grandchildren to a future of unthinkable devastation.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure.

Mahalo,

Jen Lum, 'Ewa Beach

**LATE**

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:17:58 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kimeona Kane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Kimeona Kane of Waimānalo in strong support of this item. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Ke Aloha Nui

**LATE**

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Athan Nguyen, and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1568.

Climate experts agree: with a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, and with a lifecycle climate impact worse than coal, we must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade. Doing so may be the best and only way to buy us desperately needed time, before the climate crisis spirals beyond our control.

Despite this, the Hawai'i State Energy Office has put forward a short-sighted proposal for Hawai'i to embrace methane, or liquified natural gas (LNG), as a "temporary" "bridge" fuel, with no specific strategy to transition to a renewable alternative by 2045. To make matters worse, the Governor has signed a "Strategic Partnering Agreement" with fossil fuel giant JERA, to force O'ahu's HECO customers to invest in this planet-destroying corporation through their electrical bills - and with the vision of using Hawai'i to market LNG to other Pacific nations. In other words, Hawai'i is poised to lead Oceania in accelerating the end of humanity, and humankind as we know it.

This measure may be the only way to ensure the Governor and Hawai'i State Energy Office cease and desist in their efforts to bring LNG to Hawai'i, and to other places far beyond our shores.

To be clear, cost overruns alone for the proposed \$2B LNG infrastructure investment could leave HECO customers on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars or more; maintenance issues, human error, or a hurricane, earthquake, or fire - like we've seen as recently as [this past Tuesday](#) - would make the financial consequences even worse.

However, the true costs of the current Hawai'i-JERA proposal - to have us embrace LNG, and market this fossil fuel to nations far and wide - would be immeasurable.

This bill may be the only way to ensure that Hawai'i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path of existential destruction – a path that may condemn our children and grandchildren to a future of unthinkable devastation.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to PASS this measure.

Sincerely,

Athan, Nguyen.

**LATE**

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:04:15 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Priscilla Stuckey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support HB1568.

Climate change is a worldwide emergency. We have already passed 1.5 degree C of warming. To preserve a livable planet for the children, we MUST quit burning fossil fuels.

Methane warms the atmosphere much more than carbon dioxide. Stopping methane production is a first line of defense against runaway warming.

Despite this, the Hawai‘i State Energy Office has put forward a disastrous proposal for Hawai‘i to embrace methane, or liquified natural gas (LNG), as a “temporary” “bridge” fuel. Even worse, the Governor has signed a “Strategic Partnering Agreement” with fossil fuel giant JERA to force HECO customers on O‘ahu to invest in JERA through their electrical bills—and with the vision of using Hawai‘i to market LNG to other Pacific nations. This plan would make Hawai‘i a leader in accelerating the end of life as we know it on this planet.

I strongly support this bill because it may be the only way to prevent powerful figures from forcing LNG onto Hawai‘i. We must ensure that Hawai‘i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path of existential destruction – a path that may condemn our children and grandchildren to a future of unthinkable devastation.

Please, please PASS this measure.

Mahalo,

Priscilla Stuckey, Kihei





*Restore the Commons*

Tuesday, February 10, 2026, 9:05 am

House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

HOUSE BILL 1568 – RELATING TO ENERGY

Position: Strong Support

Me ke Aloha, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection:

HB1568 is a comprehensive judgment against the inclusion of Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) in Hawaii's energy plans and use. It prohibits the importation or storage of liquefied natural gas; the construction, expansion, or operation of liquefied natural gas infrastructure; and prohibits state agencies or counties from issuing a permit or lease that enables the development or expansion of liquefied natural gas, with certain exemptions. It authorizes the Public Utilities Commission and Department of Health to adopt rules for the enforcement and compliance of the prohibition. It repeals a provision from the Hawaii State Planning Act making it a policy of the State to use liquefied natural gas as a transitional, limited-term replacement of petroleum. And it prohibits the approval of a new or renewed purchase agreement that proposes to supply a utility with liquefied natural gas and the modification of an existing liquefied natural gas purchase agreement that proposes to extend the term or increase the amount of liquefied natural gas that is supplied under the existing agreement.

This is a strong and unequivocal rejection of the dubious commitment to this dangerous fossil fuel.

Advocates for Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) tout it as a "bridge fuel" to a clean, renewable energy economy, despite objections by environmentalists because of its fossil fuel emissions impact on climate change.

Governor Josh Green recently signed an agreement with JERA, one of the world's largest buyers and sellers of LNG, arguing that it aligns with a study by the Hawai'i State Energy Office's (HSEO). That study does contain many worthwhile policies aimed at reducing emissions and expanding renewables. But it also leaves the door open to expanding LNG use — a prospect that has not received much public scrutiny.

As a fossil fuel, LNG's climate impacts extend well beyond combustion at power plants. Greenhouse gases are emitted throughout LNG's lifecycle: extraction, processing, liquefaction, shipping, storage, re-gasification, and distribution. Natural gas is primarily methane, and leakage occurs at each stage. Methane is a particularly dangerous greenhouse gas, with a warming effect roughly 80 times more powerful than carbon dioxide. Respected environmental experts, such as Henry Curtis of Life of the Land and Wayne Tanaka of the Sierra Club, are opposed to the use of LNG as part of Hawaii's energy strategy.

Even HSEO acknowledges that there are risks. LNG might reduce running costs, once installed, but prices are tied to global markets and subject to volatility. For example, after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, our oil prices surged. Rising LNG prices in the future could quickly wipe out projected savings for Hawai'i consumers.

Installation costs are another matter, not explored by HSEO. Proponents describe LNG as a temporary "bridge," but that metaphor collapses under closer examination. This is a different sort of fuel, and installing the infrastructure has proven expensive elsewhere. In Hawaii, it's usually more. The state has not clearly identified how much it will cost taxpayers. Our other big new infrastructure costs collect overruns. What's on the other side of that "bridge"? LNG risks becoming a long-term commitment rather than a short-term transition. LNG terminals, storage facilities and power plant modifications pay off in decades, locking us into continued fossil fuel dependence.

Why not move directly to renewables that continue to grow cheaper? The technology needed to move directly to clean energy already exists. Solar and wind energy costs have fallen for decades and are now the cheapest energy sources worldwide. Battery storage improves while costs continue to decline.

Hawai'i has pledged to achieve net-negative greenhouse gas emissions by 2045. Can we meet that while still emitting noxious methane? Infrastructure decisions made today matter. The question is one of priorities and risk. Should Hawai'i gamble that LNG prices will remain stable for decades and that future leaders will find money to make the final step to full renewables?

Shouldn't we invest directly in clean, renewable energy and storage now — technologies whose costs are falling and whose environmental benefits align with the state's climate commitments?

Mahalo for the opportunity to address this issue,

/s/ Charley Ice, Hoa'āina, Waimalu, O'ahu;

retired Hydrologist, Commission on Water Resource Management (25 years) and Planner at DHHL (10 years);

former Chair of O'ahu Democratic Party Region 5 ('Aiea-Pearl City);

**LATE**

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:20:19 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynda Nishihara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lynda Nishihara and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1568.

Climate experts agree: with a global warming potential 80 times higher than carbon dioxide, and with a lifecycle climate impact worse than coal, we must significantly cut down our use of methane as an energy source by the end of the decade. Doing so may be the best and only way to buy us desperately needed time, before the climate crisis spirals beyond our control.

Despite this, the Hawai‘i State Energy Office has put forward a short-sighted proposal for Hawai‘i to embrace methane, or liquified natural gas (LNG), as a “temporary” “bridge” fuel, with no specific strategy to transition to a renewable alternative by 2045. To make matters worse, the Governor has signed a “Strategic Partnering Agreement” with fossil fuel giant JERA, to force O‘ahu’s HECO customers to invest in this planet-destroying corporation through their electrical bills - and with the vision of using Hawai‘i to market LNG to other Pacific nations. In other words, Hawai‘i is poised to lead Oceania in accelerating the end of humanity, and humankind as we know it.

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However, the true costs of the current Hawai'i-JERA proposal - to have us embrace LNG, and market this fossil fuel to nations far and wide - would be immeasurable.

This bill may be the only way to ensure that Hawai'i does not help a fossil fuel corporation lead us down a path of existential destruction – a path that may condemn our children and grandchildren to a future of unthinkable devastation.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to PASS this measure.

Sincerely,

Lynda Nishihara

**LATE**

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 1:25:09 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kelly Nishimura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB1568. We need to invest in renewable, green energy NOT foreign fossil fuels.

**LATE**

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 2:22:02 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Miri Yi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection:

I am in **strong support** of HB1568.

LNG is fundamentally incompatible with the 2045 zero-emission target. It is a "bridge to nowhere" unless converted to expensive hydrogen later.

The supply chain (fracking, liquefaction, shipping, regasification) leaks methane, which is >80x more potent than CO2 over a 20-year period

While burning gas releases less CO2 and sulfur *at the power plant*, the **lifecycle** emissions tell a different story. The *Hu Honua* and *Hawaii Gas* Supreme Court rulings, explicitly require the PUC to consider *lifecycle* greenhouse gas emissions, not just smokestack emissions. If the "upstream" methane leaks are high enough, LNG can be as damaging to the climate as the oil it replaces.

Electricity prices would be directly tied to global gas markets. As seen in Europe and Asia during geopolitical crises, LNG prices can spike hundreds of percent in months, directly impacting rate-payers.

For Hawai'i, importing cheap U.S. natural gas is complicated by the Jones Act, which requires goods shipped between U.S. ports to be on U.S.-built, U.S.- flagged, and U.S.- crewed vessels. There are very few Jones Act-compliant LNG carriers, making transport from the U.S. mainland prohibitively expensive. Hawai'i would likely be forced to buy foreign LNG (e.g., from Canada or Asia) at volatile international market rates, not the stable U.S. Henry Hub price. This defeats the economic argument of "lowering costs" for ratepayers.

LNG requires a continuous stream of tanker deliveries (potentially weekly or monthly). Any interruption in this "conveyor belt" of ships threatens immediate power shortages.

Requires significant investment in Floating Storage and Regasification Units (FSRUs) and pipelines, which may become "stranded assets" (useless infrastructure) if the state bans fossil fuels in 2045. Building an offshore import terminal (FSRU) and pipelines takes 8-10 years. If a project starts now, it might not come online until the mid-2030s. If the state enforces the 2045 Net Zero / 100% Renewable mandate, that expensive infrastructure (possibly \$billions) would

only operate for 8-10 years.

Respectfully submitted,  
Miri Yi

**LATE**

**HB-1568**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 7:38:27 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacey Alapai	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support HB1568 and PROHIBIT LNG from being imported to Hawaii. Look at what investment in LNG as "firm" power has done to Puerto Rico. Why would we invest in a less-bad but still imported fuel as a clean energy solution. Anything that relies on imports is not reliable, renewable, or firm.

Solar, Wind, and pumped storage hydro WORK. It's time to invest more in these systems we know are effective and don't rely on imports.

# Testimony in Support of HB1568 — Relating to Energy

House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

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**Executive Summary:** HB1568 would prohibit LNG infrastructure in Hawai'i — and the evidence strongly supports passage. Kaua'i already generates nearly 60% of its electricity from renewables with the lowest residential rates in the state, all without LNG. Solar-plus-storage projects in Hawai'i take 12–20 months to build; a realistic LNG timeline is 8–12 years, arriving in the mid-to-late 2030s when it would be most obsolete. The only comparable island FSRU project — Cyprus, a far simpler scope at €325 million — is years behind schedule, under fraud investigation, and may need to be rebuilt from scratch. The proposed \$2 billion for LNG (FSRU, pipelines, plant conversions, neighbor island facilities) could instead fund over 1 GW of solar and 4 GWh of storage at proven contract prices of 8–12¢/kWh — less than one-third of current residential rates. Grid-forming batteries like the 185 MW Kapolei Energy Storage facility already provide the inertia, frequency response, and black-start capability that LNG proponents claim only thermal plants can deliver. Passing HB1568 ends a two-decade policy zigzag, protects ratepayers from fossil fuel lock-in, and keeps Hawai'i on the path it pioneered as the first state to adopt a 100% Renewable Portfolio Standard.

---

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Chad Conway, and I strongly support HB1568 to keep liquefied natural gas out of Hawai'i.

I began my career at Tesla, working on battery and solar deployments and supporting hurricane relief projects where microgrids kept hospitals, community centers, and water systems running when fuel deliveries failed. After the Maui fires, I saw the same thing — battery and solar powered homes became community lifelines. Local renewables with storage are the most reliable infrastructure we can build on islands.

We are told LNG is needed because O'ahu's oil generators are aging. I agree those plants must be retired, but replacing old fuel with another imported fossil fuel — one subject to its own volatile global pricing — is not a solution. Solar, batteries, geothermal, and demand response can provide the same firm capacity faster, cheaper, and with greater resilience.

**Kaua'i is proving the model.** KIUC now generates nearly 60% of its electricity from renewables and has posted the lowest residential rates in the state since May 2022 — without

10 FEB 2026

LNG. With two new solar-plus-storage projects in development, Kaua'i expects to reach 80% renewable by 2028 and is targeting 100% by 2033. Maui and Hawai'i Island are following the same path. O'ahu is not different, only larger.

**Solar and batteries can be built now; LNG cannot.** The timeline difference alone should settle this debate. Utility-scale solar-plus-storage projects in Hawai'i typically take 12 to 20 months to construct. The Mililani I Solar project on O'ahu broke ground in April 2021 and reached commercial operations by August 2022 — 16 months for 39 MW of solar and 156 MWh of storage. The Waikoloa project on Hawai'i Island had a 12-month construction phase. Even the massive Kapolei Energy Storage facility — 185 MW and 565 MWh, the largest standalone battery system in the state — went from construction to operations in under two years. And critically, multiple projects can be built simultaneously. Hawaiian Electric's entire first stage of seven solar-plus-storage projects across three islands all reached commercial operations by early 2025.

LNG infrastructure operates on an entirely different timeline. Industry data shows that even the fastest option — a Floating Storage and Regasification Unit — typically takes one to three years just to deploy, with onshore terminals requiring four to six years of construction. But Hawai'i is still in the study phase. No concrete plan, no permits, no environmental review, no PUC proceedings. A realistic assessment places an operating LNG facility eight to twelve years out from today, arriving in the mid-to-late 2030s — precisely when it would be most obsolete.

The global track record for FSRU projects should give this committee pause. Cyprus contracted for an FSRU-based LNG terminal in 2019 with a 24-month deadline — and that was a far simpler project than what Hawai'i is contemplating: just one FSRU, one jetty, and one pipeline to a single adjacent power station, at an estimated cost of €325 million. Even at that smaller scale, the contractor submitted four consecutive delivery dates — September 2022, July 2023, October 2023, and July 2024 — and missed every one. By mid-2025, the project was only 45–50% complete, the Chinese-led consortium had terminated the contract, the FSRU vessel was anchored in Malaysia waiting for missing components, and the European Public Prosecutor's Office had opened an investigation into alleged procurement fraud. Lawmakers were told the project might need to be rebuilt from scratch due to uncertified materials. (See: "No end in sight for LNG terminal," Cyprus Mail, July 8, 2025, <https://cyprus-mail.com/2025/07/08/no-end-in-sight-for-lng-terminal>)

In the time it would take to get a single LNG terminal operating in Hawai'i, we could build and commission dozens of solar-plus-storage projects totaling gigawatts of capacity — and each one starts saving ratepayers money from day one.

**The investment math favors renewables.** The JERA strategic partnering agreement proposes up to \$2 billion for LNG infrastructure — not just an import terminal, but the full system: an offshore FSRU vessel and mooring, subsea and onshore pipelines, conversion of multiple aging oil-fired power plants at Kahe and Waiau to burn natural gas, potentially a new gas plant at the old Barbers Point coal site, and neighbor island import facilities. All of that before buying a single unit of fuel. That same \$2 billion invested in solar and batteries could build over 1 GW of

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solar and 4 GWh of storage, enough to supply an additional 40–50% of O‘ahu's electricity with zero fuel cost. This is not speculation — it is backed by actual contract prices right here in Hawai‘i. The Mililani I Solar project on O‘ahu delivers dispatchable solar-plus-storage power at just 9 cents per kilowatt-hour under a fixed 25-year PPA, and Hawaiian Electric's recent procurement round for O‘ahu landed multiple projects in the 8–12 cent range. These prices are already less than one-third the roughly 36 cents per kilowatt-hour that O‘ahu residential customers pay today, and the cost trend continues downward — Kaua‘i's first solar-plus-storage PPA in 2015 was 14.5 cents; by 2018 it had fallen to under 11 cents. Every year we wait, renewables get cheaper and the case for LNG gets weaker.

Combined with the roughly 36–41% renewable energy O‘ahu already generates, \$2 billion in solar and storage would bring us past 80% renewable. And the benefits compound: every dollar we stop spending on imported fuel becomes capital available for the next wave of clean generation, keeping hundreds of millions of dollars per year circulating in Hawai‘i's economy instead of flowing overseas for gas contracts.

LNG would do the opposite. It would require regular tanker deliveries and expose families to global price swings that have tripled and quadrupled in a single year. A recent analysis by the Institute of Energy Economics and Financial Analysis found that Japanese utilities, including JERA, face an oversupply of LNG as domestic demand declines — which means Hawai‘i would be absorbing supply that Japan's own market no longer wants.

**We do not need LNG for grid stability.** The argument that O‘ahu requires LNG for "thermal" grid support is already outdated. The Kapolei Energy Storage project — 185 MW and 565 MWh of Tesla Megapacks — came online in 2024 and provides grid-forming services, synthetic inertia, fast frequency response, and black-start capability, the same functions traditionally performed by spinning generators. KES responds to grid disturbances in 250 milliseconds, far faster than any combustion plant. Plus Power's executive chairman called it "a postcard from the future." Across the world, grid-forming batteries are replacing gas peakers for inertia, reserves, and restart. In parallel, long-duration storage technologies and pumped hydro are being deployed to deliver clean, firm power without fuel. We do not need LNG to keep the lights on.

**Resilience demands local energy, not another import dependency.** LNG would create a single point of failure at our harbor. Storms, port closures, or supply chain disruptions would threaten power — exactly the vulnerability that local renewables eliminate. After the Maui fires, it was solar and batteries that kept communities running when centralized infrastructure failed. Distributed renewables are inherently more resilient than any system that depends on weekly tanker arrivals.

**The lock-in risk is real.** Once LNG infrastructure is built, 20–30 year contracts would bind ratepayers to another fossil era. Hawai‘i's own policy history illustrates this danger. For two decades, the state has zigzagged on LNG — Governor Lingle opposed it, Governor Abercrombie pushed it, Governor Ige blocked it, and now Governor Green has revived it. Hawaiian Electric itself has criticized this "stop-and-start public policy loop." The surest way to

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end the cycle is to close the door permanently. The easiest time to quit LNG is before we ever start.

**Hawai'i's leadership matters beyond our shores.** We were the first state in the nation to adopt a 100% Renewable Portfolio Standard, and the world — especially island nations across the Pacific — looks to us as a model. Our economy depends on clean oceans, safe harbors, and a global reputation as a place that protects its environment. One LNG disaster — an explosion, a major leak, or a prolonged fuel disruption — could devastate tourism, fishing, and local businesses. Why take that risk when we have a proven alternative? Nearly half of O'ahu's single-family homes already have rooftop solar. The transition is happening. We should accelerate it, not detour into another fossil dependency.

Hawai'i has a better path that is already working: more solar, more storage, geothermal, and smarter grids — keeping billions of dollars in our local economy instead of sending them overseas for gas.

Please pass HB1568 and choose clean, local, and resilient power for Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Chad Conway