

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
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Testimony of the Public Utilities Commission

To the
Senate Committee on
Commerce & Consumer Protection

Tuesday, April 7, 2026
9:25 a.m.

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee:

Measure: H.B. No. 1619, H.D.2
Title: RELATING TO ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE.

Position:

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

Comments:

The Commission supports the intent of this measure to exclude the installation, maintenance, repair, and replacement of an electric vehicle charging system as defined in section 269-72, Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS"), from the definition of "development" in section 205A-22 (regarding Coastal Zone Management definitions) as it applies to special management areas.

This bill also includes the Public Utilities Commission in the development and implementation of plans to meet the long-term goals for zero-emissions transportation in the state, as identified in HRS § 225P-8 (Climate Adaptation: zero emissions transportation), in coordination with the Department of Transportation, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, and the Hawaii State Energy Office.

The Commission currently manages the state's Electric Vehicle Charging Station ("EVCS") Rebate Program as established in HRS § 269-72 and § 269-73 in consultation with EV stakeholders and in cooperation with the program's administrator, Hawaii Energy.

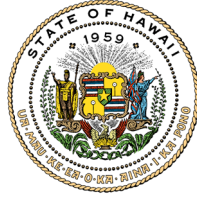
This measure would provide clarity in oversight of EVCS infrastructure development insofar as exemption from coastal zone management special controls. This bill also

provides an opportunity for the Commission to be included in the state's collaborative planning processes for zero-emissions transportation initiatives.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
LEAH LARAMEE
Climate Change Coordinator on behalf of
Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission
Co-Chair Ryan K. P. Kanaka'ole**

**Before the Senate Committee on
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

**Tuesday, April 7, 2026
9:25 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1619, HOUSE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE**

House Bill 1619, House Draft 2 proposes to exclude from the definition of "development", as it applies to special management areas, the installation, maintenance, repair, and replacement of an electric vehicle (EV) charging system and include the Public Utilities Commission in the development and implementation of plans to meet the long-term goals for zero-emissions transportation in the State. **The Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) supports this measure.**

The Commission consists of a multi-jurisdictional effort between 20 departments, committees, and counties with the purpose of promoting ambitious, climate-neutral, culturally responsive strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Transition to EVs is a key action identified by the State's climate plans including the Climate Action Pathways (2025), Energy Security and Waste Reduction Plan (2025) and the Hawai'i Pathways to Decarbonization (2023). A significant barrier is the lack of EV charging infrastructure. Streamlining the installation of charging infrastructure will support the transition of our ground transportation to EVs thus reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving air quality and protecting public health.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

HB-1619-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 3:39:53 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/7/2026 9:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Dean	Testifying for Clean the Pacific	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We support this bill. It's a matter of fact that we need to stop burning fossil fuels, so if we're gonna drive around, we have to use electric vehicles. One of the reasons why this transition is taking so long is because the fossil fuel industry doesn't want it to happen and politicians who receive funding from the fossil fuel industry, don't want it to happen. One of the ways they do this is to make the public afraid of Evs. The thing that the public is most afraid of about EVs is a made up fear tactic called, range anxiety. Gasoline cars run out of gasoline, that's a fact. Evs tell you exactly where you need to be and when you need to charge, so you never run out. EVs get the same mileage per charge as a gasoline car with a full tank of gas. So the only excuse the public has to claim they're afraid is that there are no charging stations. While it's true that in Hawaii, we really don't need charging stations, except for Hawaii Island, because you can just charge at home, the fact remains, without those charging stations the public won't buy EV's, because they're afraid. So let's put some charging stations in for the public and we can remove one more excuse.

HB-1619-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 4:58:05 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/7/2026 9:25:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Honorable Members of Committee,

My name is Susan RobertsEmery, as Co Chair of the Green Party of Hawai'i, and on behalf of our members, we are in Strong Support of HB1619 HD2. This bill sends a strong message to our youth that we know fossil fuels have an end date and we need to prepare for a future without them.

A significant barrier to transitioning to EVs is the lack of EV charging infrastructure. Efforts like HB1619 HD2 are necessary if we are to achieve an equitable adoption of electric vehicles. We ask that you Pass this bill and help Hawai'i prepare for the future.

Mahalo,

Susan RobertsEmery

Green Party of Hawai'i

Paauilo

Hawaii Electric Vehicle Association

hawaiiev.org
info@hawaiieva.com



April 5, 2026

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Electric Vehicle Association (HEVA) strongly supports H.B. 1619, H.D. 2.

Hawaii needs approximately 4,000 public EV charging ports by 2030 to support the State's zero-emissions transportation goals — yet we currently have fewer than 1,000. Closing that gap requires not just funding, but removing the permitting barriers that slow deployment in exactly the locations where public charging is most needed.

This bill addresses one of the most frustrating of those barriers. Many of Hawaii's best locations for public charging — beaches, harbors, coastal parks, and tourism corridors — fall within Special Management Areas (SMAs). Under current law, installing an EV charger in an SMA can trigger the same permitting process as a major coastal development project. That is disproportionate, time-consuming, and expensive for something as small and low-impact as a charging station.

H.B. 1619, H.D. 2 solves this problem cleanly. By adding EV charging system installation, maintenance, repair, and replacement to the list of uses excluded from the definition of "development" under the Coastal Zone Management Act, this measure allows chargers to be sited in prime coastal locations without the lengthy SMA permit process — while preserving the authority to require full review in the rare cases where cumulative or significant impacts exist.

We note that the House version of this bill (H.D. 2) improved upon the original by removing the qualifier that chargers be treated as "minor structures." That qualifier was unnecessary and could have created ambiguity for larger DC fast charging installations. The current language is cleaner and more durable.

The bill also adds the Public Utilities Commission to the agencies responsible for developing and implementing long-term EV charging capacity plans alongside HDOT and the Hawaii State Energy Office. PUC's inclusion is appropriate and strengthens accountability, given the Commission's central role in utility infrastructure approvals and grid planning.

Hawaii's commitment under the Navahine Settlement and HRS Chapter 225P requires real, measurable progress on transportation decarbonization. Infrastructure deployment is the critical bottleneck, and permit streamlining is one of the few things the Legislature can do that costs

nothing and helps immediately. We urge this Committee to pass H.B. 1619, H.D. 2 without further amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "TH", written over a horizontal line.

Tam Hunt
Board Member and Policy Director
Hawaii EV Association

Hawaii EV Association is a grassroots non-profit group representing electric vehicle owners in Hawaii. Our mission is to accelerate the electrification of transportation through consumer education, policy advocacy, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure expansion. For more information, please visit hawaiiev.org.

Hawaii EV Board

Noel Morin, President
Nanette Vinton, Secretary, and Treasurer
Jenn Lieu – Director
Tam Hunt – Director
Michael Albatrosov – Director
Rob Weltman – Director

Hawaii EV Clubs

Big Island EV Association
Kauai EV
Maui Nui EV
Tesla Hawaii Club



To: The Honorable Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, the Honorable Vice Chair Carol Fukunaga, and Members of the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee.

From: Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: **Hearing HB1619 HD2 RELATING TO ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE**

Hearing: Tuesday April 7, 2026 9:25 a.m. CR229

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee!

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i seeks to educate and engage the local community in climate change action.

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i **SUPPORTS** HB1619 HD2!

To serve the future market for electric vehicles, **Hawaii needs to develop its charging infrastructure. This bill will help that development by streamlining approvals in the special management area** (SMA, shoreline). Including the Public Utilities Commission in plans for meeting zero emissions goals may make sense where electricity rates are at issue with electric vehicle charging.

Increasing demand for zero emissions transportation in the State will require, according to estimates conducted by the Department of Transportation, approximately four thousand additional public electric vehicle charging systems by 2030 to support electric vehicle adoption. Unfortunately, the State's geography means that many prime locations for public charging infrastructure, including beaches, harbors, and tourism corridors, fall within **special management areas that are subject to stringent permitting requirements**. By clarifying certain definitions to exempt these charging systems from special management area permit requirements, this measure will expand electric vehicle charging system deployment to further the State's green energy transportation goals.

This bill addresses two critical bottlenecks impeding Hawai'i's transition to zero-emissions transportation.

1. Unnecessary Permitting delays: Current SMA permitting treats EV chargers as "development," which triggers **long review processes for what are minor electrical upgrades**. This bill's exemption treats EV charging systems as minor structures while maintaining environmental oversight through cumulative impact reviews.
2. Grid Planning: This measure will help us avoid the issue of chargers without adequate grid capacity.

Please pass this bill!

Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

TESTIMONY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CAUCUS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI'I IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1619 HD2 RELATING TO ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE

**Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair Carol Fukunaga
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection (CPN)**

Date: Monday, April 7, 2026

Time: 9:25 AM

Place: Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i **strongly supports HB1619 HD2**, which clarifies that the installation, maintenance, repair, and replacement of electric vehicle (EV) charging systems are **not** considered “development” within Special Management Areas (SMAs). The bill also appropriately includes the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) in the development and implementation of statewide zero-emission transportation plans.

HB1619 HD2 is a practical, necessary measure that removes unnecessary permitting barriers and accelerates Hawai'i's transition to a clean, zero-emission transportation system.

Why This Bill Is Necessary

Under current law, EV charging infrastructure located within SMAs may be subject to lengthy and costly permitting processes designed for shoreline development, not for small-scale electrical equipment. This creates delays and uncertainty for homeowners, businesses, and public agencies seeking to install or upgrade EV charging systems.

HB1619 HD2 resolves this by clearly excluding EV charging systems from the definition of “development,” ensuring that: (1) routine installation and maintenance of charging equipment are not treated as shoreline-impacting construction; (2) residents and businesses can install chargers without unnecessary delays; (3) public charging infrastructure can be deployed more quickly and cost-effectively; and (4) Hawai'i's zero-emission transportation goals can be met on schedule. This clarification is

consistent with the Legislature's intent to expand EV adoption, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and support statewide electrification.

Including the Public Utilities Commission Strengthens the State's Planning Framework

HB1619 HD2 also ensures that the PUC participates in the development and implementation of statewide zero-emission transportation plans. This is essential because: (1) the PUC regulates the electric grid and utility investments; (2) EV charging infrastructure requires coordinated planning between utilities, counties, and state agencies; (3) grid modernization and charging deployment must be aligned; and (4) rate design, interconnection, and utility programs directly affect EV adoption. Including the PUC ensures that Hawai'i's transportation-electrification strategy is technically sound, grid-ready, and equitable.

Advancing Zero-Emission Transportation

HB1619 HD2 supports Hawai'i's statutory commitments to: (1) reduce greenhouse gas emissions; (2) expand zero-emission transportation options; (3) improve air quality and public health; and (4) reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels. Removing unnecessary regulatory barriers and ensuring coordinated statewide planning are essential steps toward achieving these goals.

Conclusion

HB1619 HD2 is a straightforward, effective measure that accelerates EV infrastructure deployment, strengthens statewide planning, and supports Hawai'i's transition to a clean, zero-emission transportation system. The Environmental Caucus respectfully urges the Committee to **pass HB1619 HD2**.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Alan Burdick, Co-Chair, burdick808@gmail.com

Mike Ewall, Co-Chair, mike@energyjustice.net

Melodie Aduja, Co-Chair *Emerita*, Legislativepriorities@gmail.com

Environmental Caucus Democratic Party of Hawai'i



**Hawaiian
Electric**

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

**HB 1619, HD2
Relating to Electric Vehicle Infrastructure**

Tuesday, April 7, 2026
9:25 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

Hawaiian Electric is submitting written testimony in **support** of HB 1619 HD2, Relating to Electric Vehicle Infrastructure.

Hawaiian Electric supports HB 1619, HD2, which excludes from the definition of "development", as it applies to special management areas, the construction, installation, maintenance, repair, and replacement of an electric vehicle (EV) charging system as a minor structure.

HB 1619, HD2 represents a positive step towards an equitable and sustainable transportation future for Hawaii. Hawaiian Electric currently operates the largest electric vehicle charging network in Hawaii and supports the construction of "make ready" electric vehicle charging infrastructure through our make ready pilots for commercial properties and electric buses. Through this experience, Special Management Area permitting has been an important factor, among many, in determining the feasibility of projects. This permitting requirement has required more time and attention from our teams to ensure requirements are met and move projects forward. If electric vehicle projects were exempt from SMA permitting, it would enable us to consider more sites. As noted in the Hawaii Department of Transportation Energy Security and Waste Reduction Plan, State's 2045 Clean Energy goals, "The growing EV population will necessitate a large increase in public EV charging stations."¹ This bill will support the effective and efficient installation of publicly accessible electric vehicle charging throughout the state.

¹ See page 52 of the Hawaii Energy Security and Waste Reduction Plan FINAL at [FINAL-ESWRP-2025-10-15.pdf](#)

As part of Hawaiian Electric's Electrification of Transportation Strategic Roadmap 2.0, our goal to enhance charging availability and reliability for personal mobility is crucial. A key action in this plan is to "continue to reduce Hawaiian Electric's charger installation and energization timelines and coordinate with state and county agencies to support simplified, accelerated charger installations."² Supporting this bill will directly contribute to achieving this objective, helping us and third-party electric vehicle charging infrastructure installers, build a more comprehensive and reliable charging infrastructure.

Hawaiian Electric notes that its grid has adequate capacity to accommodate continued growth of electric vehicle charging infrastructure. We have developed the EV Charging Siting Tool³ to equip electric vehicle charging installers with information that provides the estimated capacity available on our primary distribution lines. The EV Charger Siting Tool demonstrates that adequate capacity remains within Hawaiian Electric's service territory to accommodate continued growth of electric vehicle charging infrastructure; and specifically, locations most suitable for this growth.

Further, Hawaiian Electric has worked with stakeholders to develop an Integrated Grid Plan⁴ that provides the data needed to identify optimal locations and capacity for future infrastructure. The Integrated Grid Plan balances a transition to renewable energy with maintaining reliable power to meet the needs of Hawaiian Electric customers up to and beyond 2045 to achieve net zero carbon emissions and 100% renewable resources. This includes the continued growth of the electric vehicle market, the increased electric vehicle charging infrastructure necessary to support this transition, and the increased load necessary to fuel these vehicles.

Accordingly, Hawaiian Electric supports HB 1619, HD2. Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony.

² See page 59 of the EoT Strategic Roadmap 2.0 at https://www.hawaiianelectric.com/documents/products_and_services/electric_vehicles/electrification_of_transportation_roadmap/20240531_eot_roadmap_2.pdf

³ [Electric Vehicle \(EV\) Charger Siting Tool | Hawaiian Electric](#)

⁴ [IGP: Preferred Plans and Next Steps](#)



To: Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection (CPN)
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2026, 9:25am

In support of HB1619 HD2

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and members of the CPN committee,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawai'i chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org is in **strong support of HB1619 HD2** that excludes from the definition of "development", as it applies to special management areas, the installation, maintenance, repair, and replacement of an electric vehicle charging system. This measure also includes the Public Utilities Commission in the development and implementation of plans to meet the long-term goals for zero-emissions transportation in the State.

HB1619 HD2 addresses permitting issues and would expedite the deployment of EV charging stations across the state. By appropriately exempting these charging systems from long permit review processes for what are minor electrical upgrades, this measure will remove unnecessary permitting delays, while still maintaining environmental oversight through cumulative impact reviews.

A significant barrier to transitioning to EVs is the lack of EV charging infrastructure. Adequate public charging is critical for the democratization of transportation. Charge anxiety is a big a worry for EV-driving condo-dwellers, renters, and potential EV buyers. While there are many in our community who have the benefit of home EV charging, many of our residents live in apartments, condos, or rentals and don't have this convenience. For them to adopt electric cars, they must have access to reliable and ubiquitous public charging.

Most importantly, electric vehicles are better for the environment and the economy, and are a critical component in our fight against the climate crisis. To achieve Hawai'i's sustainable transportation and climate goals, we must decarbonize ground transportation as soon as possible. This bill supports those efforts.

Please support and pass this important measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

HB-1619-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 7:34:08 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/7/2026 9:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judith White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

EV's help our environment and the health of our citizens. Please pass!

Judith White, EV owner, Kapaa

HB-1619-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 1:19:56 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/7/2026 9:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Fryer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1619 HD2 to addresses permitting issues and would expedite the deployment of EV charging stations across the state.

This measure clarifies definitions in Hawaii Revised Statutes to exempting these charging systems from long permit review processes for minor electrical upgrades, thereby removing unnecessary permitting delays, while still maintaining environmental oversight through cumulative impact reviews.

A significant barrier to transitioning to EVs is the lack of EV charging infrastructure. Efforts like HB1619 HD2 are necessary if we are to achieve an equitable adoption of electric vehicles.

HB-1619-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 3:19:36 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/7/2026 9:25:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this legislation.

David Ball

Waiialae-Kahala

HB-1619-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 3:42:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/7/2026 9:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debra M Javar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly SUPPORT HB1619. I humbly ask for your support. Thank you.

HB-1619-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 4:12:42 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/7/2026 9:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hayley Peter-Contesse	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of **HB1619 HD2** that addresses permitting issues and would expedite the deployment of EV charging stations across the state. This measure clarifies definitions in Hawaii Revised Statutes, appropriately exempting these charging systems from long permit review processes for what are minor electrical upgrades, and as a result, removing unnecessary permitting delays, while still maintaining environmental oversight through cumulative impact reviews.

A significant barrier to transitioning to EVs is the lack of EV charging infrastructure. Efforts like HB1619 HD2 are necessary if we are to achieve an equitable adoption of electric vehicles. As the owner of an older EV myself, the lack of charging stations creates major inconvenience and wasted time in my own life. I am not alone in these frustrations, and I support any efforts to removing barriers to expanding EV charging.

Mahalo,

Hayley Peter-Contesse, Mākaha

HB-1619-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 4:56:54 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/7/2026 9:25:00 AM

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

Comments:

-- I strongly **HB1619 HD2** that addresses permitting issues and would expedite the deployment of EV charging stations across the state. This measure clarifies definitions in Hawaii Revised Statutes, appropriately exempting these charging systems from long permit review processes for what are minor electrical upgrades, and as a result, removing unnecessary permitting delays, while still maintaining environmental oversight through cumulative impact reviews.

--A significant barrier to transitioning to EVs is the lack of EV charging infrastructure. Efforts like HB1619 HD2 are necessary if we are to achieve an equitable adoption of electric vehicles.

Andrew Isoda
Lahaina, Mau'i

HB-1619-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 5:16:56 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/7/2026 9:25:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly **HB1619 HD2** that addresses permitting issues and would expedite the deployment of EV charging stations across the state. This measure clarifies definitions in Hawaii Revised Statutes, appropriately exempting these charging systems from long permit review processes for what are minor electrical upgrades, and as a result, removing unnecessary permitting delays, while still maintaining environmental oversight through cumulative impact reviews.

--A significant barrier to transitioning to EVs is the lack of EV charging infrastructure. Efforts like HB1619 HD2 are necessary if we are to achieve an equitable adoption of electric vehicles.

HB-1619-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 6:00:36 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/7/2026 9:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
irene kloepfer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. Please support this important bill. It's time companies are held responsible for their pollution

HB-1619-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 6:25:24 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/7/2026 9:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brodie Lockard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-1619-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 11:30:14 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/7/2026 9:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
K. McGlone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill helps reduce our dependence on fossil fuels.

HB-1619-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 12:06:51 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/7/2026 9:25:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Senator Keohokalole; Senator Fukunaga; and Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

I strongly support state efforts to decrease carbon emissions from vehicles. Electric Vehicles is an important step in that direction.

--A significant barrier to transitioning to EVs is the lack of EV charging infrastructure. Efforts like HB1619 HD2 are necessary if we are to achieve an equitable adoption of electric vehicles.

Please pass HB1619, to simplify and hasten that transition!!

Mahalo,

Cheryl Ho, Nu‘uanu

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee.

I strongly support HB1619 HD2

Scarce electric vehicle charging infrastructure is a significant barrier to wide adoption of Electric Vehicles, particularly for those of us on the more rural neighbor islands. This bill will help break down that barrier, benefiting local families, encouraging visitor rentals, and helping the state in its clean energy and energy security goals.

HB1619 HD2 will accelerate the expansion of public EV chargers.

Respectfully submitted,
Keith Neal
Waimea

HB-1619-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 8:32:59 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/7/2026 9:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of. Thank you.

HB-1619-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 9:13:42 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/7/2026 9:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Kawamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1619 HD2. This legislation will help expand EV charging infrastructure statewide.

More than ever, we must support the equitable adoption of electric vehicles. Public charging will allow more residents and visitors to use energy-efficient vehicles, save money, and contribute to our energy independence.

HB1619 HD2 will accelerate the expansion of public EV chargers.

I urge the committee to pass this measure.

HB-1619-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 9:34:29 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/7/2026 9:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Bernstein	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the CPN Committee,

I support HB1619 HD2, which will help expand EV charging infrastructure statewide.

More than ever, we must support the equitable adoption of electric vehicles. Public charging will allow more residents and visitors to use energy-efficient vehicles, save money, and contribute to our energy independence.

HB1619 HD2 will accelerate the expansion of public EV chargers.

Please pass this measure out of your committee.

Mahalo nui,

Paul Bernstein

Honolulu

HB-1619-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 9:36:08 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/7/2026 9:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill will help expand EV charging infrastructure statewide. At this time especially, we should support the adoption of electric vehicles. Public charging will allow more residents and visitors to use energy-efficient vehicles, save money, and contribute to Hawaii's energy independence.

Please support HB1619 HD2.

HB-1619-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 10:25:14 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/7/2026 9:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Fitzpatrick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This just makes sense! Make it easier to charge vehicles across the state. One day, I might have an electric vehicle so I can get off of fossil fuels. I'd love to have the ability to easily charge my car or truck when it runs low on power.

Mahalo,
Fitz

HB-1619-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 11:31:14 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/7/2026 9:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alan Lennard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*THE SENATE
KA 'AHA KENEKOA*

*THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2026*

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING

DATE: Tuesday, April 7, 2026

TIME: 9:25 AM

PLACE: Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

*State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street*

*TIMESLOT:
CPN*

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Alan Lennard, I drive an EV, I work in renewables.

I support HB1619 HD2. This legislation will help expand EV charging infrastructure statewide. More than ever, we must support the equitable adoption of electric vehicles. Public charging will allow more residents and visitors to use energy-efficient vehicles, save money, and contribute to

*our energy independence.
HB1619 HD2 will accelerate the expansion of public EV chargers.*

Please pass this measure.

Thank you

Alan Lennard

P.O. Box 818 Haleiwa, HI 96712

HB-1619-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 12:39:06 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/7/2026 9:25:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support HB1619.

HB-1619-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 3:31:20 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/7/2026 9:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela Chon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support **HB1619 HD2** that addresses permitting issues and would expedite the deployment of EV charging stations across the state. This measure clarifies definitions in Hawaii Revised Statutes, appropriately exempting these charging systems from long permit review processes for what are minor electrical upgrades, and as a result, removing unnecessary permitting delays, while still maintaining environmental oversight through cumulative impact reviews.

A significant barrier to transitioning to EVs is the lack of EV charging infrastructure. Efforts like HB1619 HD2 are necessary if we are to achieve an equitable adoption of electric vehicles.

Sincerely,
Angela Chon

HB-1619-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 5:31:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/7/2026 9:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mojo Mustapha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mojo Mustapha, and I live off-grid in the Puna District on Hawai‘i Island. I am a volcano refugee, my home and business was lost during the [2018 Kīlauea eruption](#). Eight years later, I’m still rebuilding my life in the eruption zone using renewable systems and sustainable practices. I drive an electric vehicle as my sole means of transportation, depending entirely on public chargers to remain mobile.

I support **HB1619 HD2**, which will help expand EV charging infrastructure statewide. For residents like me who live off-grid or in rural areas, reliable public charging is not just a convenience, it’s essential to our livelihood and to Hawai‘i’s transition away from imported fossil fuels.

More than ever, Hawai‘i must support equitable adoption of electric vehicles. Accessible public charging enables more residents and visitors to choose clean, energy-efficient transportation, reduce costs, and contribute to our state’s goal of energy independence.

HB1619 HD2 will accelerate the development of these public charging networks, making clean mobility more feasible for all communities, including those still recovering from natural disasters.

Please pass this measure.

Respectfully,
Mojo Mustapha
Volcano Refugee & Off-Grid Resident, Puna District

HB-1619-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 7:43:45 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/7/2026 9:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Diane Ware and I am an EV owner in critical need of EV public charging infrastructure. The state's transportation sector has a huge carbon footprint that is only going up and we will not meet goals by discouraging EV ownership due to this lack of infrastructure.

I support HB1619 HD2. This legislation will help expand EV charging infrastructure statewide. More than ever, we must support the equitable adoption of electric vehicles. Public charging will allow more residents and visitors to use energy-efficient vehicles, save money, and contribute to our energy independence.

HB1619 HD2 will accelerate the expansion of public EV chargers.

Please pass this measure.

Volcano 96785

HB-1619-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 6:20:47 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/7/2026 9:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Morin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1619 HD2

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Noel Morin. I'm on the board of Hawaii EV Association and Sustainable Energy Hawaii. I advocate for the equitable adoption of electric vehicles – vehicles that are efficient, have low maintenance and operating costs, and don't pollute our air. A key to fair and equitable adoption is access to public charging infrastructure.

I strongly support HB1619 HD2, which addresses two critical bottlenecks impeding Hawai'i's transition to clean, efficient, zero-emission transportation.

#1 - Unnecessary Permitting Delays

Hawai'i's coastal geography places many prime charging locations within Special Management Areas (SMAs). Current SMA permitting treats EV chargers as "development," which triggers long review processes for what are minor electrical upgrades comparable to the pad-mounted transformers that already exempted. This bill's exemption treats EV charging systems as minor structures while maintaining environmental oversight through cumulative impact reviews.

#2 – Insufficient Grid Planning

This measure will help us avoid the issue of chargers without adequate grid capacity.

HECO's analysis shows that deploying DC fast chargers at highway intervals requires substation upgrades at several planned locations. Without PUC coordination, we risk installing \$100,000 fast chargers that can't deliver rated power during peak demand. PUC involvement will ensure that charger deployment timelines align with utility capacity and prevent costly retrofits and delays.

Hawai'i has approximately 900 public charging ports statewide. HDOT's Energy Security and Waste Reduction Plan suggests that we need up to 4,000 public charging ports by 2030. With our current deployment pace, we will not meet our charging station installation targets.

HB1619 HD2 will eliminate obstacles to our clean transportation and sustainable energy transition.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

[Noel Morin](#)

Climate, Sustainability, and Resilience Advocate

Hilo, Hawai'i

HB-1619-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 7:27:11 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/7/2026 9:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Colehour Bondera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair & Committee Members:

Hawaii needs to stop relying on petroleum.

Please support this legislation to make options more available.

Support HB1619 and allow electric cars to be used more readily.

Yours,

Colehour Bondera

Honaunau, HI

HB-1619-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 7:30:13 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/7/2026 9:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jackie Keefe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

My name is Jackie Keefe, and I am **in strong support of HB1619 HD2**, which addresses permitting issues and would expedite the deployment of EV charging stations across the state. This measure clarifies definitions in Hawaii Revised Statutes, appropriately exempting these charging systems from long permit review processes for what are minor electrical upgrades, and as a result, removing unnecessary permitting delays, while still maintaining environmental oversight through cumulative impact reviews.

A significant barrier to transitioning to EVs is the lack of EV charging infrastructure. Efforts like HB1619 HD2 are necessary if we are to achieve an equitable adoption of electric vehicles.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Jackie Keefe, Lahaina

HB-1619-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 8:08:57 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/7/2026 9:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Barker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members,

I am writing to ask that you support HB1619 HD2 which clarifies definitions in Hawaii Revised Statutes, appropriately exempting these EV charging systems from long permit review processes for what are minor electrical upgrades.

This measure will remove unnecessary permitting delays, while still maintaining environmental oversight through cumulative impact reviews.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

HB-1619-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 8:55:24 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/7/2026 9:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Hall Morin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for supporting this bill.

LATE

HB-1619-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:35:58 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/7/2026 9:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Chair Todd and members of the FIN Committee,

My name is Nanea Lo, and I strongly support HB1619 HD2.

HB1619 HD2 addresses unnecessary permitting barriers that slow the deployment of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure across Hawai‘i. By clarifying definitions in Hawai‘i Revised Statutes, this bill appropriately exempts certain EV charging system installations from lengthy permit review processes when they involve only minor electrical upgrades. This will significantly reduce delays while still maintaining environmental oversight through cumulative impact reviews.

A major barrier to EV adoption in Hawai‘i is the lack of accessible and reliable charging infrastructure. Without sufficient charging stations, many residents—especially those in multi-family housing or without private parking—are unable to transition to cleaner transportation options. This measure helps remove that barrier by making it faster and easier to build out the infrastructure our communities need.

Expanding EV infrastructure is also critical to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, lowering transportation costs over time, and advancing Hawai‘i’s clean energy goals. By streamlining the permitting process in a responsible way, HB1619 HD2 supports a more equitable and efficient transition to electric vehicles.

This is a practical step that balances urgency with environmental responsibility and helps move Hawai‘i toward a cleaner, more sustainable transportation future.

Please pass HB1619 HD2.

Me ke aloha ‘āina,
Nanea Lo, 96826
Sierra Club of Hawai‘i Member
Hawai‘i Workers Center Board Member
Clean Elections Hawai‘i Member
Honolulu Tenants Union Member
350 Hawai‘i Member

Carbon Cashback Hawai'i Member
Hawai'i Tax Fairness Coalition Member

LATE

HB-1619-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 11:07:52 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/7/2026 9:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Virginia Tincher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

I support HB1619 HD2. This legislation will help expand EV charging infrastructure statewide.

More than ever, we must support the equitable adoption of electric vehicles. Public charging will allow more residents and visitors to use energy-efficient vehicles, save money, and contribute to our energy independence.

HB1619 HD2 will accelerate the expansion of public EV chargers.

My daughter and granddaughter both have EVs and the availability of more public chargers will be very helpful to them.

Please pass this measure.

Virginia

Honolulu

LATE

HB-1619-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 5:23:43 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/7/2026 9:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support

LATE

HB-1619-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 6:07:43 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/7/2026 9:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Lum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly **HB1619 HD2** that addresses permitting issues and would expedite the deployment of EV charging stations across the state. This measure clarifies definitions in Hawaii Revised Statutes, appropriately exempting these charging systems from long permit review processes for what are minor electrical upgrades, and as a result, removing unnecessary permitting delays, while still maintaining environmental oversight through cumulative impact reviews.

A significant barrier to transitioning to EVs is the lack of EV charging infrastructure. Efforts like HB1619 HD2 are necessary if we are to achieve an equitable adoption of electric vehicles.

Mahalo,

Jen Lum, 'Ewa Beach