

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
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 House Committee on
WATER & LAND**

**Tuesday, February 17, 2026
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 411**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1774 HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO CENTRALIZED ACCESS TO RESOURCES**

House Bill 1774, House Draft 1 requires and appropriates funds for the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) to develop, implement, and maintain a centralized resource website to connect residents to support and resources to address affordability, health, safety, and the impacts of climate change, **The 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.

This bill addresses environmental justice, affordability, and resiliency concerns by making access to climate funding easier. Residents of the State of Hawai'i have access to a variety of federal and state benefits, particularly when it comes to energy rebates, energy-efficient appliance upgrades, tax credits, and financing. However, people can only take advantage of these opportunities if they are aware of the programs' existence and navigate multiple different websites and application processes. Centralized access to these resources would create a usable, streamlined path to deliver comprehensive resources and solutions.

Hawai'i offers numerous programs to help homeowners and renters make home upgrades that improve environmental and public health. However, these programs are administered by various agencies, each with their own unique application process and eligibility criteria. This fragmentation

can make it challenging for residents to identify programs for which they are eligible and understand how to combine benefits from multiple sources.

As a result, they miss out on opportunities to:

Lower Utility Bills: Energy-efficient upgrades, including air sealing and insulation, can reduce energy bills by over 30%. Combining solar photovoltaic (PV) and electric appliances can further increase savings.

Upgrade to Modern, Safe Appliances: Replacing outdated, inefficient systems with high-efficiency appliances maximizes comfort and safety while reducing emissions and can drastically cut or eliminate unhealthy pollution in the home.

Access Healthy, Emission-Free Transportation: Electric bikes and scooters support healthy lifestyles while reducing tailpipe emissions.

Improve the Safety and Resiliency of Homes: Leveraging state and federal programs assists homeowners in paying for weatherization upgrades, such as additional insulation, and ventilation replacement or installation. These upgrades not only make homes more energy efficient, they also make them safer, more comfortable, and resilient against extreme weather.

This bill would streamline engagement with state programs and create a free, statewide one-stop shop that provides residents with a single point of entry to access support in identifying needed home upgrades, applying to different incentive programs, and connecting with approved contractors.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1774 HD1, RELATING TO CENTRALIZED ACCESS TO RESOURCES

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

February 17, 2026

To the Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i **strongly supports HB1774 HD1**. This measure advances Hawai'i's responsibility to **protect and preserve our environment, restore a healthy climate, and build a sustainable and self-sufficient future** for present and future generations.

All people have the right to live in a **clean, healthy, and safe environment**, and the State has a duty under the Public Trust Doctrine of the Hawai'i State Constitution to steward natural resources for the benefit of the people. By strengthening climate resilience and improving access to programs that reduce energy burdens and support household stability, this measure helps fulfill that obligation. This bill supports a transition away from fossil fuels by promoting **energy efficiency, climate preparedness, and long-term affordability**, while creating pathways toward **100% renewable energy** and more resilient communities. It also creates space for climate solutions that reflect **indigenous resource-management principles**, such as balance, stewardship, and intergenerational responsibility. By helping residents better access climate, energy, and affordability resources, this measure supports a more sustainable society, protects native ecosystems, and strengthens community resilience in the face of climate change.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB1774 HD1. Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact the Democratic Party of Hawai'i at legislation@hawaiidemocrats.org.

February 13th 2026

SUPPORT FOR: HB 1774 HD1

Hearing Date: February 17th, 2026; 9:00 AM

Committee: WAL

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Committee Members,

My name is **Rafael Bergstrom**, the executive director for **Sustainable Coastlines Hawai'i**, and we **strongly support** HB1774 to require and appropriate funds for the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission to develop, implement, and maintain a centralized resource website to connect residents to support and resources to address affordability, health, safety, and the impacts of climate change.

As a nonprofit with a **mission to inspire communities to care for coastlines**, we firmly believe in accessibility measures that enhance our state's sustainability efforts. This concept is a win-win because it consolidates the often-scattered opportunities for residents to find discounts and other savings that also serve to advance the future longevity of the islands. As efforts to meet clean transportation, renewable energy, and waste reduction goals ramp up in the coming years, this sort of clearinghouse will only become more needed. Having clear mechanisms to alleviate costs will also make residents more likely to support state and local initiatives that aim to curb the impacts of climate change.

Having served on Honolulu County's Stormwater Utility Task Force, we also feel that it is important to work together with city and county governments to ensure that this centralized database coordinates with local governments and shares their opportunities as well. Ultimately, the measures at the county level will be critical to meeting state goals.

Mahalo for considering this bill that is about transparency, accountability, and accessibility. Please support and PASS HB1774 out of your committee.

With Aloha & Appreciation,

Rafael Bergstrom,



Executive Director, Sustainable Coastlines Hawai'i



Carbon Cashback

February 13, 2026

Re: WAL hearing of HB 1774 HD1 on February 17, 2026

Position: Support

Aloha e Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and members of the House Committee on Water & Land,

Carbon Cashback Hawai'i advocates for legislation that reduces carbon emissions and strengthens Hawai'i's energy independence while protecting vulnerable kama'aiana families.

Carbon Cashback Hawai'i strongly supports HB 1774 HD1 because it would empower Hawai'i's residents to take better advantage of programs that can make their lives healthier, safer, and more affordable.

The bill appropriates funds for the development of a centralized resource website to connect residents to support and resources to address affordability, health, safety, and the impacts of climate change. The site is to be maintained by the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission.

Hawai'i residents qualify for a variety of federal and state benefits related to efficiency upgrades for the home and transportation, including rebates, tax credits, and financing packages, but it's difficult to learn about them and access them because they are administered across multiple agencies, each with its own application processes. As a result, many families miss out on benefits that were designed and established specifically for them.

Creating a centralized site to access those benefits would help to more effectively deliver solutions that address health, safety, and affordability to families across the State.

Mahalo nui loa.

HB-1774-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2026 9:41:29 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/17/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Climate Protectors Hawaii **SUPPORT** this bill connecting residents to support and resources to address affordability, health, safety, and the impacts of climate change in Hawaii.



To: The House Committee on Water & Land
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026, 9:00am

In support of HB1774 HD1

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and members of the Water & Land committee,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org **supports HB1774 HD1** that requires and appropriates funds for the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission to develop, implement, and maintain a centralized resource website to connect residents to support and resources to address affordability, health, safety, and the impacts of climate change.

This website would offer a valuable comprehensive resource to assist residents, including low-to moderate-income households, with access to much needed opportunities to improve household energy efficiency, reduce utility costs, and promote long-term cost savings for working families. While there are several programs available for Hawai'i residents that address sustainability, affordability and resilience, many are not aware of them, and so are not able to reap the benefits.

In a just transition, no one is left behind. By helping residents better access climate, energy, and affordability resources, HB1774 HD1 supports and strengthens community resilience. We urge you to pass this common-sense and much needed measure.

Thank you for the opportunity testify.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

HB-1774-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 12:35:53 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/17/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Grandinetti	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1774. Despite the current Federal stand on climate change, it is a scientific fact that increasing greenhouse gases in our atmosphere are causing climate change and rising sea levels. As an island state, it is imperative that we prepare for this eventuality and help our residents connect with resources to cope with these changes.

Mahalo,

Andrew Grandinetti

HB-1774-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2026 9:36:20 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/17/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Graham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and members of the House Committee on Water & Land,

I support HB 1774 HD1 because it would help people take advantage of programs and benefits they might not be aware of and would otherwise be difficult to access.

Based on my experience trying to learn about and take advantage of programs like rebates for clean energy purchases and efficiency upgrades, I think investing in a web-based one-stop shop makes good sense.

Thank you,

Thomas Graham, Honolulu

HB-1774-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 5:37:31 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/17/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and members of the House Committee on Water & Land,

I strongly supports HB 1774 HD1 because it would empower Hawai'i's residents to take better advantage of programs that can make their lives healthier, safer, and more affordable.

Creating a centralized site to access those benefits would help to more effectively deliver solutions that address health, safety, and affordability to families across the State.

Mahalo,

Virginia Tincher

Honolulu

HB-1774-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 5:44:02 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/17/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice-chair Morikawa, and members of the WAL committee,

I'm writing in support of HB1774.

This bill fills a major puka as the State tries to move forward in reducing its emissions and dependence on fossil fuels by centralizing the State's resources to help residents and businesses find the resources and help they need to make the transition to having a lower carbon footprint.

The bill requires and appropriates funds for the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission to develop, implement, and maintain a centralized resource website to connect residents to support and resources to address affordability, health, safety, and the impacts of climate change.

Please pass this bill out of your committee.

Mahalo,

Paul Bernstein

Honolulu, O'ahu