

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



RYAN I. YAMANE  
DIRECTOR  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**  
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA  
Office of the Director  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

TRISTA SPEER  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

February 15, 2026

TO: The Honorable Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair  
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

FROM: Ryan I. Yamane, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2284 HD1 – RELATING TO ENERGY ASSISTANCE.**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 18, 2026, 2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 329 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this administration measure, provides comments, and defers to the Public Utilities Commission.

The purpose of this measure is to establish the Hawaii Home Energy Assistance Program within DHS to assist qualifying households in paying their energy bills, and to require the Public Utilities Commission Public Benefits Fee Administrator to provide certain assistance to program recipients.

DHS currently contracts with agencies in each county to conduct intake and eligibility determinations for applications to the Hawai'i Home Energy Assistance Program (H-HEAP), federally referred to as the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The total for the four contracts is just over \$500,000.

With rising utility costs, Hawai'i households are often forced to prioritize expenses, forgoing utilities in favor of rent or food. For over 40 years, H-HEAP has assisted vulnerable Hawai'i households with electric and gas utility assistance payments through energy crisis

intervention or energy credits. These funds prevent or restore service disconnection or provide credit to help offset the household's energy burden.

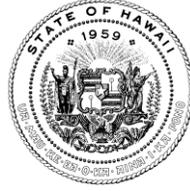
Each year, funding is subject to Congressional appropriation with decreasing allotments in the years leading up to FFY 2020. However, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Congressional action and supplemental funding from various federal acts allowed DHS to increase income limits to serve more households with record-high energy credits, increase energy credit payments, provide a supplemental crisis payment in 2021, and implement the complete erasure of utility arrears in FFY 2022 and 2023 for eligible households.

In FFY 2023, DHS received the largest LIHEAP appropriation in program history. In total, \$10.6 million was disbursed to nearly 8,300 Hawai'i households through direct payments to utility companies.

In FFY 2025, the appropriation was \$8.7 million, serving 9,007 households. Of these households, 6,973 contained a vulnerable family member: a disabled adult, an adult aged 60 or older, or a child under 5.

For the FFY 2026, the current appropriation is \$7.7 million. Without further funding, eligible households will have a lower benefit than in the past, despite facing up to a 30% increase in utility costs. Establishing and funding this proposed program would provide a vital, stable resource for H-HEAP to better serve households, including our most vulnerable families, facing rising energy costs.

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



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

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

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

NADINE Y. ANDO  
DIRECTOR | KA LUNA HO'OKELE

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

**Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs**

**Before the  
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
Wednesday, February 18, 2026  
2:00 p.m.  
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:  
H.B. 2284, H.D. 1, RELATING TO ENERGY ASSISTANCE**

Chair Matayoshi and Members of the Committee:

My name is Michael Angelo, and I am the Executive Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Division of Consumer Advocacy. The Department supports this administration bill.

The purpose of this bill is to: (1) establish the Hawai'i Home Energy Assistance Program within the Department of Human Services to assist qualifying households in paying their energy bills; (2) require the Public Utilities Commission Public Benefits Fee Administrator to provide certain information and assistance to recipients of the program; and (3) appropriate funds to implement the program.

As recognized in this bill, Hawaii's electricity rates are amongst the highest in the nation and the number of electric utility customers in arrears and facing disconnections have grown since prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, given that the federal low-income home energy assistance program (LIHEAP) is based on a formula that is not tailored to the needs of Hawaii utility customers, so much so that in fiscal year 2021-2022

Hawaii received only 0.14% of federal LIHEAP funds, the Department fully supports the establishment of a state home energy assistance program as envisioned by this bill.

The Department especially appreciates that this state program is intended to be funded through a general fund appropriation and not through fees assessed on utility customers. Assessing fees on utility customers would increase utility bills for all customers and thereby exacerbate the energy burden for low- to moderate-income households, the very problem that this program is seeking to alleviate. As currently drafted, this measure avoids placing an additional financial burden on those households that this bill would assist. Furthermore, the Department fully supports the provisions of the bill that requires the Public Utilities Commission Public Benefits Administrator, in conjunction with the Department of Human Services, to provide information and technical assistance to recipients of the state energy assistance program and assist them with implementing energy efficiency improvements.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and we respectfully ask the Committee to pass this administration bill.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LT. GOVERNOR



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

JON S. ITOMURA  
CHAIR

NAOMI U. KUWAYE  
COMMISSIONER

COLIN A. YOST  
COMMISSIONER

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

Website: [puc.hawaii.gov](http://puc.hawaii.gov)  
E-mail: [puc@hawaii.gov](mailto:puc@hawaii.gov)

## Testimony of the Public Utilities Commission

To the  
House Committee on  
Consumer Protection & Commerce

Wednesday, February 18, 2026  
2:00 p.m.

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

**Measure:** H.B. No. 2284, H.D. 1  
**Title:** RELATING TO ENERGY ASSISTANCE.

### Position:

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

### Comments:

The Commission supports the intent of this measure to assist households in paying their energy bills by creating a Hawaii home energy assistance program. This aligns with our core mission of ensuring safe, reliable, and affordable utility services for Hawaii residents. Importantly, this measure addresses a critical and growing energy affordability crisis in Hawaii.

Considerations for affordability and equity in energy policy are actively being explored by the Commission through several current dockets and initiatives. In December 2022, the Commission opened Docket No. 2022-0250 on "Energy Equity and Justice" to examine achieving equity in both social and economic participation in the energy system. Amid this broader equity investigation, the Commission identified a need to explore the equity implications of utility disconnections due to nonpayment, which disproportionately affect low-income households. The Commission subsequently opened Docket No. 2025-0284 in June 2025 to examine current electric utility disconnections and consider whether disconnection policy revisions are appropriate. Similarly, in response to 2022 legislative resolutions S.C.R. 242, S.D. 1, S.R. 133, S.D. 1, and H.R. 43, H.D. 1, the Commission and the Consumer Advocate established a Working Group in September 2022 focused

on creating a Hawaii home energy assistance program<sup>1</sup> which is aligned closely with the intent of H.B. 2284, H.D.1.

Hawaii households face significant energy burden. In 2024, over 20 percent of households in Hawaii reported foregoing critical expenses such as food or medicine to pay their energy bill in full.<sup>2</sup> Hawaii ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation for highest average household electricity burden, and on top of that – households living below the Federal Poverty Level spent approximately 20 percent of their income on electricity costs, over nine times higher than the State average.<sup>3</sup> Relatedly, disconnections rates more than doubled from approximately 5,900 in 2018 to roughly 12,800 in 2023.<sup>4</sup>

The current federal program for Low Income Home Energy Assistance (“LIHEAP”) remains woefully inadequate for Hawaii’s needs. Despite having the nation’s highest household electricity costs (about 63 percent more than the national average),<sup>5</sup> Hawaii receives the lowest LIHEAP funding nationwide.<sup>6</sup> The program’s 1984 funding formula heavily favors states with high heating needs while ignoring electricity price differences and Hawaii’s unique energy challenges. The National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition reports that Hawaii received just 0.14 percent of federal LIHEAP funds in fiscal year 2021-2022 – about half of the next-lowest state.<sup>7</sup> Furthermore, an average of less than 11 percent of state income-eligible Hawaii households have received LIHEAP assistance over the past several years.<sup>8</sup>

The establishment of a Hawaii home energy assistance program is not just important - it is urgent. As more families face disconnection, the gap between federal assistance and actual need continues to widen. Without state-level intervention, more Hawaii families will face impossible choices between paying for electricity and other basic necessities.

Given these challenges and federal funding inadequacies, the Commission strongly supports establishing a Hawaii home energy assistance program as written in H.B. 2284, H.D. 1. The measure will provide immediate relief to struggling Hawaii families, create a more equitable energy assistance framework, and reduce utility disconnections and their associated societal costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

---

<sup>1</sup> State of Hawaii Public Utilities Commission, “Report to the 2023 Legislature” (Dec 2022).

<sup>2</sup> RMI, “Pathways to Disconnection Reform in Hawaii” (Aug 2024).

<sup>3</sup> Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT), “Electricity Burdens on Hawaii Households: 2022 Update” (Jan 2025).

<sup>4</sup> RMI, “Pathways to Disconnection Reform in Hawaii” (Aug 2024).

<sup>5</sup> DBEDT, “Electricity Burdens on Hawaii Households: 2022 Update” (Jan 2025).

<sup>6</sup> LIHEAP Clearing House, “FY24 releases and reallocation awards to states and territories.”

<sup>7</sup> National Energy & Utility Affordability Coalition, “State Utility Assistance Program Options Prepared for Hawaii Working Group” (Nov 2022).

<sup>8</sup> LIHEAP Performance Management: Data Warehouse <https://liheappm.acf.gov/datawarehouse/>

LATE \*Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

KE KE'ENA LOLI ANIAU MĀLAMA 'ĀINA A ME KE OLA LOA  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 SOUTH KING STREET, 11<sup>th</sup> FLOOR • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
PHONE: (808) 768-2277 • EMAIL: [resilientoahu@honolulu.gov](mailto:resilientoahu@honolulu.gov) • WEBSITE: [resilientoahu.org](http://resilientoahu.org)

LATE

RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR  
MEIA



KEALOHA FOX, Ph. D.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR &  
CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER  
*PO'O HO'O KŌ & KAHU OLA LOA*

VACANT  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR &  
DEPUTY CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER  
*HOPE PO'O & HOPE KAHU OLA LOA*

TESTIMONY OF KEALOHA FOX, PH.D.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY AND  
RESILIENCY AND CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE  
**Wednesday, February 18, 2026, 2:00 PM**  
**Conference RM 329 and Via Videoconference**

TO: Rep. Scot Matayoshi, Chair, Rep. Tina Grandinetti, Chair, and Members of the  
Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

RE: SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 2284, RELATING TO ENERGY ASSISTANCE

The City and County of Honolulu's ("City") Office of Climate Change, Sustainability, and Resiliency ("Resilience Office") **supports** House Bill 2284, HD1, which establishes the Hawai'i Home Energy Assistance Program to assist qualifying households in paying their energy bills.

Energy affordability is an increasingly urgent issue for O'ahu residents. As temperatures continue to rise as a result of climate change—and Hawai'i's electricity rates remain among the highest in the nation—households are facing higher cooling needs and utility expenses. These burdens fall disproportionately on low-income households, increasing the risk of utility disconnection and undermining household health and stability.

This measure addresses a critical gap in the energy assistance landscape, as the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program funding fails to recognize Hawai'i's unique challenges and provide sufficient support. Without additional assistance, many of O'ahu's households are forced to make difficult trade-offs between essential needs like food, healthcare, and energy. Ensuring that households can afford electricity is foundational to Hawai'i's clean energy transition. Energy-secure households are better able to participate in energy efficiency and clean energy programs, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and remain safe during extreme heat and climate-related disruptions.

This measure supports the City's Climate Action Plan and resilience goals while providing immediate relief to those most impacted. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **support** of HB2284, HD1.



**Hawaiian  
Electric**

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

**HB 2284, HD1  
Relating to Energy Assistance**

Wednesday, February 18, 2026  
2:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

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

Hawaiian Electric is submitting written testimony in **support** of HB 2284, HD1, Relating to Energy Assistance.

The purpose of this bill is to establish the Hawaii Home Energy Assistance Program (“HIHEAP”) within the Department of Human Services to extend funding for qualifying households in need of financial assistance for utility bills. The Hawaii Home Energy Assistance Program would complement the current Federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, known as LIHEAP in providing critical fiscal aid for low- to moderate-income families. This bill cites Aloha United Way’s 2024 ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) Report, which notes 40% of Hawai’i households live below the ALICE threshold and struggle to pay their bills, and primarily focuses on electric utility arrears and disconnections. The 2024 ALICE in the Crosscurrents Report shares a 2022 Household Survival Budget<sup>1</sup> that lists “Housing – Utilities” as \$310 out of \$8,983 per month for a family of four, or 3.5% of the total sample monthly budget. Comparatively, food, rent and childcare for a family of four may cost \$1,757 (19.6%), \$1,716 (19.1%), and \$1,690 (18.8%), respectively per month.

---

<sup>1</sup> [ALICE in the Crosscurrents: An Update on Financial Hardship in Hawai’i](#)

While electric bills can add up every month, they are a small percentage of annual income compared to other essentials like housing, food, childcare, transportation, and healthcare. Hawaiian Electric's electricity rates are at their lowest level in three years and among the most stable in the United States. With current rates down 15% since the start of the Russia/Ukraine War in Q3 2022, Hawai'i's average residential bill is down 3% whereas the average U.S. residential bill is up 6%. When all forms of energy spending are accounted for including electricity, gas, and other fuels, Hawai'i ranks 35<sup>th</sup> in the U.S. for household energy burden at 2.3% with the national average boasting the same percentage according to the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism's ("DBEDT") 2025 Electricity Burdens on Hawai'i Households: 2022 Update report<sup>2</sup>. Due to ongoing collections efforts and improved customer payments, Hawaiian Electric's older past due balance arrears for O'ahu and Hawai'i customers have reached pre-pandemic levels. In comparison, the continuing moratorium on disconnections for Maui customers has led to a steep increase in long-term arrears balances greater than 90 days, which will be difficult for customers to pay once the moratorium ends.

Hawaiian Electric supports this bill as it would establish and appropriate funds to our most vulnerable community members in the form of financial assistance and energy efficient efforts. The benefits of such a program extend far beyond immediate financial relief. By providing financial assistance, we can significantly improve the quality of life for low-income families, enabling them to allocate their limited resources toward other essential needs as mentioned in the sample ALICE survival budget in the report referenced above. Moreover, this program will contribute to the overall economic stability of our communities. When residents can manage their energy costs effectively,

---

<sup>2</sup> [Electricity Burdens on Hawai'i Households Jan 2025.pdf](#)

it reduces the likelihood of arrears and debt accumulation, fostering a more resilient and financially healthy community.

The bill notes that the Public Utilities Commission Public Benefits Fee administrator may offer information and assistance to encourage more energy efficient homes, which would also positively impact energy usage and costs. Hawaiian Electric supports funding for HIHEAP chartered by general revenues of the State of Hawai'i instead of seeking additional fees or moneys from ratepayers, which could further increase customers' financial burdens.

Accordingly, Hawaiian Electric **supports** HB 2284, HD1. Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony.



FEBRUARY 18, 2026

## HOUSE BILL 2284 HD1

CURRENT REFERRAL: CPC

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

---

Imua Alliance supports HB 2284 HD1, relating to energy assistance, which establishes the Hawai'i Home Energy Assistance Program within the Department of Human Services to assist qualifying households in paying their energy bills; and requires the Public Utilities Commission Public Benefits Fee Administrator to provide certain information and assistance to recipients of the program.

Imua Alliance is a Hawai'i-based organization dedicated to ending sexual exploitation and gender violence, and combating all forms of systemic exploitation in our society, including that of our planet.

We must do more to offset the energy costs incurred by working families. Currently one out of every four households in Hawai'i reports that they are "doubling up" or are three paychecks or less away from being homeless, per the Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice. Additionally, over 60 percent of households are severely cost-burdened, meaning that they pay more than 30 percent of their income on housing, a number that rises to over 80 percent of extremely low-income households.

Moreover, a recent survey conducted by the Holomua Collective found that 60 percent of residents face worries about not being able to pay a monthly bill; 63 percent face difficulties in saving money from their paychecks for future emergencies, retirement, or other expenses; and 82 percent say that the state needs to do more to increase access to energy savings for homeowners and renters. A staggering 70 percent of middle-class respondents to Holomua's survey say they will—or are unsure if they will have to—relocate in the coming years. As Holomua Collective states in its report on the findings, "These are the very workers powering Hawai'i's economy, now on the brink of leaving their homes behind."

---

In 2022, the legislature adopted SCR 242, requesting The Public Utilities Commission, in collaboration with the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' Division of Consumer Advocacy, to convene a working group to create a low-income home energy assistance program to assist low-income households with paying for their energy costs.

In response, the PUC's working group found that over 20 percent of households in our state report foregoing critical expenses, such as food or medicine, to pay their energy bills and that Hawai'i ranked 5th in the nation for highest average household electricity burden. In its *"Electricity Burdens on Hawai'i Households: 2022 Update*, DBEDT analysts noted that households living below the federal poverty level spend approximately 20 percent of their income on electricity costs, over nine times higher than the state average. The report also highlights our state's exorbitant electricity costs: 63 percent more than the national average.

According to the LIHEAP Clearing House, a mere 6 percent of federally income-eligible households in Hawai'i have received LIHEAP heating assistance over the past four years. As the price of electricity continues to rise—along with all other expenses, like food and housing—we must take action to prevent energy costs from exacerbating electricity disconnections and out-migration.

Access to energy is essential to uplifting economic resilience and public health for our community. Developing equity-based policy interventions is a matter of utter importance for residents who are living on the cusp of financial precarity, barely able to make ends meet.

With aloha,

*Kris Coffield*

President, Imua Alliance



Testimony Before the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

By Beth Amaro  
Member Services and Communications Manager  
Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative  
4463 Pahe'e Street, Suite 1, Līhu'e, Hawai'i, 96766-2000

Wednesday, February 18, 2026; 2:00 pm  
Conference Room #329 & Videoconference

**House Bill No. 2284 HD1 – RELATING TO ENERGY ASSISTANCE**

To the Honorable Chair Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Tina Nakada Grandinetti, and Members of the Committee:

Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC) is a not-for-profit utility providing electrical service to more than 34,000 commercial and residential members.

**KIUC supports this measure.**

KIUC is committed to providing safe, reliable, clean electricity to its customers at the lowest possible rates. Since becoming an electric cooperative 23 years ago, KIUC's rates have gone from being the highest in the state – roughly 70% higher than rates on O'ahu – to often being the lowest rates in the state since 2022. KIUC has achieved this remarkable turnaround using a variety of strategies including cost control measures (e.g., reduced staffing levels), debt restructuring, and replacing oil-fired generation with lower-cost renewables at fixed prices.

KIUC recognizes that some of its customers struggle to make ends meet, and that electricity bills contribute to the relatively high cost of living that has been prevalent in the State of Hawai'i for decades. KIUC offers numerous financial assistance programs, such as the federally-funded H-HEAP program, to members who meet qualification requirements. H-HEAP subsidizes income-qualified members' utility payments by a total of \$300,000-\$400,000 per year. In addition, the KIUC Charitable Foundation, a separate, not-for-profit entity, provides assistance to members in financial need through grant funds administered by Kaua'i Economic Opportunity and Catholic Charities of Hawai'i. KIUC will also conduct home energy audits to assist members in reducing their energy use, which results directly in bill savings.

We support the establishment of the Hawai'i Home Energy Assistance Program in order to expand the assistance options available to utility customers in financial need throughout the state.

Thank you for your consideration.



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2284 HD1: RELATING TO ENERGY ASSISTANCE

TO: House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce  
FROM: Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison, Catholic Charities Hawai'i  
Hearing: Wednesday, February 18, 2026; 2:00 pm; CR 329 & Videoconference

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Members, Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce:

I am Betty Lou Larson from Catholic Charities Hawai'i. We **strongly support HB 2284 HD1**, which establishes the Hawai'i Home Energy Assistance program within the Department of Human Services (DHS) to help qualifying households to pay their energy bills.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawai'i for over 78 years, assisting over 40,000 individuals statewide each year. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy to the most vulnerable of the people in Hawai'i. We participate in the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) initiative and other initiatives to assist our local residents as they face the high cost of living in Hawai'i.

Hawai'i residents face incredibly high energy bills. For the 11% of households living below the Federal Poverty Line, electricity expenses consume **nearly 20% of their income**—more than nine times the state average. In addition, nearly half of Hawai'i's households are ALICE families: employed, yet still struggling just to cover basic necessities.

This growing financial strain has led to a huge surge in utility shutoffs. By 2023, these had shot up to 12,000 disconnects/year—double the pre-COVID average. Along with the large increase in the cost of living, there are few resources to help families stay current on their bills.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i urges your support for the Hawai'i Home Energy Assistance Program to help residents **manage their high electricity costs, including assisting recipients with implementation of energy efficient improvements.** The Program would provide much-needed relief, preventing families from having to choose between keeping the lights on and meeting other essential needs. Swift action is necessary to protect our most vulnerable households, particularly as climate change continues to place additional burdens on our communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate your leadership in addressing Hawai'i's growing energy affordability crisis.

If you have any questions, please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson, at (808) 527-4813.



**HB-2284-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/14/2026 12:16:42 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/18/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

2284 HB RELATING TO ENERGY ASSISTANCE.

To: Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair  
Representative Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair  
Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

From: Veronica Moore, Individual Citizen

Date: February 17, 2026

RE: House Bill 2284 HD1  
Measure Title: RELATING TO ENERGY ASSISTANCE.  
Report Title: DHS; PUC; Hawai'i Home Energy Assistance Program;  
Appropriation (\$)

To All Concerned,

My name is Veronica Moore and I support House Bill 2284 HD1. Thank you for introducing this bill.

Sincerely,

Veronica M. Moore