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

**Before the  
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
Tuesday, March 31, 2026  
2:00 p.m.  
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:  
H.C.R. 168 / H.R. 158, REQUEST THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION TO  
DEVELOP A TEMPORARY WORKING GROUP TO STUDY THE CURRENT  
CAPACITY OF UTILITY SERVICES, THE EXPECTED LIFESPAN OF EXISTING  
COASTLINE INFRASTRUCTURE, AND THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF  
NECESSARY EXPANSIONS**

Chair Matayoshi and Members of the Committee:

My name is Michael Angelo, and I am the Executive Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Division of Consumer Advocacy. The Department offers comments on this resolution.

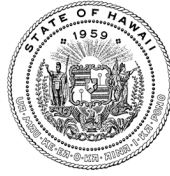
The purpose of this resolution is to request the Public Utilities Commission to develop a temporary working group to study the current capacity of utility services, the expected lifespan of existing coastline infrastructure, and financial implications of necessary expansion. Among specific other tasks, the temporary working group is to analyze the financial impact and necessary costs for expanding infrastructure to accommodate projected coastline community growth, and to identify any existing plans for upgrades, including expected timelines and projected impacts on the community.

The Department appreciates the intent of the resolution to be proactive regarding critical infrastructure around coastlines and the impacts on the communities, especially in light of the devastation that occurred throughout our State during the recent Kona Storms. Planning and assessment of the needs and demands of the public for utility services in the future and the financial impacts on them is important. Accordingly, the Department requests that the resolution be amended to include the Executive Director of the Division of Consumer Advocacy, or the Executive Director's designee as a member of the temporary working group. In addition, the Department also recommends that any reference to the "Public Utility Commission" be revised to refer to the "Public Utilities Commission", including in the title of the resolution.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
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## Testimony of the Public Utilities Commission

To the  
House Committee on  
Consumer Protection & Commerce

March 31, 2026  
2:00 p.m.

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

**Measure:** H.C.R. 168 / H.R. 158

**Title:** REQUEST THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION TO DEVELOP A TEMPORARY WORKING GROUP TO STUDY THE CURRENT CAPACITY OF UTILITY SERVICES, THE EXPECTED LIFESPAN OF EXISTING COASTLINE INFRASTRUCTURE, AND THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF NECESSARY EXPANSIONS.

### Position:

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

### Comments:

The Commission appreciates the Committee's concerns regarding Hawaii's utility services and infrastructure.

Given that this resolution requests that the Commission develop a temporary working group to study the status, demands, and plans for Hawaii's utility services and infrastructure, the Commission seeks clarification on the structure and objectives of the study:

- What distance would "coastline infrastructure" cover?
- Of the participating members, which would be designated as "chair" of the temporary working group?
- Would the study entail the review of all public utility services and infrastructure in State, or is it specific to Oahu? Additionally, the Commission notes that it does not have jurisdiction or oversight on county or state-owned resources. As such,

the Commission may not be the most appropriate organization to lead discussions in those areas. Nonetheless, the Commission would make its resources available to facilitate the collaborative efforts of the working group.

- While electric utilities are included as part of the working group, other regulated utilities such as private water and wastewater, gas, and water carriers do not appear to be included. Should these utilities be included in the working group?

Lastly, the Commission notes that it continually reviews and monitors many of the regulated utilities' operations and capacity of existing infrastructure, along with demand for said infrastructure, reliability and performance metrics, assessment of infrastructure age and operational lifespan, and capital expenditure plans. The Commission, in carrying out its statutory duties, regularly assesses the need for rate increases and capital expenditures to ensure safe, reliable, and resilient utility services at just and reasonable rates.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.