HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE
STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
SENATE COMMITTEES ON
ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
AND
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Thursday, April 16, 2026
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224, and Videoconference

Providing Comments on
HCR 202, HD2

ESTABLISHING THE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON HAWAII'S FUTURE ENERGY PATHWAYS TO EXAMINE STRATEGIES TO MAXIMIZE COST SAVINGS WHILE MINIMIZING RISK TO RATEPAYERS OVER THE NEXT THREE DECADES AND ACHIEVING THE STATE'S ENERGY GOALS AND PRODUCING AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, RESILIENT, AND DECARBONIZED ENERGY.

Chairs Wakai and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Chang and Fukunaga, and Members of the Committees, the Hawai‘i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on HCR 202, HD2, which aspires to convene a Legislative Task Force on Hawai‘i’s Future Energy Pathways.

There is plenty of evidence that Hawai‘i’s transition to a clean energy system faces significant challenges. Hawai‘i ranks among the very highest electricity costs and carbon emissions in the United States due primarily to antiquated, inefficient power plants and an adherence to policies and practices that have perpetuated reliance on imported petroleum fuels to power them. Our renewable future is also challenged by the capital constraints of Hawaiian Electric, lengthy procurement processes, adverse federal policies, and supply chain disruptions and cost increases. The state is long overdue to break the status quo and embrace future energy pathways to ensure more affordable and reliable electricity on the way to achieving 100 percent carbon-free and renewable electricity by 2045.

At this critical inflection point, decisive action on transformative investments in high efficiency power plants, cleaner and cheaper fuels, and improved procedures to evaluate, procure and install renewable energy will be necessary to reduce costs and carbon emissions and improve grid reliability, and environmental impacts of the electricity ecosystem. Improvements in power plant efficiency and readiness, life-cycle analysis and evaluation, and fuel use will have extremely profound long-term implications for ratepayers.

The proposed Task Force may offer a valuable forum for cross-sector coordination and policy discussion on these matters if it can go beyond similar analytical work currently underway including Hawaiian Electric Company’s Integrated Grid Planning (IGP) process, including its second planning cycle. To avoid duplicative efforts and ensure efficient use of resources if this measure were to be adopted, HSEO recommends that the Task Force coordinate closely with relevant ongoing regulatory proceedings and explore and leverage existing analyses where appropriate.

HSEO strongly supports the objectives of this measure that focus on renewable integration, distributed energy resources, and evaluation of potential fossil fuel infrastructure investments. In that spirit, HSEO remains committed to contributing technical expertise to support the Legislature’s work consistent with its statutory purpose.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JON S. ITOMURA
CHAIR

NAOMI U. KUWAYE
COMMISSIONER

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Testimony of the Public Utilities Commission

To the
Senate Committees on
Energy & Intergovernmental Affairs
and
Commerce & Consumer Protection

Thursday, April 16, 2026
3:00 p.m.

Chairs Wakai and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Chang and Fukunaga, and Members of the Committees:

Measure: H.C.R. 202, H.D.2
Title: ESTABLISHING THE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON HAWAII'S FUTURE ENERGY PATHWAYS TO EXAMINE STRATEGIES TO MAXIMIZE COST SAVINGS WHILE MINIMIZING RISK TO RATEPAYERS OVER THE NEXT THREE DECADES AND ACHIEVING THE STATE'S ENERGY GOALS AND PRODUCING AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, RESILIENT, AND DECARBONIZED ENERGY.

Position:

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

Comments:

The Commission supports the intent of this measure to form a legislative task force that would examine strategies to maximize cost savings while minimizing ratepayer risks and achieving the state's energy goals over the next three decades.

The Commission recognizes the importance of a coordinated examination of potential energy pathways that consider affordability, resilience, reliability, and decarbonization while collaboratively planning the policies and infrastructure developments to support the state's goal of achieving 100% renewable energy by 2045. The Commission appreciates the inclusion of Commission staff in the proposed task force and stands ready to participate.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIAʻĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIAʻĀINA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKUʻĀINA ʻO HAWAIʻI
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
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NADINE Y. ANDO
DIRECTOR | KA LUNA HOʻOKELE

DEAN I. HAZAMA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR | KA HOPE LUNA HOʻOKELE

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Before the
Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs
and
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Thursday, April 16, 2026
3:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference

On the following measure:
H.C.R. 202, H.D. 2, ESTABLISHING THE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON HAWAII'S FUTURE ENERGY PATHWAYS TO EXAMINE STRATEGIES TO MAXIMIZE COST SAVINGS WHILE MINIMIZING RISK TO RATEPAYERS OVER THE NEXT THREE DECADES AND ACHIEVING THE STATE'S ENERGY GOALS AND PRODUCING AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, RESILIENT, AND DECARBONIZED ENERGY

Chair Wakai, Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committees:

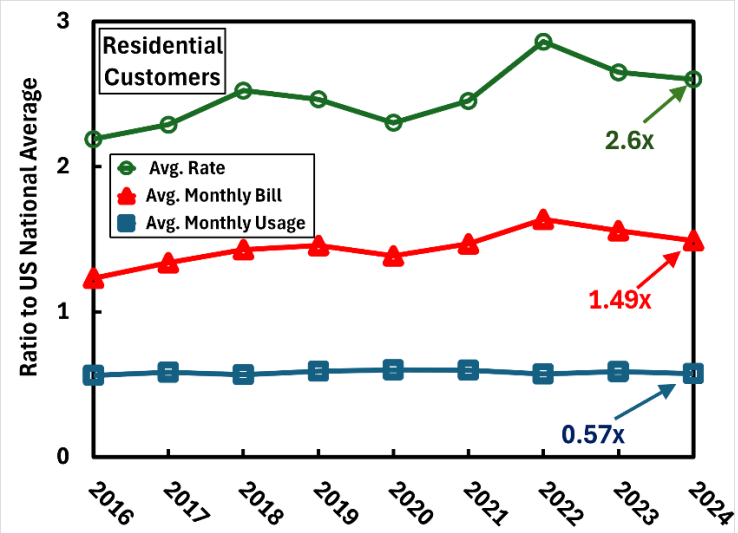
My name is Michael Angelo, and I am the Executive Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Division of Consumer Advocacy. The Department supports this resolution.

The purpose of this resolution is to establish the Legislative Task Force on Hawaii's Future Energy Pathways (Task Force) to examine strategies to maximize cost savings while minimizing risk to ratepayers over the next three decades and achieving the State's energy goals and providing affordable, reliable, resilient, and decarbonized energy. The resolution sets forth specific matters for evaluation and consideration including integration of high levels of renewable energy and distributed energy resources into the power grid, reducing long-term energy costs for residents and businesses, strengthening energy

independence and resilience and various other matters. In addition, among other things, the resolution specifies the members to be included in the Task Force and specifically names the Department's Division of Consumer Advocacy's Executive Director, the Consumer Advocate, or the Consumer Advocate's designee, as a member of the Task Force. Furthermore, the Task Force is to submit an initial report of its findings, recommendations, and any proposed legislation, no later than 20 days before the convening of the 2027 Legislative Session and a final report of its findings, recommendations, and any proposed legislation no later than 20 days before the 2028 Legislative Session.

The Department fully appreciates the goals set forth in the resolution, which align with and support the Department's work for utility services to be delivered more safely, reliably and resiliently, affordably, equitably, and enable continued progress on the State's clean energy goals. The price paid for energy in Hawaii is high and places substantial burdens on the State's residents and businesses. The Department notes that for electricity Hawaii has the highest average monthly bills and lowest average monthly usage for residential customers in the country resulting in the highest average price (rate) paid for electricity at 2.6x the national average.

Residential Customers' Avg. Electricity Rate, Monthly Bill, and Usage Compared to National Avg.[1]



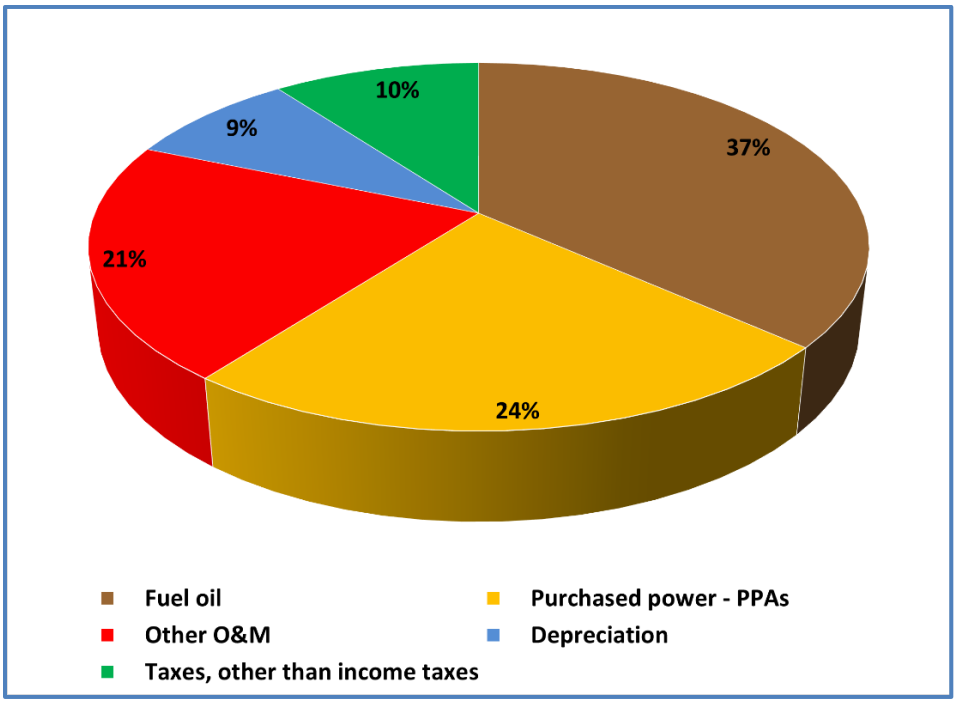
[1] Data calculated from: https://www.eia.gov/electricity/data/state/xls/861/HS861%202010-.xlsx

Average Price Paid for Electricity in Hawaii

Hawaii has consistently paid the highest rates for electricity in the nation for electric utility customers in the customer classes: residential (table below)[2], commercial, and industrial. A significant contributor to electric utility expenses continues to be fuel oil purchases, These costs are passed through to utility customers through fuel adjustment mechanisms in rates.

Avg Monthly Rates - Residential [Cents/kWh]									
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Hawaii	27.47	29.50	32.47	32.06	30.28	33.49	43.03	42.39	42.86
US - Avg	12.55	12.89	12.87	13.01	13.15	13.66	15.04	16.00	16.48
Hawaii Rank (1=Highest)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Percentage of Hawaiian Electric's[3] Major Expenses in 2024.[4]



Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.

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2 Data calculated from: https://www.eia.gov/electricity/data/state/xls/861/HS861%202010-.xlsx

3 Includes expenses of Hawaiian Electric, Maui Electric, and Hawaii Electric Light.

4 Data calculated from Hawaiian Electric Industries' 2025 Annual Report to Shareholders – Consolidating Income Statement (Note: Calculation does not include recorded expenses for Wildfire tort-related claims).
https://s2.q4cdn.com/268623243/files/doc_financials/2024/ar/Bookmarked-PDF-3-27-25.pdf

APRIL 16, 2026

HCR 202 HD2

CURRENT REFERRAL: EIG/CPN

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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 HCR 202 HD2, establishing the legislative task force on Hawai'i's future energy pathways to examine strategies to maximize cost savings while minimizing risk to ratepayers over the next three decades and achieving the state's energy goals and producing affordable, reliable, resilient, and decarbonized energy.

Imua Alliance is a Hawai'i-based organization dedicated to ending sexual exploitation and gender violence, both of which are worsened by the climate crisis. Hawai'i stands at a critical moment in its energy transition.

The State has committed by law to achieving 100% renewable electricity by 2045, while also working to ensure energy affordability, reliability, resilience, and energy independence. Decisions made over the next decade regarding infrastructure, fuel sources, grid modernization, and renewable energy deployment will affect Hawai'i's economy, cost of living, and environmental future for generations.

One of the major issues currently shaping Hawai'i's energy debate is whether the state should invest in liquefied natural gas (LNG) infrastructure as a transitional fuel. Recent developments underscore why a comprehensive, independent, and long-term planning process is essential before committing to major energy infrastructure investments.

Recent reports revealed that a key study used to support the development of LNG in the islands may have contained egregious modeling errors, leading to an overestimate of LNG-related cost savings of up to $1,2 billion. At the same time, a JERA Co Inc. LNG proposal has been issued that could involve billions of dollars in new energy infrastructure, including LNG import facilities and gas-fired power plants intended to replace oil generation and operate for decades.

Decisions about energy infrastructure are long-term decisions that can lock the state into particular energy pathways for many years. If those decisions are made without comprehensive analysis of cost, climate impacts, energy security, and technological change, the result could be higher electricity prices, stranded infrastructure investments, or delays in achieving the state's renewable energy goals.

Beyond cost concerns, LNG also presents climate and policy risks. While natural gas can produce fewer emissions than oil when burned, LNG still emits carbon dioxide and involves methane leakage throughout extraction, processing, and transport. Methane is a highly potent greenhouse gas, meaning lifecycle emissions from LNG can significantly reduce or eliminate the climate benefits compared to other fossil fuels. Large investments in LNG infrastructure could also divert investment away from renewable energy, battery storage, and grid modernization, technologies that Hawai'i must deploy to meet its clean energy goals.

Hawai'i's energy future must balance affordability, reliability, resilience, and decarbonization. These goals are not mutually exclusive, but achieving them will require coordinated planning, independent analysis, and collaboration among policymakers, regulators, utilities, researchers, and community stakeholders.

Establishing a legislative task force to evaluate long-term energy pathways will help ensure that Hawai'i's energy decisions are transparent, data-driven, and aligned with the public interest. Given the magnitude of upcoming energy decisions on renewable integration, grid modernization, energy storage, and fossil fuel infrastructure investments, this type of coordinated long-term planning is both prudent and necessary.

With aloha,

Kris Coffield

President, Imua Alliance

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF H.C.R. 202, H.D. 2
ESTABLISHING THE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON
HAWAIʻI'S FUTURE ENERGY PATHWAYS

To: Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs
Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

RE: H.C.R. 202, H.D. 2 (companion: H.R. 192)

From: Tony Nodine, Coordinator
Organization: North Kona Noise ACTION (NKNA)
Email: NorthKonaNoiseAction@gamblesbest.com
Location: Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

Position: SUPPORT

Hearing: Thursday, April 16, 2026, 3:00 PM

Aloha Chair Wakai, Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committees,

North Kona Noise ACTION supports H.C.R. 202, H.D. 2. We are a community organization near Kona International Airport on Hawaiʻi Island, and through our work on aviation issues we have identified an energy cost that is not being captured in any existing state process: electrified transportation infrastructure.

New grid demand is being created at state facilities right now with no ratepayer cost analysis. HDOT is advancing electrified transportation at both airports and harbors—electric aircraft for interisland air routes and battery-electric seagliders for interisland marine routes. Both are promoted as clean transportation. But Hawaiian Electric's own data shows that the state's grid remains majority fossil fuel. On Oʻahu, where most ratepayers live, only 36.8 percent of electricity came from renewable sources in 2025. Even on Hawaiʻi Island, which leads the state at 57.3 percent renewable, more than four in ten kilowatt-hours still come from oil-fired generation. Calling these vehicles "zero-emission" while charging them from fossil fuel grids does not deliver on the promise of decarbonization. It moves the emissions from the vehicle to the power plant and passes the infrastructure costs on to ratepayers.

No state body is evaluating these costs. The KOA 20-Year Master Plan Update does not include electric aircraft in its aviation forecasts, so no grid demand analysis has been conducted for airport charging. No equivalent analysis exists for harbor charging infrastructure. The federal Electrified Interisland Pilot Program, which would have provided structured oversight for electric aviation deployment in Hawaiʻi, did not select the Hawaiʻi application when USDOT announced its winning projects on March 9, 2026. The operator is proceeding without that federal framework. Meanwhile, S.B. 2400 would remove PUC jurisdiction over seaglider

operations—exempting harbor-based electric transportation from the agency responsible for evaluating grid impacts and ratepayer costs.

The ratepayer exposure is real. Under performance-based regulation, grid upgrades for airport and harbor charging would be folded into rates and added to every customer's electric bill. HEI already carries a $1.99 billion wildfire settlement obligation and faces new cost pressures on its O'ahu generation portfolio, including flood zone complications at the Waiau power plant reported this week. Adding electrified transportation demand to a financially strained utility without integrated planning puts ratepayers at risk.

The task force proposed in this resolution is the right body to close this gap. If the state is serious about electrified transportation, the renewable generation should be built where the demand is being created. State airport and harbor land is the obvious place to start. During the KOA Master Plan process, we are proposing a utility-scale solar installation on undeveloped airport acreage—a power purchase agreement with Hawaiian Electric that would generate land lease revenue for HDOT and add renewable generation to a grid that needs it. This is the kind of energy pathway that works: proven technology, on state land, building the generation capacity that makes electrified transportation honest. SCR 164, S.D. 1, which prioritizes eliminating Hawai'i's dependence on imported energy, makes the same case from a security perspective.

We respectfully ask the committees to pass H.C.R. 202, H.D. 2, and to consider including electrified transportation infrastructure costs within the task force's scope of inquiry.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Nodine
Coordinator, North Kona Noise ACTION
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740
NorthKonaNoiseAction@gamblesbest.com

HCR-202-HD-2
Submitted on: 4/13/2026 7:03:23 PM
Testimony for EIG on 4/16/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerald Klappert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I agree with establishing a task force to study how to transition Hawai‘i to renewable energy at a faster pace. I think there are numerous issues that need to be addressed in regard to renewable energy to accelerate our transition to renewable energy. I would like to see the electric utility converted to a co-op throughout the state. I would like to see more electric vehicles on the roads and infrastructure to support them. I think a replacement for the federal renewable energy tax credit is a good idea. I think it's a really bad idea to try to use a dirty fossil fuel such as LNG in the transition (an unavoidable leak rate greater than 4% makes it worse than using coal). Mahalo for the attention being paid to this important issue.

HCR-202-HD-2
Submitted on: 4/13/2026 7:37:12 PM
Testimony for EIG on 4/16/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

202 HCR ESTABLISHING THE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON HAWAII'S FUTURE ENERGY PATHWAYS TO EXAMINE STRATEGIES TO MAXIMIZE COST SAVINGS WHILE MINIMIZING RISK TO RATEPAYERS OVER THE NEXT THREE DECADES AND ACHIEVING THE STATE'S ENERGY GOALS AND PRODUCING AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, RESILIENT, AND DECARBONIZED ENERGY

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, STRONG COMMENT

OPPOSE LNG IN THE STATE OF HAWAII

OPPOSE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IN THE STATE OF HAWAII

STOP BEING DISTROYERS OF HAWAII