

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  
Senate Committees on  
Energy & Intergovernmental Affairs  
and  
Agriculture & Environment

Friday, April 17, 2026  
3:00 p.m.

Chairs Wakai and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Chang and Richards, and Members of the Committees:

**Measure:** H.C.R. 206, H.D.1

**Title:** REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF LARGE DATA CENTERS ON HAWAII'S ELECTRIC UTILITIES, RATEPAYERS, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND CLIMATE GOALS.

### Position:

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

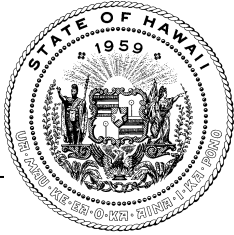
### Comments:

The Commission recognizes that Hawaii's isolated island grids are uniquely sensitive to large new electricity loads, given the absence of interconnections with neighboring systems and the State's 100% Renewable Portfolio Standard by 2045. Without appropriate safeguards, data center development could require costly grid upgrades, impede clean energy progress, and shift financial burdens onto residential and small-business ratepayers, all core concerns within the Commission's regulatory jurisdiction.

The Commission appreciates its inclusion in the proposed working group and stands ready to contribute on tariff design, large load interconnection standards, integrated resource planning, and grid reliability. Additionally, the Commission respectfully suggests that the working group consider the following policy options:

(1) requiring data centers to maintain sufficient on-site backup power and energy storage systems to reduce grid dependency and enable automatic load curtailment during grid emergencies, protecting the stability of Hawaii's island electric system; (2) requiring regular reporting requirements on electricity consumption, water usage, and greenhouse gas emissions, verified by an independent third party, to ensure transparency and accountability for regulators and the public; (3) requiring an independent water resource impact assessment prior to permit issuance, together with a detailed water conservation plan to protect Hawaii's water resources; and (4) linking working group findings directly to utility Integrated Grid Planning processes under Commission oversight.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.



# HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

235 South Beretania Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone: (808) 451-6648  
Web: [energy.hawaii.gov](http://energy.hawaii.gov)

Testimony of  
**MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer**

before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
AND  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

Friday, April 17, 2026  
3:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 and Videoconference

**Providing Comments  
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 206, HD1**

**REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF LARGE DATA CENTERS ON HAWAII'S ELECTRIC UTILITIES, RATEPAYERS, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND CLIMATE GOALS.**

Chair Wakai, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Chang, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on House Concurrent Resolution No. 206, HD1, requesting the Hawaii State Energy Office to convene a working group to study the potential impacts of large data centers on Hawaii's electric utilities, ratepayers, natural resources, and climate goals.

The potential for rapid growth of large-scale and hyperscale data centers is raising significant energy and community concerns nationally given that these facilities are in great demand and require extremely large quantities of continuous electricity. When energy demand goes well beyond existing infrastructure and supplies, costly upgrades are necessary that may increase rates for residents and small businesses if not properly allocated and procured. In addition, data centers can place pressure on limited resources such as water for cooling and create land use and environmental trade-offs for local communities.

While Hawai'i's electricity prices remain among the highest in the nation and grid resource capacity and power plant readiness is less than ideal, the potential for data center growth in Hawai'i may be limited. For the time being, HSEO has been reaching out to stakeholders including the public utilities commission and utilities on current activities to assess industry interest in Hawai'i as a location for data centers and ongoing activities in existing regulatory proceedings such as the integrated grid plan. HSEO is also engaging with the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) who conducts a Powering Up Data Centers webinar series which explores strategies for state energy offices to manage the rapid growth of data center energy demand while maintaining grid reliability and affordability.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**HCR-206-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/13/2026 5:50:36 PM

Testimony for EIG on 4/17/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Climate Protectors Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT!

**HCR-206-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/13/2026 5:05:05 PM

Testimony for EIG on 4/17/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
cheryl burghardt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I SUPPORT HCR206 HD1. It is a HUGE step forward to be investigating and planning ahead of any possible consideration of a large data center in our islands. We already struggle with sustainability and the recent floods and aftermath provide us with how important it is for us to look deep into what is right for our place.

**HCR-206-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/13/2026 7:51:00 PM

Testimony for EIG on 4/17/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, STRONG OPPOSE WITHOUT PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS AND INPUT OF THE PROJECT. TAXPAYERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO VISUALLY SEE WHAT THIS PROJECT IS ABOUT!

206 HCR REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF LARGE DATA CENTERS ON HAWAII'S ELECTRIC UTILITIES, RATEPAYERS, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND CLIMATE GOALS.