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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Tuesday, March 24, 2026
9:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
H.C.R. 207 / H.R. 197, REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO
ENSURE THAT CERTAIN CONDITIONS ARE MET BEFORE APPROVING ANY
INFRASTRUCTURE, OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, FUEL, OR OTHER COSTS
RELATING TO SUPPLYING AND USING LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS**

Chair Lowen and Members of the Committee:

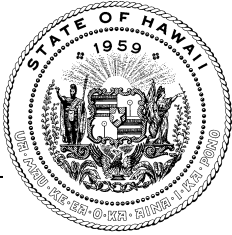
My name is Michael Angelo, and I am the Executive Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Division of Consumer Advocacy. The Department offers comments on this resolution.

The purpose of this resolution is to request the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) to ensure certain specific conditions are met before approving any costs of infrastructure, operations, maintenance, fuel, or other costs relating to supplying and using liquefied natural gas (LNG). In addition, the resolution requests that the Commission deny any costs related to LNG if more cost-effective, non-fuel alternatives are available to a utility or if approving the power purchase or fuel supply agreement would commit a utility to purchasing a greater amount of LNG than necessary to accommodate the maximum amount of renewable energy on the grid. Furthermore, this

resolution also requests that the Commission consider the: (1) effects of approving the use of LNG on renewable energy development and deployment; and (2) risks and costs of stranded assets and the risks and costs of reliance on a single fuel supply or monopoly supplier when making determinations of the reasonableness of costs pertaining to electric or gas utility system capital improvements and operations.

The Department recognizes that Hawaii pays the highest average price for electricity usage in the United States, and believes that it is important to keep options available that may be able to help mitigate financial impacts on consumers of electricity, including the use of LNG. That being said, the Department understands the concerns that this resolution is trying to address and recognizes the concerns being noted regarding the review and evaluation of any application involving the supply and use of LNG in the State. As with any application before the Commission, for which the Department's Division of Consumer Advocacy (Division) is a party, the Division thoroughly evaluates various applicable factors including the State's existing energy goals and policies in providing the Commission the Division's position. This generally includes, but is not limited to, evaluating whether a utility proposal would enable services to be provided more safely, reliably and resilient, affordably, and meet the State's clean energy mandates and targets. The Department assures the Committee that the Division will conduct a comprehensive and thorough review of any application and provide its position with appropriate recommendations for the Commission's review and consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.



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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Tuesday, March 24, 2026
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

Providing Comments on
HCR 207

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO ENSURE THAT CERTAIN CONDITIONS ARE MET BEFORE APPROVING ANY INFRASTRUCTURE, OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, FUEL, OR OTHER COSTS RELATING TO SUPPLYING AND USING LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS.

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on HCR 207 that requests the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) ensure that certain conditions are met before approving any infrastructure, operations, maintenance, fuel, or other costs relating to supplying and using liquefied natural gas. HSEO fully supports the intent of this measure to ensure that any liquefied natural gas (LNG)-related decisions are made prudently and in alignment with Hawai'i's long-term energy and climate goals. Further, HSEO agrees that decisions regarding LNG must be supported by transparent, verifiable, and comprehensive analysis, including cost and ratepayer impacts, lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions, and system-level effects on renewable energy deployment.

While the measure is focused on LNG, HSEO notes that the understandable underlying concerns—ratepayer risk, stranded asset potential, fuel price volatility, and misalignment with long-term decarbonization goals—apply broadly to all new fossil fuel infrastructure and supply arrangements. Accordingly, HSEO recommends that the framework established in this measure be applied consistently to any new fossil fuel

project or fuel supply contract considered by the PUC, regardless of fuel type. This will ensure a technology-neutral, policy-consistent approach aligned with Hawai'i's statutory climate and energy objectives.

HSEO also offers comments on the provisions relating to fuel supply agreements. While the measure is purported to limit long-term risk exposure, a complete prohibition on volumetric or take-or-pay commitments (Item 2, page 2, lines 14-18) provisions may have unintended consequences. In practice, utilities and other fuel buyers may prefer some degree of volumetric certainty as a means to ensure favorable fuel pricing and contract terms. Without a binding commitment for highly predictable fuel quantities, suppliers may be unable or unwilling to offer lower-cost arrangements, and thus buyers may not be able to gain the best value for their customers, potentially increasing costs to ratepayers.

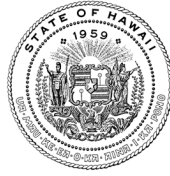
The PUC has authority and responsibility under statutes in place, such as HRS §269-16, to allow the public utility to mitigate the risk of sudden or frequent fuel cost changes that cannot otherwise reasonably be mitigated through other commercially available means, such as fuel hedging contracts. This also infers that the PUC has an expectation that the utility, through commercially available means, will ensure any volumetric commitments are appropriately sized to reflect realistic system needs, maintain flexibility to decline over time in alignment with renewable energy deployment, and avoid overcommitment that could constrain renewable integration or result in excess fuel purchases.

As the statutory regulatory authority in Hawai'i to evaluate and balance these considerations relative to utilities, HSEO defers to the PUC to determine how best, under its authority, to ensure that any approved fuel supply arrangements appropriately mitigate risk while preserving cost-effectiveness and alignment with the State's long-term energy and climate objectives.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

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LT. GOVERNOR



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Testimony of the Public Utilities Commission

To the
House Committee on
Energy and Environmental Protection

Tuesday, March 24, 2026
9:00 a.m.

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee:

Measure: H.C.R. 207 / H.R. 197

Title: REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO ENSURE THAT CERTAIN CONDITIONS ARE MET BEFORE APPROVING ANY INFRASTRUCTURE, OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, FUEL, OR OTHER COSTS RELATING TO SUPPLYING AND USING LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS.

Position:

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

Comments:

The Commission appreciates the intent of this measure to ensure that specific conditions are met before approving any infrastructure, operations, maintenance, fuel, or other costs relating to supplying and using liquefied natural gas. As the Committee contemplates the advancement of this measure, the Commission offers the following comments.

The Commission is committed to Hawaii's clean energy goals, including the 100% Renewable Portfolio Standard, carbon neutrality by 2045, and the State's constitutional obligation to protect Hawaii's natural resources. In addition, the Commission has a statutory obligation and mission to ensure that electricity rates are just and reasonable and that the electric utility system remains reliable, safe, and adequate to serve its customers.

In reviewing any application for approval, including grid modernization, power purchase agreements, and fuel supply contracts, the Commission is continually considering and examining, among other factors, the impacts of these requests on the reliability, efficiency, resiliency, and affordability of the electric utility system. Detailed and thoughtful analyses of all utility procurement requests and alternatives are essential components to the Commission's decision-making process. The Commission believes that this process is consistent with the intent of the measure.

Given the current challenges in attracting and securing affordable renewable energy projects and Hawaii's isolated grids requiring readily dispatchable energy to maintain reliability during periods of variable renewable generation, it is prudent to consider all options in developing a pathway to Hawaii's clean energy future and to allow for reasonable discretion in procuring future generation and resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HCR-207

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 10:50:03 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/24/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT!

No LNG, whose climate impact is worse than coal! At least require the limitations in these resolutions.



MARCH 24, 2026

HCR 207/HR 197

CURRENT REFERRAL: EEP

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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 207/HR 197, requesting the public utilities commission to ensure that certain conditions are met before approving any infrastructure, operations, maintenance, fuel, or other costs relating to supplying and using liquefied natural gas.

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. This resolution helps to ensure that Hawai'i's energy future is guided by accurate data and transparent planning that aligns with the state's clean energy and climate goals.

In recent weeks, Mattias Fripp, director of global research at Energy Innovation Policy and Technology LLC and a former associate professor of electrical engineering at the UH-Mānoa, **found errors in the Hawai'i State Energy Office's modeling that may have overstated LNG savings by approximately \$1.2 billion.** When corrected, the analysis suggested LNG could increase costs to consumers, rather than reduce them. These findings underscore the importance of independent review, transparency, and careful evaluation before Hawai'i commits to major long-term fossil fuel infrastructure investments, like those proposed by JERA Co. Inc to build a liquefied natural gas-fueled power plant on O'ahu.

Beyond cost concerns, LNG also presents significant climate risks. While natural gas is sometimes described as a "bridge fuel," **lifecycle analyses show that LNG can have substantial greenhouse gas emissions due to methane leakage during extraction, processing, liquefaction, shipping, and regasification.** Methane is a highly potent greenhouse gas, with more than 80 times the warming impact of carbon dioxide over a 20-year period, meaning even small leaks can significantly increase the climate impact of natural gas systems.

In addition, LNG infrastructure investments can lock states into fossil fuel dependence for decades. LNG import terminals, pipelines, and power plant conversions require long-term capital investments that typically operate for 20–40 years. Building this infrastructure risks creating stranded assets and delaying the transition to renewable energy, battery storage, and grid modernization, technologies that Hawai'i must deploy to meet its statutory goal of 100% renewable energy by 2045.

Hawai'i is uniquely positioned to lead in renewable energy due to its abundant solar, wind, geothermal, and storage potential. Investing in clean energy infrastructure keeps energy dollars in the local economy, improves energy security, reduces exposure to global fuel price volatility, and helps the state meet its climate commitments.

Energy decisions made today will affect our economy and environment for generations. Because of the scale of these decisions, it is essential that energy policy be based on accurate modeling and transparent discussions with the community. Bad data and backroom deals have no place in shaping the climate and energy agendas for our island home.

With aloha,

Kris Coffield

President, Imua Alliance



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Monday, March 23, 2026

To: House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection (EEP)
Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

Re: HCR 207 requesting the Public Utilities Commission to ensure that certain conditions are met before approving any infrastructure, operations, maintenance, fuel, or other costs relating to supplying and using liquefied natural gas

Hearing: Tuesday, March 24, 2026, 9:00 am, Conference Room 325 & Video

Position: SUPPORT

Aloha, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee!

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports HCR 207, BUT we fundamentally believe that Hawaii should not be in the business of promoting liquefied natural gas (LNG), particularly given the recent events in Trump's unilateral war on Iran.

We understand that there is currently a plan whereby a Japanese company might some TWO BILLION DOLLARS to create infrastructure in the State of Hawaii solely for LNG, but that the value of the actual amount of LNG to be produced pursuant to that plan would be substantially less than that investment. Hence the concern of the Resolution's authors of "stranded" investments.

The Environmental Caucus entirely agrees that the potential of investors trying to recover financially for their stranded assets is a very serious risk. We believe that if this plan becomes reality, the investor will exert great political pressure to realize greater profits by importing and selling much more LNG than originally proposed, notwithstanding any promises to the contrary.

Accordingly, the Environmental Caucus concurs with the concerns of the Resolution's authors that the People of Hawaii should not be left "holding the bag," *i.e.*, any financial losses due to stranded assets or similar problems.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify on this important Resolution.

Alan B. Burdick, Co-chair burdick808@gmail.com

Mike Ewall, Co-chair mike@energyjustice.net

Melodie Aduja, Co-chair *emerita* legislativepriorities@gmail.com

JERA Americas Inc.
1000 Main Street, Suite 3100
Houston, TX 77002



Testimony of
ERIK MONTAGUE, JERA AMERICAS

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Tuesday, March 24, 2026
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

In Opposition to
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION (HCR) 207 and HOUSE RESOLUTION (HR) 197
REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO ENSURE THAT CERTAIN CONDITIONS ARE
MET BEFORE APPROVING ANY INFRASTRUCTURE, OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, FUEL, OR
OTHER COSTS RELATING TO SUPPLYING AND USING LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee:

JERA Americas respectfully submits testimony in opposition to HCR207 and HR197, which would place prescriptive conditions on the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) before approving any costs related to the importation and storage of liquefied natural gas (LNG).

Substantively, these conditions would unnecessarily constrain the PUC's authority and discretion. Procedurally, it is handcuffing the PUC in ways that are not reflected in its governing statutes and removes the balance and waters down the multi-faceted evaluation that the PUC must conduct before granting its approval.

LNG is a proven transitional fuel option that has been demonstrated globally to reduce both costs and carbon emissions relative to oil-fired generation, while enabling greater renewable integration. As such, LNG can support Hawai'i's long-term decarbonization goals while maintaining reliability.

As one of the world's leading energy companies with significant experience in LNG, renewable energy, and large-scale decarbonization technologies, JERA is committed to supporting Hawai'i's transition to a cleaner, more resilient, and affordable energy future.

Hawai'i stands apart from other U.S. states in its continued reliance on low sulfur fuel oil (LSFO) and diesel for electricity generation. This dependence contributes to some of the highest electricity costs in the United States and remains a major source of carbon emissions. LNG offers

immediate and meaningful reductions in both cost and emissions compared to oil-based fuels, while providing the reliability that Hawaii's grid requires.

Additionally, alongside renewables such as solar, wind, and battery storage, JERA is investing in emerging clean fuel technologies—including hydrogen blending, zero-emissions ammonia, and next-generation biofuels. As these cleaner fuels mature and become commercially viable, pairing them with modern power plants and gas storage and distribution infrastructure, which are capable of utilizing hydrogen, biofuels, synthetic natural gas, in addition to today's oil and natural gas, can serve as the foundation for deeper decarbonization by transitioning beyond LNG to the right fuel choice for the state.

Finally, advances in LNG technology have significantly reduced both the cost and permanence of storage and regasification infrastructure. Of the roughly \$2 billion required to modernize the State's power plants and develop natural-gas infrastructure, only about 10% would be at risk of becoming stranded if the future fuel of choice is not a gas-based solution. Importantly, anticipated cost savings from LNG over the next 10-15 years will be many times greater than any potentially underutilized infrastructure.

Much of Hawai'i's existing oil-fired generation fleet is aging, inefficient, and in urgent need of costly upgrades. Investment will be necessary regardless of future fuel choice. Passing these resolutions could result in the elimination of LNG as a viable replacement option, forcing continued reliance on imported oil at significantly higher cost and greater carbon intensity.

These resolutions would unnecessarily constrain the PUC's review of any potential private financial investment by JERA. While these conditions are aimed at LNG, JERA's potential \$2 billion investment is much more comprehensive and significant, including new generation facilities. With the risk of only 10% of that investment being stranded if the state moves in a non-gas-based solutions, and with the overall investment for LNG infrastructure at around 25% of the total investment, and 75% being towards generation facilities, passing these resolutions unreasonably handcuff's the PUC's discretion to comprehensively look at the entire package.

Removing LNG from consideration eliminates a cost-effective transitional option at a moment when the State requires greater flexibility, not less, to achieve its affordability and clean energy goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.
Respectfully submitted,

Erik Montague
Vice President
Erik.montague@jeraamericas.com



EARTHJUSTICE

LATE

REPRESENTATIVE NICOLE E. LOWEN, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE AMY A. PERRUSO, VICE CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

TESTIMONY PROVIDING COMMENT ON HOUSE RESOLUTION 197/HOUSE
CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 207

Tuesday, March 24, 2026, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 325, State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Committee Members:

Earthjustice **provides comment on House Resolution 197**, requesting the Public Utilities Commission (“PUC”) to ensure that certain conditions are met before approving costs relating to supplying and using liquefied natural gas (“LNG”). Requiring these baseline conditions would be eminently reasonable to ensure that Hawai'i consumers do not end up bearing the burdens and risks for such a project. Indeed, any opposition to such conditions by potential project developers or their supporters should raise major red flags and call into question the credibility of their claims that LNG will save costs.

More fundamentally, however, Hawai'i should not be wasting precious time and money pursuing LNG in the first place. Governor Ige had it right when he rejected LNG more than a decade ago, explaining that “any time and money spent on LNG is time and money not spent on renewable energy.” Now that there is a decade less time for any major LNG investment to pay back before the state's mandated climate and clean energy deadlines, LNG makes even less sense than before.

The Green administration, led by its State Energy Office, touts the false promise of LNG as a “cost-effective,” “transitional” fuel and “bridge” to renewable energy. On the contrary, the LNG supply infrastructure would cost well over a billion dollars and would be destined for cost overruns and delays over any initial optimistic projections— which this committee's recent informational briefing has already shown to be fatally flawed.

The LNG diversion will further entrench our fossil fuel dependency in the islands and raise the costs of living for local families and businesses for generations. The risks of LNG also include explosions and fires, which not only endanger the safety of our 'āina and people but also impose their own heavy financial costs. All of this would exacerbate the already burdensome energy costs on Hawai'i ratepayers.

As stated, this resolution comes days after the discovery of the Hawai'i State Energy Office's billion-dollar math error in the study it relied on to promote LNG. Independent experts found that, rather than providing ratepayer savings, LNG would increase energy costs by hundreds of millions of dollars. While this resolution is fair to urge the PUC to take caution before approving any LNG projects, it avoids the obvious conclusion that LNG is a needless and detrimental waste of time. The only way to avoid such a wasteful dead-end quest to profit off of more fossil fuels is to instead refocus that time and effort into accelerating Hawai'i's progress on real climate and clean energy solutions that provide true savings.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or for further information.

Harley Broyles, Esq.
Associate Attorney
Earthjustice, Mid-Pacific Office

HCR-207

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 3:37:31 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/24/2026 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Douglas Perrine | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am very concerned that the Green administration has green-lighted a large investment in LNG infrastructure which is likely to leave Hawaii consumers trapped in consumption of harmful fossil fuels for decades to come, when the opportunity is at hand to convert rapidly to renewable energy sources that offer lower costs, less pollution, and energy independence. The current war and resultant spike in LNG prices show just how unreliable imported fossil fuels are - and they are dirty as well. HR 197 and HCR 207 at least encourage some reasonable guardrails to limit the exposure of consumers to excessive costs from these unwise investments. I support these resolutions.

HCR-207

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 9:05:44 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/24/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, STRONGLY OPPOSE

197 HR REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO ENSURE THAT CERTAIN CONDITIONS ARE MET BEFORE APPROVING ANY INFRASTRUCTURE, OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, FUEL, OR OTHER COSTS RELATING TO SUPPLYING AND USING LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS.

HCR-207

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 3:37:43 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/24/2026 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Hermina Morita | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HR 197 & HCR 207

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Energy & Environment Protection Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HR 197 & HCR 207.

As a former Chair of the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission (Hawaii PUC) and former Chair of this Committee, I shared the underlying goal of protecting ratepayers, advancing clean energy, and ensuring Hawaii meets its renewable energy commitments. However, I have serious concerns that this resolution fundamentally alters the role of the Hawaii PUC in a way that undermines sound regulatory decision-making.

The Hawaii PUC is a quasi-judicial body charged with making evidence-based determinations in the public interest. Its responsibility is to weigh the full evidentiary record, balance the interests of ratepayers and utilities, and ensure that decisions are fair, reasonable, and legally sound.

HR 197 & HCR 207 moves away and jeopardizes that framework and authority.

These resolutions imposes a series of pre-determined conditions on the Hawaii PUC—such as specific cost recovery limitations, prohibitions on certain contract structures, and mandated outcomes tied to long-term policy goals. It further directs the Hawaii PUC to deny cost recovery under certain circumstances and to prioritize specific policy considerations in its determinations.

While these concerns are important, embedding them as legislative directives risks shifting the Hawaii PUC from an independent fact-finder to a policy enforcer operating under predetermined constraints.

This raises several concerns:

First, it undermines evidence-based decision-making. The Hawaii PUC must be able to evaluate each proposal on its merits, based on a complete record. Predetermining acceptable outcomes limits that flexibility.

Second, it creates regulatory and legal risk. The Hawaii PUC's authority is established in statute, and constraining its discretion through a resolution may create conflicts or uncertainty in how decisions are made and defended.

Third, it may ultimately harm both ratepayers and utilities. Regulatory rigidity can delay projects, increase costs, and discourage investment—outcomes that run counter to the goals of affordability and reliability.

Importantly, while the Legislature plays a critical role in setting policy direction, the Hawaii PUC must retain the ability to implement that policy through careful, case-by-case analysis grounded in evidence.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to reconsider the approach outlined in these resolutions. They do not give clear policy guidance nor do they preserve or protect the Hawaii PUC's independence to evaluate proposals based on the facts and circumstances to fairly balance the interest of all parties and, most importantly, the public interest.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Hermína "Mina" Morita, P.O. Box 791, Hanalei, HI 96714

HCR-207

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 6:27:48 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/24/2026 9:00:00 AM



| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Kayla Economou | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kayla Economou and I am a current resident of Kahuku. **I am submitting testimony in strong support of HR 197 and HCR 207.** This resolution takes a commonsense approach to **protecting Hawai'i ratepayers:** before the Public Utilities Commission approves a single dollar of LNG infrastructure, costs, or fuel supply agreements, it must ensure those decisions are grounded in accurate analysis, protect consumers from long-term financial risk, and remain aligned with Hawai'i's clean energy future.

The need for these guardrails is urgent. A recent independent review by Dr. Matthias Fripp identified significant errors in the Hawai'i State Energy Office's LNG cost-benefit modeling — errors that may have overstated projected savings by over \$1 billion. When corrected, the analysis suggests LNG could actually increase costs to consumers. That finding alone demands the kind of rigorous, transparent, and independent review this resolution requires before any commitment is made.

Beyond the flawed analysis, the risks are structural. **LNG infrastructure locks Hawai'i into fossil fuel dependence for 20–40 years, creates stranded asset exposure for ratepayers, and ties the state to a single foreign supplier** — precisely the monopoly risk this resolution asks the PUC to weigh. These are not hypothetical concerns. They are the conditions that have kept Hawai'i paying the highest electricity rates in the nation. Committing billions to new fossil fuel infrastructure now would undermine the renewable energy deployment that is our most reliable path to affordability and energy independence.

HR 197 requires that any LNG-related decision clear a bar of transparency, cost-effectiveness, and consumer protection that should already apply. I respectfully urge the Committee to pass this resolution.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Kayla Economou
Kahuku, HI