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STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

Tuesday, April 7, 2026
2:00 Pm
State Capitol, 329

**HR117, HD1 / HCR125, HD1
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO COORDINATE WITH
UTILITY PROVIDERS OPERATING WITHIN STATE HIGHWAY RIGHTS-OF-WAY TO
DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE PLAN AND SCHEDULE TO
ADDRESS DERELICT OR AGING UTILITY POLES AND LINES ALONG
FARRINGTON HIGHWAY AND OTHER HIGH-RISK CORRIDORS.**

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

The Department of Transportation (HDOT) supports HR 117, HD1 and HCR 125, HD1 and offers the following comments.

HDOT recognizes that aging, damaged, or derelict utility poles and overhead lines within state highway rights-of-way can pose significant safety risks to motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, and nearby communities. These risks are particularly pronounced along high-exposure corridors such as Farrington Highway and other coastal or high-wind areas that are vulnerable to severe weather and infrastructure deterioration.

HDOT acknowledges the importance of coordinated planning and communication among utility providers and public agencies. Because utility infrastructure is owned and maintained by private or quasi-public entities operating under permits, easements, or franchise agreements, a collaborative and clearly defined approach is necessary to effectively address maintenance, repair, and removal responsibilities.

HDOT supports the intent of this resolution to develop a comprehensive, data-driven, and phased statewide plan to identify and prioritize high-risk locations, establish remediation schedules, and improve coordination among stakeholders. Such an approach will enhance public safety, strengthen infrastructure resilience, and better align capital improvement efforts across agencies and utility providers.

HDOT will continue to work with utility partners and relevant stakeholders to improve coordination within state highway rights-of-way and to support efforts that promote safe and reliable transportation infrastructure statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



**Hawaiian
Electric**

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

**HCR 125, HD1 / HR 117, HD1
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO COORDINATE WITH
UTILITY PROVIDERS OPERATING WITHIN STATE HIGHWAY RIGHTS-OF-WAY TO
DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE PLAN AND SCHEDULE TO
ADDRESS DERELICT OR AGING UTILITY POLES AND LINES ALONG
FARRINGTON HIGHWAY AND OTHER HIGH-RISK CORRIDORS**

Tuesday, April 7, 2026
2:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

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

Hawaiian Electric **supports the intent** of HCR 125, HD1 / HR 117, HD1, which requests the Department of Transportation to coordinate with utility providers operating within state highway rights-of-way to develop a comprehensive statewide plan and schedule to address derelict or aging utility poles and lines along Farrington Highway and other high-risk corridors.

Hawaiian Electric understands the importance of maintaining its equipment in good working order and removing any old equipment from the field and within the state rights-of-way. To that end, Hawaiian Electric has been diligently pursuing the increased removal of its double poles across its service territories. Pursuant to HCR 41 / HR 45 from the 2023 legislative session, Hawaiian Electric engaged with all pole attaching stakeholders and the Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) in an extended collaborative effort regarding the removal of double poles. This collaboration resulted in a Stipulated Comprehensive Double Pole Removal Plan, that was approved by the

Commission in Docket No. 2024-0121, which detailed numerous ways Hawaiian Electric and all attachers would address double poles to facilitate their removal. As part of the Decision and Order, the Commission requested that Hawaiian Electric publish a website to track double pole removals and report quarterly on the removals by both Hawaiian Electric and Hawaiian Telcom.¹

Accordingly, while Hawaiian Electric supports collaborating on the removal of old utility infrastructure in the rights-of-way, Hawaiian Electric would also like to draw attention to the process already in place under the Commission's review for addressing Hawaiian Electric's aging utility poles (double poles). If the focus of this resolution is to address other utilities' derelict or aging utility poles and lines, then Hawaiian Electric supports participating in such a collaboration; but if the focus is on removal of double poles, then this resolution may be redundant as this effort is already being done and monitored by the Commission. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

¹ Website available here: <https://www.hawaiianelectric.com/about-us/power-facts/double-poles>. In 2025, Hawaiian Electric ramped up its double pole program and removed 1,786 poles, exceeding its annual goal of 1,419.



Written Statement of

Jeannine Souki,
Senior Manager – Government & Regulatory Affairs

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

APRIL 7, 2026, 2 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

COMMENTS FOR:

**H.C.R. 125, H.D.1 / H.R. 117, H.D.1 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION TO COORDINATE WITH UTILITY PROVIDERS OPERATING
WITHIN STATE HIGHWAY RIGHTS-OF-WAY TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE
STATEWIDE PLAN AND SCHEDULE TO ADDRESS DERELICT OR AGING
UTILITY POLES AND LINES ALONG FARRINGTON HIGHWAY AND OTHER
HIGH-RISK CORRIDORS**

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

RE: Testimony providing comments on HCR 125, HD1/ HR 117, HD1

Aloha Honorable Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

Hawaiian Telcom appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on HCR 125, HD1 /HR 117, HD1, which request the Department of Transportation (DOT) to coordinate with utility providers operating within state highway rights-of-way.

Hawaiian Telcom supports the intent of this measure, particularly its focus on coordination and advanced planning with the State of Hawai‘i. Our company is already actively coordinating with utilities as we work to upgrade and modernize our network.

Farrington Highway is a sensitive transportation corridor where construction activity can have significant impacts on traffic. Utility and roadway work often require partial lane closures, resulting in major traffic backups, transit delays, and limited emergency access due to the lack of alternate routes. Careful coordination is essential to align work and minimize disruptions to commuters and Leeward businesses and residents.

While Hawaiian Telcom continues to modernize its fiber network and expand fiber deployment, some customers, including residents, government agencies and private businesses rely on copper-based communication services. Therefore, careful and advance planning are helpful to ensure that any modification of existing facilities does not disrupt communication services.

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

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Charter Communications
Testimony of Rebecca Lieberman, Director of Government Affairs

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Hawaii State Capitol
Tuesday, April 7, 2026

COMMENTS ON H.C.R. 125, H.D. 1 / H.R. 117, H.D. 1 - REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO COORDINATE WITH UTILITY PROVIDERS OPERATING WITHIN STATE HIGHWAY RIGHTS-OF-WAY TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE PLAN AND SCHEDULE TO ADDRESS DERELICT OR AGING UTILITY POLES AND LINES ALONG FARRINGTON HIGHWAY AND OTHER HIGH-RISK CORRIDORS.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on H.C.R. 125, H.D. 1 / H.R. 117, H.D. 1, a resolution that requests that the Department of Transportation (“DOT”) coordinate with utility providers to develop a statewide plan and schedule to address aging or inactive utility infrastructure along Farrington Highway and other corridors.

Spectrum Oceanic (“Charter Communications” or “Charter”) appreciates the resolution’s focus on public safety, infrastructure resiliency, and coordination among entities that operate facilities in and around state highway rights-of-way. While Charter is not a public utility, we share the goal of ensuring that communications infrastructure is properly maintained.

As the largest broadband provider in the state, Charter is committed to delivering high quality, reliable service to the communities we serve. Although Charter does not own utility poles along the Farrington Highway corridor or elsewhere in West Oahu, we do attach facilities to poles owned by others, and we take seriously our responsibilities as a pole attacher. We work closely with pole owners and other attaching entities to maintain our facilities in compliance with applicable requirements, and we support safe, orderly infrastructure management.

While we respect the intent of this resolution, Charter does not believe H.C.R. 125, H.D. 1 / H.R. 117, H.D. 1 is necessary in its current form. As noted in Hawaiian Electric’s testimony and in ongoing industry discussions, the Public Utilities Commission (“PUC”) is already actively addressing double poles and related infrastructure issues through Docket No. 2024-0121. Charter has been participating collaboratively in that process with Hawaiian Electric and Hawaiian Telcom so that double poles can be identified and removed in an organized and efficient manner. In our view, that existing process is the

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appropriate venue for this work. We are concerned that directing DOT to establish a parallel statewide planning process could duplicate work already underway, create confusion regarding agency roles, and risk misalignment with the PUC's existing docket and stakeholder efforts.

Charter has been in regular communication with Representative Kila, the introducer of H.C.R. 125, H.D. 1 / H.R. 117, H.D. 1, regarding the issues raised in this resolution. In response to that outreach, Charter offered to work collaboratively to address any specific matters of concern. Based on those discussions, no particular issues involving Charter's facilities were identified. If the Legislature has additional questions, Charter would welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss them further.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.