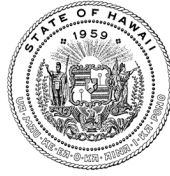


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Testimony of the Public Utilities Commission

To the
House Committee on
Consumer Protection & Commerce

Tuesday, April 7, 2026
2:00 p.m.

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

Measure: H.C.R. 203, H.D. 1 / H.R. 193, H.D. 1
Title: REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO PROVIDE A WRITTEN STATUS UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HAWAII ELECTRIC RELIABILITY ADMINISTRATOR.

Position:

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

Comments:

The Commission appreciates the patience of the Legislature in the implementation of the Hawaii Electric Reliability Administrator ("HERA"). The Commission agrees with the amendments made by the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection.

For your awareness, the Commission has completed procurement seeking consultants for this role, London Economics and Grid Advisors, who are currently serving in the capacity of the HERA. The Commission notes that the HERA's scope of work covers three main tasks: Resource Adequacy, Reliability Standards, and Interconnection. Whereas the HERA has completed its third meeting relating to both resource adequacy and reliability standards, and is planning a fourth meeting. The Commission is still conferring with the HERA on the workplan for the interconnection task. Additionally, the Commission has hired a PUC-internal HERA engineer, in accordance with its stated plan on next steps after expiration of the HERA consultant contract.

As a preliminary matter, the Commission considers the HERA fully implemented and provides a status update below for the Committee:

- (1) The HERA has a Scope of Work that covers Act 201, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, as well as other envisioned functions of the HERA, including resource adequacy and reliability standards. The Scope of Work is attached.
- (2) Relating to resource adequacy and reliability standards, the HERA is now at the stage of presenting resource adequacy measures and reliability standards for consideration to the working group. The Commission continues to work with the HERA on the interconnection workplan.
- (3) Procurement in the State of Hawaii can be challenging to navigate, leading to situations in which Request for Proposals need to be revised and reissued and contractual issues that need to be resolved. By conducting a thorough and competitive procurement process, the Commission was able to contract with qualified and experienced consultants who could perform the duties and tasks of the HERA. The Commission notes that the HERA consultant has been in place since May of 2025.
- (4) The Commission considers the HERA fully implemented and operational.

The Commission recommends that the Committee consider amending this measure to require a single update to the Legislature twenty days prior to the 2027 session as to the progress the HERA has made on all three main tasks assigned.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.