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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Tuesday, April 7, 2026
2:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference

On the following measure:
**H.C.R. 204 / H.R. 194, REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO
CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS ON THE BEST PATHS TO MAXIMIZE
COST REDUCTION AND MINIMIZE FINANCIAL RISK TO HAWAII RESIDENTS
WHILE MEETING STATE GOALS**

Chair Matayoshi, 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 conduct an objective, independent analysis and evaluation on the best paths to maximize cost reduction and minimize financial risk to Hawaii residents for energy while meeting the State's established goals. The resolution requests that the Commission contract and engage with experts, as may be appropriate, to develop two separate independent and objective analyses to ensure that the paths are thoroughly evaluated, and also identifies specific criteria for the analyses being requested. In addition, the resolution requests that the Commission submit a preliminary report of its

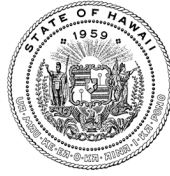
findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, no later than 30 days before the convening of the 2027 Legislative Session, and a final report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, no later than 30 days before the 2028 Legislative Session.

The Department recognizes that the State may be at a pivotal juncture as it strives to meet its established energy goals. Accordingly, the Department understands the need for an objective, independent analysis and evaluation on the best paths to maximize cost reduction and minimize financial risk for residents for energy while meeting the State's established goals. However, the Department notes that the Commission also has many competing priorities and it is not clear if the Commission has the necessary funds or resources available to conduct and coordinate the comprehensive analysis requested in the resolution. The Department further notes that their resources may be even more strained with the request for two separate analyses to ensure that the energy paths are thoroughly evaluated to provide a high level of confidence in the work conducted. The Department recommends ensuring that the Commission has sufficient resources available to undertake this additional work taking into consideration the amount of existing work currently before the Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
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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. 204, H.D.1 / H.R. 194, H.D.1
Title: REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS ON THE BEST PATHS TO MAXIMIZE COST REDUCTION AND MINIMIZE FINANCIAL RISK TO HAWAII RESIDENTS WHILE MEETING STATE GOALS.

Position:

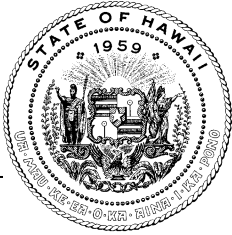
The Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") offers the following comments for consideration.

Comments:

The Commission supports the intent of this measure requesting the Commission to conduct an objective, independent analysis and evaluation on the best paths to maximize cost reduction and minimize financial risk to Hawaii residents, while meeting the State's established energy goals.

The Commission recognizes that this measure also requests that the comprehensive energy pathway evaluation includes two separate independent and objective analyses, and that the Commission contract and engage with experts as appropriate to develop the evaluation. The Commission understands that preliminary and final report of findings and recommendations are to be submitted to the 2027 and 2028 Legislatures, respectively. The Commission stands ready to participate and support this evaluation effort.

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 CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE
Tuesday, April 7, 2026
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329 and Videoconference

Providing Comments on
HR 194

**REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO CONDUCT A
COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS ON THE BEST PATHS TO MAXIMIZE COST
REDUCTION AND MINIMIZE FINANCIAL RISK TO HAWAII RESIDENTS WHILE
MEETING STATE GOALS.**

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on House Resolution No. 194, Requesting the Public Utilities Commission to Conduct a Comprehensive Analysis on the Best Paths to Maximize Cost Reduction and Minimize Financial Risk to Hawai'i Residents While Meeting State Goals.

HSEO fully supports analysis on the best paths to maximize cost reduction and minimize financial risk to Hawaii residents while meeting state goals. With those objectives in mind, HSEO's comments address misleading information in the preamble on which this measure is based.

HSEO and its lead contractor, HDR, overseeing the Alternative Fuels, Repowering, and Energy Transition Study ("Study"), confirm an unintentional syntax error in the "Calculator" tab of the LCCA spreadsheet. This impacted one scenario of the Study. After an exhaustive review, HDR discovered no other syntax errors in the key alternatives, confirming that the results and findings of all other alternatives and scenarios are valid. The preamble, in HSEO's opinion, inappropriately gives the impression that the findings of the Study are questionable. Given the positive net present value of key alternative 1A, HSEO notes that the correction identified by Dr. Fripp to 3A will have no material impact on the published Conclusions and Next Steps of the Study.

The preamble of HR 194 also complains that HSEO “limited the Study to considering replacing existing fuels for power generation with new fuels and did not make a meaningful comparison to or evaluate replacing existing fuels with cheaper renewable options, potentially missing billions of dollars of savings for consumers as a result of innovative technology such as moving beyond Hawai'i's typical four-hour energy storage to a newer one hundred hour or greater energy storage that would enable additional cheaper renewable energy capacity, a strategy already proving successful elsewhere.”

However, the preamble failed to note:

- The lead paragraph of the Study’s Conclusion and Next Steps on page 77 stated, “HSEO was tasked with creating an energy portfolio that meets the State’s RPS and decarbonization statutory targets, enhances grid stability, and rebuilds aging power plant infrastructure while minimizing the impact on ratepayers. This study is part of a broader effort to develop an energy transition strategy to support national security, safeguard energy infrastructure, increase energy affordability, and accelerate renewable adoption.”
- The Study evaluated twelve renewable options to provide firm power to support intermittent renewable penetration with consideration of commercial viability, cost-effectiveness, and lifecycle carbon intensity. HSEO strictly observed RPS targets consistent with Hawaiian Electric’s Integrated Grid Plan. Scenarios that increased solar penetration based on commercially unavailable, unaffordable long-duration storage were not considered.
- The Study was released concurrently with Executive Order 25-01, which calls for 50,000 additional rooftop solar additions in the next five years and accelerates the timetable for reaching a 100% RPS for all islands except O’ahu by 2035, 10 years faster than Act 93 (2015), among other aggressive actions proposed.

Additionally, the preamble states that “the cost of renewable technologies continues to dramatically fall.” While HSEO strongly supports the accelerated deployment of solar and storage, as these remain among the most cost-effective resources available, recent market data does not support the assumption of continued rapid price declines. Cost reductions have slowed, and in some cases reversed, due to

supply chain constraints and higher financing costs. This is reflected in recent O'ahu power purchase agreements priced at approximately \$0.215–\$0.23/kWh, significantly higher than the \$0.09–\$0.14/kWh achieved in the Stage 1 and 2 procurements.

Finally, HSEO notes this work is similar to the work prescribed in HCR 202 / HR 192. To minimize administrative burden, HSEO recommends consolidating the work prescribed in these resolutions.

HSEO defers to the PUC on any independent choices of which analysis it chooses to internally pursue in this regard.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



EARTHJUSTICE

REPRESENTATIVE SCOT Z. MATAYOSHI, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE TINA NAKADA GRANDINETTI, VICE CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 204/HOUSE
RESOLUTION 194

Tuesday, April 7, 2026, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i

LATE

Dear Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Committee Members:

Earthjustice offers this testimony in support of House Concurrent Resolution 204/ House Resolution 194, requesting the Public Utilities Commission (“PUC”) to conduct a comprehensive analysis on the best paths to maximize cost reduction and minimize financial risk to Hawai'i residents while meeting state goals.

Over the next several years, the PUC will be making critical decisions about Hawai'i's energy future that could determine the rates local families and businesses will pay for generations to come. It's a high-stakes moment in history that could end up saving or costing billions for Hawai'i's people and economy. This resolution, if fulfilled, will ensure that the state has the most accurate and reliable information before making such decisions about Hawai'i's energy future.

This resolution is particularly necessary in light of recent events, including the revelation that the Hawai'i State Energy Office's (“HSEO's”) “Alternative Fuels, Repowering, and Energy Transition Study” was based on a billion-dollar blunder that missed the most basic metric of the LNG fuel costs. Once corrected, the math showed that HSEO's selected scenario would increase costs to Hawai'i's energy consumers by \$300 million. Since then, HSEO has pivoted to an alternative scenario that its own study previously determined was “unviable,” only resulting in savings if numerous volatile cost variables do not change. This turn of events demonstrates the need for competent and unbiased analysis, which HSEO has proved incapable of providing.

This resolution would enable an independent study along these lines, before Hawai'i commits to any irreversible and onerous investments to support another imported fossil fuel. To ensure that any investments in Hawai'i's energy future will truly deliver consumer and climate savings, the state must complete its due diligence based on independent and comprehensive expert analysis of the



optimal pathways that would enable the state to meet its renewable energy mandates, uphold its constitutional public trust duties and its people's constitutional "right to a life-sustaining climate system," and lower the economic and environmental costs and risks for consumers now and in the future. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

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