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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Wednesday, April 22, 2026
2:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
S.C.R. 166, S.D. 1, REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO MAKE
CERTAIN JUDGMENTS, CONSIDERATIONS, AND DECISIONS WHEN MAKING
ANY DETERMINATION RELATING TO A GENERATIONAL ENERGY
COMMITMENT FOR THE STATE**

Chair Matayoshi and Members of the Committee:

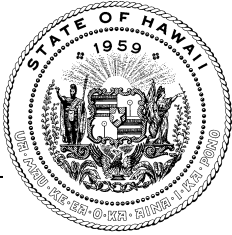
My name is Michael Angelo, and I am the Executive Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Division of Consumer Advocacy. The Department offers comments on this resolution.

The purpose of this resolution is to request the Public Utilities Commission (Commission), when making any determination relating to a generational energy commitment for the State, to: (1) exercise sound and independent judgement; (2) carefully consider all relevant information when balancing short-term energy needs and the State's long-term energy commitments, (3) use evidence-based decision-making; and (4) ensure transparency in the decision-making process. In addition, the resolution also specifically request, that the Commission devalue any proposal involving liquefied natural gas (LNG)

that may increase the likelihood of efforts to delay, weaken, or otherwise modify the State's statutory renewable portfolio standards, including the 2045 deadline.

The Department recognizes that Hawaii residents pay 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 express regarding LNG and the long-term impacts that a decision to utilize LNG would have for 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's proposal would enable services to be provided more safely, reliably, 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 CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Wednesday, April 22, 2026
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 430 and Videoconference

Providing Comments on
SCR 166, SD1

**REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO MAKE CERTAIN
JUDGMENTS, CONSIDERATIONS, AND DECISIONS WHEN MAKING ANY
DETERMINATION RELATING TO A GENERATIONAL ENERGY COMMITMENT FOR
THE STATE.**

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on SCR 166, SD1, that requests the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) 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.

HSEO fully supports the intent of this measure to ensure that any large investment decisions are made prudently and in alignment with Hawai'i's long-term energy and climate goals. Further, HSEO agrees all energy investment decisions 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 liquified natural gas (LNG), HSEO notes that the stated 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.

The resolution's claim that an island-specific transition away from petroleum use would "reduce or eliminate in-state refining capacity" and "increase reliance on imported finished fuels" is unsubstantiated (page 2, lines 13-19). Hawai'i already relies extensively on imported energy, including both crude oil and refined petroleum products. There is no clear evidence demonstrating that a partial reduction in petroleum demand would directly or disproportionately increase costs for neighbor island communities. Accordingly, this statement is speculative and not supported by current data or observed fuel supply dynamics in Hawai'i, and should be reconsidered to ensure the resolution reflects an accurate, evidence-based understanding of the State's energy system. That said, the impacts should be evaluated as a part of the evaluation criteria (page 3, lines 12-21).

Achieving the State's one hundred percent renewable portfolio standard requires integrating high levels of variable renewable resources, which is not feasible without sufficient firm, dispatchable, and flexible resources to maintain reliability and grid stability. Appropriately scoped investments in flexible generation and supporting infrastructure is necessary in the near- to medium-term to enable greater renewable penetration by providing essential grid services such as balancing, reserves, and fast response. There is no clear evidence that such investments, when aligned with long-term decarbonization pathways, weaken renewable portfolio standards; rather, inadequate reliability resources can constrain renewable integration and delay progress.

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



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Testimony of the Public Utilities Commission

To the
House Committee on
Consumer Protection & Commerce

Wednesday, April 22, 2026
2:00 p.m.

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

Measure: S.C.R. 166, S.D.1

Title: REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO MAKE CERTAIN JUDGMENTS, CONSIDERATIONS, AND DECISIONS WHEN MAKING ANY DETERMINATION RELATING TO A GENERATIONAL ENERGY COMMITMENT FOR THE STATE.

Position:

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

Comments:

The Commission appreciates the intent of this measure to make certain judgements, considerations, and decisions when making any determination relating to a generational energy commitment for the State. 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 safety, 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.

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



Testimony of
ERIK MONTAGUE, JERA AMERICAS

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE
Wed, April 22, 2026 2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 430 and Videoconference

In Opposition to
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION (SCR) 166
REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO MAKE CERTAIN JUDGMENTS, CONSIDERATIONS, AND DECISIONS WHEN MAKING ANY DETERMINATION RELATING TO A GENERATIONAL ENERGY COMMITMENT FOR THE STATE.

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

JERA Americas respectfully submits testimony in opposition to SCR166 which on its surface is generally supportable, but contains one provision on liquefied natural gas (LNG) which is heavily biased and would unnecessarily constrain the PUC's authority and discretion.

SCR16 began as a resolution that was much harsher against LNG and seemed to want to handcuff the PUC in ways that were not reflected in its governing statutes, the companion to House Concurrent Resolution 207 which was referred to, but not heard by this committee. Originally, it proposed to remove the balance and watered down the multi-faceted evaluation that the PUC must conduct before granting its approval.

SCR166 was amended by the Senate to instead read as a broader request for the PUC to take a comprehensive look at energy infrastructure and how it could amount to generational commitment such that those should be weighed against the state's renewable energy goals. All of that is sound and reasonable and JERA supports and takes no issue.

However, there remains one problematic and objectionable provision found on page 3, lines 23-27 which reads:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Utilities Commission is requested to devalue any proposal involving liquefied natural gas that may increase the likelihood of

efforts to delay, weaken, or otherwise modify the State's statutory renewable portfolio standards, including the 2045 deadline;

Without the procedural context of where this resolution started and where it currently reads, none of the prior “whereas” clauses provide any justification for this “devalue” request.

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 Hawai'i'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.

This resolution could 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



To: The House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce (CPC)
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2026, 2pm

Comments on SCR166 SD1

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and members of the CPC committee,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawai'i chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org provides **comments on SCR166 SD1** that requests the Public Utilities Commission make certain judgments, considerations, and decisions when making any determination relating to a generational energy commitment for the state. This measure was intended to put guardrails in place to protect ratepayers and safeguard Hawai'i's long-term economic and environmental interests. However, the SD1 amendments have removed language in SCR166 that was aimed towards these objectives.

Importantly, it should be a serious concern to all who call Hawai'i home that JERA, the same company that has proposed to build a natural gas-fired power plant on Oahu, submitted **opposition** testimony to SCR166. Shame on JERA for opposing this resolution that, in both its original form as well as the weakened form, simply outlines reasonable conditions to ensure that Hawai'i consumers do not end up bearing unfair financial burdens and risks. The trustworthiness of JERA's claims that LNG is a "cost-effective transitional fuel option" to renewable energy has now been rendered doubtful, to say the least.

Moreover, last week's informational briefing on future energy pathways for Hawai'i which hosted presentations from third party energy experts underscored the findings that a LNG pathway is not in Hawaii's financial interests. In fact, their findings concluded that a faster adoption of renewable energy was the pathway that makes the most economic and environmental sense. So again, it is no wonder that JERA opposes this resolution.

Bottom line, we won't achieve a clean energy future if we continue investing in dirty energy. It simply doesn't make sense to support major new gas infrastructure which could lock us into dirty fossil energy for decades.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org



APRIL 22, 2026

SCR 166 SD1

CURRENT REFERRAL: CPC

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President

David Negaard,
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Mireille Ellsworth,
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Eileen Roco,
Director

Beatrice DeRego,
Director

Corey Rosenlee,
Director

Amy Zhao,
*Policy and Partnerships
Strategist*

POSITION: SUPPORT

Imua Alliance supports SCR 166 SD1, requesting the Public Utilities Commission to make certain judgments, considerations, and decisions when making any determination relating to a generational energy commitment for the state.

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

SCR-166-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/21/2026 12:49:50 PM

Testimony for CPC on 4/22/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Mulinix	Greenpeace Hawaii	Comments	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, & CPC Committee Members,

My name is Dave Mulinix, Co-Founder & Hawai'i State Representative of Greenpeace Hawai'i. On behalf of our thousands of members and supporters statewide, we offer comments on SCR166 SD1 Requests the Public Utilities Commission make certain judgments, considerations, and decisions when making any determination relating to a generational energy commitment for the state.

This resolution was originally intended to ensure that measures are in place to protect ratepayers and safeguard Hawai'i's long-term economic and environmental interests, unfortunately the SD1 amendments have removed language towards these objectives.

To restore the original meaning, effect, and intent of this resolution, we propose the following amendments below to the "Resolved" clauses that now depart from the original purpose of the resolution to protect ratepayers. These amendments address four requests to the Public Utilities Commission:

- (1) Protect ratepayers from the burdens and risks of fuel cost volatility, stranded costs, and volumetric or take-or-pay requirements for fuel supplies;
- (2) Require developers, owners, and operators of infrastructure for imported fuels to demonstrate their plans are consistent with state laws and directives, and to provide a plan and financial security to ensure retirement and clean up at the end of life for any project;
- (3) Ensure that any commitments to infrastructure for imported fuels do not displace present or future opportunities for local, lower-cost renewable energy resources; and
- (4) Provide that any decisions be fully informed by a comprehensive integrated resource planning analysis that considers all options to meet the state laws and directives;

Further in the penultimate "Resolved" clause, we recommend changing the word "devalue"—which is confusing and vague in this context—to "deny." Also, the reference to LNG in that clause could be broadened to "liquefied natural gas or other imported fuels" to make clear that these considerations are not limited to LNG, but apply to Hawai'i's dependence on imported fuels more generally.

Finally please note that a recent EEP committee informational briefing hosted presentations on April 16, 2026 from third party energy experts underscored the findings that a LNG pathway is not in Hawaii's financial best interests.

If you intend to pass this resolution please add the amendments above to restore the original meaning, effect, and intent of this resolution to ensure measures are in place to protect ratepayers and safeguard Hawai'i's long-term economic and environmental interests.

Mahalo,

Dave Mulinix

Co-Founder & Hawai'i State Representative

Greenpeace Hawai'i

grandinetti1 - lan

From: Ashley Yoshikawa on behalf of Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2026 9:18 AM
To: grandinetti1 - lan
Subject: FW: ScR166

Ashley Yoshikawa

Office Manager
Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi
415 S Beretania Street, Room 433
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From: ted bohlen <tbohl8@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 2:21 PM
To: Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi <repmatayoshi@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Subject: ScR166

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Aloha Scot, Ashley and Zack! I hope all is well with you as Session winds down!
I've tried to submit the following testimony in strong support of SCR166 SD1 on behalf of the Climate Protectors Hawaii, but the website is not taking it. Please consider this testimony:

As Robert Frost might say, Hawai'i approaches a decision point between two roads for future energy planning on renewables versus fossil fuels. Only one road can be taken.

On one road, investing hugely in LNG will diminish renewables greatly and lead to much more greenhouse gases. On the other road, the PUC can consider multiple options that will provide secure power at lower cost.

Please pass this concurrent resolution that urges the PUC to take the second, less traveled road.

It will make all the difference!

Mahalo!