

SCR-83

Submitted on: 3/24/2026 1:53:56 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/27/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Climate Protectors Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT!

LATE

SCR-83

Submitted on: 3/26/2026 8:05:45 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/27/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Henry Gabriel	Testifying for City and County of Honolulu	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Environmental Services, Refuse Division opposes SCR83 and the companion resolution SR73. The management of end of life rechargeable batteries to include embedded, stand-alone, and defective, damage and recalled (DDR) batteries is a statewide dilemma. Programs such as extended producer responsibility (EPR) or a stewardship program are effective initiatives in providing structure to manage the recycling of rechargeable batteries which encourage a circular approach.

LATE

SCR-83

Submitted on: 3/27/2026 9:53:00 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/27/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Cooney	Testifying for Hawaii Natural Energy Institute	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SCR83.

My name is Dr. Michael Cooney and I reside with the Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute on the Manoa campus. I have been the lead author on four technical reports on clean energy waste streams, starting with a response to HB1333 (Act 92, regular session 2021).

My fourth report, dated Dec 2024, focused very heavily on all aspects of management of waste end-of-life lithium ion batteries. This report condensed the input from a broad range of mainland experts and local stakeholders and remains a fully unbiased and unaligned review of how best to manage this waste stream in the context of Hawai'i. A link to this report can be found here: <http://www.hnei.hawaii.edu/wp-content/uploads/Options-for-Lithium-Battery-Disposal-in-Hawaii.pdf>

The report concluded the state of Hawai'i will need a central public option for a lithium ion battery wet shredding plan and state wide professional responsibility organization (PRO) to manage a stewardship structure over the entire logistic train, inclusive of collection, on-island transport, on-line storage, and on-island processing to a "non-battery" material that is safe for shipping.

I completely support this resolution and highly recommend it. It is consistent with the results of our fourth report and will prove essential to creating the blueprint for putting in place a stewardship structure that can effectively collect (with tracking data to back it up) up to 95% of all discarded waste end-of-life lithium ion batteries regardless of form and size.

Thank you

Dr. Michael Cooney

Professor. Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute

University of Hawai'i at Manoa

ps: links four reports can be found here:

Initial Report (in response to HB1333) submitted 2022: ***Recommendations on Waste Management of Clean Energy Products in Hawai'i***. <https://www.hnei.hawaii.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023-HNEI-Act92-Final-Report-Clean-Energy-Products-Waste-Management.pdf>

Supplemental Report (to initial report) posted 2023: ***Policy Recommendations on Waste Management of Clean Energy Products in Hawai'i***. <https://www.hnei.hawaii.edu/wp-content/uploads/HNEI-Act92-Supplemental-Report-Clean-Energy-Products-Waste-Management.pdf>.

Third report (submitted to HSEO) and posted 2024: ***Waste Management of EOL PV Panels and LIBs in Hawai'i***. <https://www.hnei.hawaii.edu/wp-content/uploads/Waste-Management-of-EOL-PV-Panels-and-LIBs-in-Hawaii.pdf>

Fourth report (submitted to HSEO in advance of current HSEO/DOH working group on Policy of LIB disposal): ***OPTIONS FOR LITHIUM BATTERY DISPOSAL IN HAWAI'I: REQUIREMENTS AND ANALYSIS***. <http://www.hnei.hawaii.edu/wp-content/uploads/Options-for-Lithium-Battery-Disposal-in-Hawaii.pdf>

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA LAWELawe KAIĀPUNI
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

1000 ULU'ŌHI'A STREET, SUITE 308 • KAPOLEI, HAWAII 96707
PHONE: (808) 768-3486 • FAX: (808) 768-3487 • WEBSITE: honolulu.gov

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA



ROGER BABCOCK, JR., Ph.D., P.E.
DIRECTOR
PO'O

DANIEL BRIECK, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
HOPE PO'O

IN REPLY REFER TO:
DIR 26-18

March 27, 2026

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
and Members on the Committee on Energy and Intergovernment Affairs
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
The Honorable Herbert M. "Tim" Richards III, Vice Chair
and Members on the Committee on Agriculture and Environment
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chairs Wakai and Gabbard and Vice Chairs Chang and Richards:

**SUBJECT: Department of Environmental Services
Senate Resolutions 83 and 73 – Relating to Li-ion Batteries**

The City and County of Honolulu's Department of Environmental Services (ENV) submits the following comments in opposition to SCR 83/SR 73, requesting the City to consider developing a facility to discard lithium-ion batteries.

The City currently collects small and medium size rechargeable Li-ion batteries, including embedded batteries (hoverboards, etc.) at our 7 convenience centers and 3 transfer stations and pays a recycler who ships them off-island as hazardous waste. This is efficient and cost effective for these batteries (less than \$50,000/yr). The City currently does not accept large Li-ion batteries such as from EVs and home battery walls (e.g. Tesla Powerwall). EV batteries can either be recycled by auto retailers (for warranty replacements or end-of-life replacements) or by existing commercial auto recyclers (for \$1,000/vehicle). These same commercial operations should be able to process the Tesla Powerwalls at the end of life. Based on this, there does not seem to be a need for the City to develop a facility for discarded Li-ion batteries.

The resolutions request the City to fund a battery recycling facility to neutralize and shred the batteries into black mass and then presumably ship this material off island to a recycling facility. This would be expensive for the City and an inefficient disposal method because other options already exist that do not have a cost to the City

The Honorable Glenn Wakai and Mike Gabbard, Chairs
The Honorable Stanley Chang and Herbert M. "Tim" Richards III, Vice Chairs
March 27, 2026
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as described above. The traditional method of recycling (for lead-acid car batteries) where a retail (core) charge is paid at the time of retail sale and the retailer is required to take back (and recycle) the used battery (Extended Producer Responsibility model) should also be considered for legislation by the State for the large Li-ion batteries.

Please feel free to contact me at (808) 768-3486 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Roger Babcock, Jr., Ph.D., P.E.
Director