

**HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT  
KA 'OIHANA KINAI AHI O HONOLULU  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR  
MEIA



SHELDON K. HAO  
FIRE CHIEF  
LUNA NUI KINAI AHI  
  
JASON SAMALA  
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF  
HOPE LUNA NUI KINAI AHI

April 22, 2026

The Honorable Mark Hashem, Chair  
Committee on Water and Land  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 430  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Hashem:

Subject: Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 83 Requesting the City and County of Honolulu (City) to Consider Developing a Facility to Discard Lithium-ion Batteries

The Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) strongly supports SCR 83, which requests the City to consider developing a facility to discard lithium-ion batteries. As our community increases its use of lithium-ion batteries, the HFD has seen a rise in fires involving lithium-ion-powered devices and vehicles. Lithium-ion batteries have the potential to release a tremendous amount of stored energy very rapidly, resulting in fires that are often caused by thermal runaway due to damage or overheating. These fires burn intensely and are difficult to extinguish.

The development of a facility to properly manage end-of-life (EOL) lithium-ion batteries would assist in the proper disposal of these hazardous waste materials. Having a facility to store, sort, and deactivate EOL lithium-ion batteries is beneficial to the community. The need to properly manage EOL lithium-ion batteries has presented itself after large-scale disasters, such as the Lāhainā fires and the recent flooding caused by the Kona Low storms. The recovery from such events necessitates a way to manage the waste caused by fires and floods. The resulting wastes of such events include a large number of damaged lithium-ion batteries.

The HFD urges the passage of SCR 83, as safety is at the forefront of everything we do, and creating a facility to properly dispose of EOL lithium-ion batteries will provide for a safer community.

Should you have questions, please contact Assistant Chief Reid Yoshida of our Support Services division at 808-723-7105 or [yoshida@honolulu.gov](mailto:yoshida@honolulu.gov).

Sincerely,

SHELDON K. HAO  
Fire Chief

**SCR-83**

Submitted on: 4/20/2026 1:45:37 PM

Testimony for WAL on 4/23/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ted Bohlen	Climate Protectors Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT!