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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. 96, S.D. 1

Title: REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO PROVIDE A REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE ON THE PROGRESS 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 Committee in the implementation of the Hawaii Electric Reliability Administrator ("HERA"). The Commission agrees with the amendments made by the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection.

The Commission has completed procurement and selected consultants, London Economics and Grid Advisors, who are currently serving in the role 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 exact workplan for the interconnection task. The Commission has also hired a PUC-internal HERA engineer, in accordance with its stated plan addressing next steps after the 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.
- (2) The HERA will be 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 is challenging to navigate, leading to situations in which Request for Proposals need to be revised and reissued to resolve contractual issues . 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.

If this measure passes, the Commission agrees to provide a report to the Legislature twenty days prior to the 2027 session.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.