

**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: www.hawaii.gov/dbedt

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
LUIS P. SALAVERIA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Tuesday, January 30, 2018
8:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of
HB 1986
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

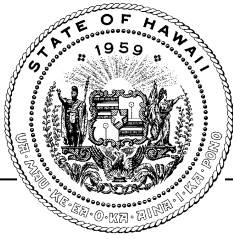
Chair Lee, Vice Chair Lowen, and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports HB 1986. We appreciate the intent of this bill, however we have a concern about the cost of the proposal.

HB 1986 establishes a carbon offsets program under DBEDT, allowing state agencies and other interested parties to acquire carbon offset credits to offset their respective carbon emissions, and uses the resulting proceeds to fund projects that improve the State's water infrastructure or mitigate threats to water sustainability efforts due to climate change.

We appreciate the over-all concept of this bill as it includes initiatives supportive of our goals and objectives for carbon emission reduction activities and water sustainability, but we are concerned about the cost implications generated by this proposal. The establishment of a carbon offset program and carbon offset credits is a huge undertaking and would require financial support not provided in this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments in support on HB 1986.



OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

LEO R. ASUNCION
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846
Fax: (808) 587-2824
Web: <http://planning.hawaii.gov/>

Statement of
LEO R. ASUNCION
Director, Office of Planning
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Tuesday, January 30, 2018
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of
HB 1986
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Lowen, and Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection.

The Office of Planning (OP) supports HB 1986, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget.

HB 1986 establishes a carbon offsets program under the Department of Business Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT), allowing state agencies and other interested parties to acquire carbon offset credits to offset their respective carbon emissions, and uses the resulting proceeds to fund projects that improve the State's water infrastructure or mitigate threats to water sustainability efforts due to climate change.

Presently the Office of Planning is administering the State's Carbon Farming Task Force, pursuant to Act 33 (2017) to identify agricultural or aquacultural activities and best practices that provide carbon sequestration benefits that may be used to establish a carbon farming certification. This Carbon Farming Task Force is required to report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2025.

We appreciate the over-all concept of this bill as it includes initiatives supportive of our goals and objectives for carbon emission reduction activities and water sustainability. However, we are concerned about the cost implications generated by this proposal. The establishment of a carbon offset program and carbon offset credits is a major undertaking and would require financial support not provided in this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments in support on HB 1986.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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CHAIRPERSON
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**Tuesday, January 30, 2018
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1986
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

House Bill 1986 proposes to establish a carbon offset program under the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) that allows state agencies and other interested parties to acquire carbon offset credits to offset their respective carbon emissions, and uses the resulting proceeds to fund projects that improve the State's water infrastructure or mitigate threats to water sustainability efforts due to climate change. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) appreciates the intent of this measure and provides the following comments.**

DLNR notes that the Hawai'i State Energy Office within DBEDT monitors Hawai'i's progress towards achieving the State's goal of 100% renewable energy by 2045. DLNR agrees that DBEDT is thus well positioned to facilitate a market for carbon offset credits related to energy production and reduction of use of fossil fuels through production, distribution and use of renewable energy and emission capture mechanisms.

DLNR notes that DLNR is engaged in a parallel initiative to create opportunities to sequester carbon by growing trees in Hawai'i's forest lands managed by DLNR for watershed and native ecosystem values, and to sell carbon credits to emitters, applying the revenues generated from the sale of carbon sequestration credits to finance protection and restoration of Hawai'i's forests. DLNR manages and operates a number of ongoing reforestation projects on degraded and former forest lands all over the State. Currently DLNR is pursuing certification to sell carbon sequestration credits which would enable DLNR to sell carbon credits on established voluntary and compliance markets.

The Department stands ready to collaborate and coordinate with DBEDT on these parallel efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

HB-1986

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 9:41:52 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII**

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

8:30 a.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 1986, RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

To the Honorable Chris Lee, Chair; the Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection:

Good morning, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill No. 1986, relating to DBEDT and the Carbon Offsets Program. The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of House Bill No. 1986, and support its passage.

House Bill No. 1986, is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it establishes a carbon offsets program under the Department

of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism that allows state agencies and other interested parties to acquire carbon offset credits to offset their respective carbon emissions, and uses the resulting proceeds to fund projects that improve the State's water infrastructure or mitigate threats to water sustainability efforts due to climate change.

Specifically, the DPH Platform states that “[t]he Democratic Party of Hawai‘i believes that the preservation and restoration of our natural environment are essential. We support a sustainable society that utilizes the earth in such a way that future generations will benefit from the practices of our generation. We support the restoration, preservation, and protection of our native ecosystems on each island. We believe in integrated approaches, practices, and support public policies that create and maintain a sustainable way of life in Hawai‘i.

We believe in supporting best management practices in sustaining our environment and in increased citizen involvement. We support programs that encourage sustainable clean, efficient, creative and environmentally friendly modes of transportation, recycling, and waste reduction.

The conservation, preservation and restoration of Hawai‘i’s natural resources are connected to the health and welfare of our people; therefore, we support the conservation and protection of our natural environment, which includes reducing our carbon footprint for the benefit of current and future generations.

We support the protection of our ‘aina against destruction by corporate, government, or military usage and expect full restoration and reparation of environmental damage. To handle current and future demands for water, we must assess the current condition of our aquifers and take appropriate actions to secure our freshwater resources.

We believe in the vigorous enforcement of our environmental laws and increased public-private stewardships and citizen involvement in protecting our resources.

We know that climate change is a real threat to our islands and the world. We strongly urge our candidates and elected officials to take immediate action to mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change. This includes funding adaption measures including coastal retreat, effective participation of indigenous peoples in climate change governance, and recognition that indigenous, local, and traditional ecological knowledge is key in climate change adaptation solutions.” (Platform of the DPH, P. 3, Lines 115-116, P. 8, Lines 406-425, 432-439 (2016)).

Given that House Bill No. 1986 provides for a Carbon Offsets Program designed to protect against increases to the carbon footprint and to fund water infrastructure projects, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Tel.: (808) 258-8889



P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96837-0158
Phone: 927-0709 henry.lifeoftheland@gmail.com

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Rep. Chris Lee, Chair

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Vice Chair

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

8:30 a.m.

Conference Room 325

HB 1986 Relating to the Environment

GRAVE CONCERNS

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Lowen, and Members of the Committee,

Life of the Land is Hawai'i's own energy, environmental and community action group advocating for the people and `aina for 47 years. Our mission is to preserve and protect the life of the land through sound energy and land use policies and to promote open government through research, education, advocacy and, when necessary, litigation.

The bill creates a new tax, with implied, revenue neutrality. "Establishes a carbon offsets program under the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism." The money raised by carbon offsets may be aimed at climate mitigation projects, but there is nothing guaranteeing equal negative offsets from general fund expenditures that counter the effects of a carbon tax.

The bill supports imported fracked liquefied natural gas over imported petroleum, solely because petroleum burns dirtier than LNG, regardless of which produces more lifetime greenhouse gas emissions

The complexities of carbon trading are way too complex for haphazardly enacted partial legislation.

The first thing needed is accurate and complete greenhouse gas metrics. The State greenhouse gas emission inventory is years out-of-date and omits significant items from its analysis.

HB 1986: “The legislature finds that it is in the public interest to create a carbon offsets program in the State that would incentivize and reward the adoption, practice, and adherence to carbon emission reduction activities, consistent with the Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan.”

HOWEVER, the Hawaii 2050 sustainability plan¹ does not mention “carbon”, “global warming”, or “climate”, and mentions “greenhouse” but once: “In 1994, additions to objectives and policies on energy were made to increase energy self-sufficiency, greater energy security and telecommunications and to reduce the effects of greenhouse gas.”

The Bill counts some greenhouse impacts but ignores others. Only combustion emissions are counted on the emission side, while the sequestration side allows for non-combustion offsets.

There is no community monitoring component to the bill.

The DBEDT State Energy Office lacks direction according to a recent State Audit and lacks vehicles for community input.

If the bill advances, it should morph into an Inclusive Task Force (ITF), that will report back to the 2019 Legislature.

Mahalo
Henry Curtis
Executive Director

¹ <http://files.hawaii.gov/auditor/Reports/2005/2050report.pdf>



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII
MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Tuesday, January 30, 2018 8:30AM Conference Room 325

In SUPPORT of HB 1986 Relating to the environment

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Lowen and members of the Committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i, a member of the Common Good Coalition, **supports HB 1986**, which establishes a carbon offset program under the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) that allows state agencies and other interested parties to acquire carbon offset credits to offset their respective carbon emissions, and uses the resulting proceeds to fund projects that improve the State's water infrastructure or mitigate threats to water sustainability efforts due to climate change.

The science is clear that the burning of fossil fuels is contributing to global climate change in ways that will affect humankind for generations to come. The people of Hawai'i will be some of the first to feel the unprecedented effects of a warming climate. We already experience more and stronger hurricanes, beach erosion and migration, coral reef bleaching and die-off, rampant spread of invasive species, further decline of native/indigenous species, higher-than-average temperatures, decreased trade winds, and periods of drought and heavy rain with flooding.

It is imperative that we, as members of a global community, contribute to the worldwide effort that is necessary to mitigate the increasing effects of climate change. In addition to reducing our own carbon emissions in every way possible and continuing to pave our way toward 100% clean and renewable energy production and consumption, *we understand that HB 1986 provides a mechanism with which to restore and protect the critical ecosystem services provided by our forested watersheds by entering the voluntary carbon market.* Thereby, we contribute to the global efforts to remove carbon from the atmosphere and sequester--or store it--in the forested ecosystems, which will ultimately slow the effects of climate change.

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i's central objectives are to preserve and protect clean air and clean water resources. Therefore, we support the amendments proposed by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) that recognize the critical role that forests play in ensuring a stable and sustainable source of fresh water concurrent with their carbon sequestration capability. Forest ecosystems that are in good health serve to sequester rain that feed freshwater streams and aquifers, absorb greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change and poor air quality, and reduce runoff and siltation that have deleterious effects on nearshore waters--especially during high rainfall events. There is no question that the restoration and preservation of Hawaiian forests will not only ensure access to clean, fresh water for the people of Hawai'i, but also provide additional ecosystem services (e.g., wildlife habitat, erosion control, recreation) and the critical carbon sequestration necessary to combat global climate change.

HB 1986 would create an impetus to explore how to qualify Hawai'i's forest carbon for eligibility in voluntary carbon offset markets and then ultimately in regulated markets (e.g., California's cap-and-trade market). Sierra Club of Hawai'i would support agencies, organizations, and businesses partnering to build a framework that would enable the successful implementation of carbon markets in both the public and private sectors.

We must plan and implement both mitigative and adaptive strategies that promote resilient and vibrant natural systems throughout Hawai'i and therefore ensuring the quality of life of its people.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1986 and to back the amendments proposed by the DLNR.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

January 30, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

TESTIMONY ON HB 1986
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Room 325
8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Lowen, and Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau offers the following comments on HB 1986, which creates a carbon offsets market for Hawaii.

This measure seeks to create "carbon offset credits" in carbon trading to be used for funding of infrastructural changes e.g. drought mitigation associated with climate change, operated by DBEDT. This is a novel concept to fund infrastructural costs. However, it appears that the credits are from operations that reduce emissions. It does not recognize the potential role of agriculture in Hawaii.

Hawaii's agriculture has an opportunity contribute to providing carbon off sets. Research done at UH CTAHR is beginning to document the potential Hawaii's farms and ranches have to sequester carbon for a long time while increasing the amount stored each year. Unlike conversion from a fossil fuel generator to a solar unit that will immediately save a quantity of carbon emissions, the changes in levels of reducing emission will be constant and changing only with use. For example, if use of the generator drops for a year, the amount of carbon emission savings is less. In contrast, agriculture can continuously increase carbon storage under certain conditions. The research thus far has also demonstrated increase in soil water holding capacity further demonstrating that the fields themselves can act as a "water reservoir" for agriculture during dry periods.

Research across the world, e.g. Climate Change Impacts on Yields and Soil Carbon in Row Crop Dryland Agriculture (Robertson, Andy D. etal, 2017) document amounts of soil

organic matter (SOM) and associated soil carbon sequestered by agriculture and models its' long term capacity for sustainable management of the State's natural resources. In this study, they demonstrate

“how dryland agricultural management in semiarid climates could build and maintain SOM while also maintaining yields under current and future climates. More intensively cropped rotations have the greatest potential for annualized yields as well as the highest soil C sequestration rates.”

Many of these studies have been done under temperate conditions. Studies by Dr. Susan Crowe et al at the University of Hawaii have documented steadily increasing soil carbon under perennial, no till agricultural systems in Hawaii. She has also documented gas emissions to document net carbon storage. Actively managed pastures also provide similar opportunities. The livestock industry has long referenced their ecosystem services they provide to the community. Efforts continue by Dr. Crowe and colleagues in quantifying and developing reliable data to support the role of agriculture in carbon trading. These efforts seek to develop best management practices under tropical conditions. The USDA NRCS is also working with us to develop Best Management Practices that can be included in Conservation Plans.

Clearly articulating that agriculture can be a potential contributor to carbon offset credits will further incentivize farmers and ranchers to adopt best management practices and help assure their economic viability while contributing to the long term sustainability of their operations.

We suggest redefining “carbon offset credits” to not only include reduction in emissions but also sequestration.

“Carbon offset credit” means a tradable credit issued by the department under the program that represents a long term sequestered carbon or greenhouse gas reduction or greenhouse gas removal enhancement that is equivalent to one metric ton of carbon dioxide equivalent and meets the requirements of the program.

HFB agrees with the intent of this measure and believes agriculture can be an active player to meet the State's goals. We respectfully request your support to include the amended language in the measure.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our input on this measure.

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting H.B. 1986 Relating to the Environment
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Tuesday, January 30, 2018, 8:30AM, Room 325

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which life depends. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. We manage 40,000 acres in 14 preserves and work in 19 coastal communities to help protect the near-shore reefs and waters of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnerships with government, private parties and communities to protect Hawai'i's important watershed forests and coral reefs.

The Nature Conservancy supports H.B. 1986 to establish a carbon emission offset program in Hawai'i. We also support the amendments to the bill proposed by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) that recognize the critical role that Hawaiian forests play in ensuring stable and sustainable sources of fresh water as well as carbon sequestration.

Climate change caused by burning fossil fuels is an imminent and unprecedented threat to every person in Hawai'i. It is our responsibility to do what we can and what is necessary reduce our own carbon emissions, however small on a global scale, to contribute to the worldwide effort needed to mitigate the growing effects of climate change. We must plan and implement both mitigative and adaptive measures to ensure the resilience of our natural and human systems.

Protecting and enhancing the health and function of our forested watersheds is one critically important initiative. Healthy Hawaiian forests that are not overrun by invasive species act like a sponge, collecting rain and moisture from passing clouds, slowly delivering fresh water into streams and aquifers, absorbing greenhouse gases, and reducing runoff and siltation into near shore waters during storm events.

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is a greenhouse gas emitted from burning fossil fuels. Tree leaves absorb CO₂ during photosynthesis fueling the growth of branches, trunks, bark and roots. In the process, trees and surrounding soil store -- or sequester -- large amounts of the absorbed carbon. Improved management of existing forests and reestablishing forests sequesters carbon. The accumulation of carbon in forests can be measured (in metric tons), monitored and certified under established standards. Meeting established standards allows a landowner to sell "carbon offset credits" to another party wishing to reduce or offset CO₂ emissions from burning fossil fuel. Markets currently exist for selling and buying carbon credits -- some voluntary and others due to emission reduction laws like those in California and the Northeast. In addition to sequestered carbon, restored forests provide other "ecosystem service" benefits like habitat for plants and animals, fresh water capture, erosion control, and clean air.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has been using forests to help solve the climate challenge and offset carbon for over a decade. By 2026, TNC's Noel Kempff project in Bolivia will have prevented 5.8 million metric tons of carbon from entering Earth's atmosphere. TNC also has forest carbon offset projects in Louisiana, California, Mexico, Brazil and Indonesia.

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Here in Hawai'i, we are working with the DLNR, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and other partners to determine how carbon offset credits can be generated from Hawaiian forests. Our focus is to qualify Hawai'i forest carbon for eligibility first in voluntary carbon offset markets and ultimately in regulated markets like California's cap-and-trade market. To do this, we collaborated with DLNR, USFS and Climate Action Reserve (CAR, climateactionreserve.org) -- whose forest carbon standards are the basis for credits in the California market -- to revise their protocols to certify Hawaiian forest carbon in voluntary markets and later in regulated markets. CAR protocols for Hawaiian forest carbon were approved in July 2017. Like DLNR, we are now turning our attention to pilot forest carbon sequestration projects in Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 1986 and the amendments proposed by the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

HB-1986

Submitted on: 1/27/2018 1:52:33 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez		Support	No

Comments:

HB-1986

Submitted on: 1/28/2018 4:20:45 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Kohn MD	We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1986

Submitted on: 1/28/2018 9:06:32 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omanapono Political Action Committee (HPAC)	Support	Yes

Comments:

HB-1986

Submitted on: 1/28/2018 11:19:15 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherry Pollack		Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1986

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 7:24:41 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Lacques		Support	No

Comments:

HB-1986

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 8:25:52 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leslie Cole-Brooks	DER Council of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1986

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 9:22:57 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joan Gannon	West Hawaii CHC	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB1986

HB-1986

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 4:22:55 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Oshiro		Oppose	No

Comments:

Stop ripping off working folks with that carbon tax junk.