



**DAVID Y. IGE**  
GOVERNOR

**DOUGLAS S. CHIN**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310  
P.O. Box 541

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809  
Phone Number: 586-2850  
Fax Number: 586-2856  
cca.hawaii.gov

**CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN**  
DIRECTOR

**JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
WAYS AND MEANS**

**TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2018**

**Thursday, April 5, 2018  
10:30 A.M.**

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF DEAN NISHINA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF  
CONSUMER ADVOCACY, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER  
AFFAIRS, TO THE HONORABLE DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2249, H.D. 2, S.D. 1 – RELATING TO ELECTRIC GRID  
RESILIENCY.**

**DESCRIPTION:**

House Bill No. 2249, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, which is a companion to S.B. 2910, proposes to establish a homeland security and resiliency council to assess the resilience of the State's electric grid and other critical infrastructure to natural disasters and other emergencies. This measure also requires the council to develop recommendations and to report to the legislature and appropriates funds that would allow the council to perform its duties. S.D. 1 amends the effective date of this measure to January 1, 2100.

**POSITION:**

The Division of Consumer Advocacy ("Consumer Advocate") appreciates the intent of this measure and offers comments.

COMMENTS:

The Consumer Advocate believes that Hawaii should undertake the necessary assessment and planning to improve Hawaii's resiliency against natural disaster or manmade emergencies.

The Consumer Advocate appreciates this version of the bill, which appears to allow the proposed council to complete a holistic evaluation that will incorporate a review of not only the electric grid, but also the resiliency of Hawaii's transportation and telecommunications infrastructure. S.D. 1 requires the council, after completing a holistic review, to report on additional legislative actions that might be necessary, rather than establishing resiliency plan definitions or parameters in the context of this bill. The Consumer Advocate also appreciates how this version of the bill does not rely on revenues from electric consumers' bills to fund the homeland security and resiliency council. It would be inappropriate to rely on electric customers to fund the council's scope of duties, which would appropriately not be limited to only the electric grid.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
WAYS AND MEANS**

**H.B. 2249, S.D. 1**

**Relating to Electric Grid Resiliency**

Thursday, April 5, 2018

10:30 am

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Rodney Chong  
Manager, Grid Modernization  
Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Rodney Chong and I am testifying on behalf of Hawaiian Electric Company and its subsidiary utilities Maui Electric Company and Hawai'i Electric Light Company **in support** of H.B. 2249, S.D. 1.

In its current form, this bill appropriately focuses on the need to assess and prioritize the security and resiliency needs of our state's electric grid and critical infrastructure, and then to develop recommendations to best serve those needs. Furthermore, the makeup of the proposed Homeland Security and Resiliency Council, involving not only state and county emergency planning agencies but also owners and operators of various critical infrastructure sectors in addition to electricity, reflects a systems thinking approach which recognizes there are critical interdependencies between sectors. Leadership of the Council under the State Office of Homeland Security and the Office of Planning should help connect the dots between long range strategy and tactical plans for action. Also, the structure of the Council will allow the participation or input of members of the public; experts in the field; county, state, or federal officials; or others as necessary; which will facilitate a fully vetted solution that considers all options.

Finally, we believe that the work product of the Council can help guide our Integrated Grid Planning Process (IGP), with respect to making our electric grid more resilient.

Accordingly, the Hawaiian Electric Companies support H.B. 2249, S.D. 1.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**Testimony to the Committee on Ways and Means**

Thursday, April 5, 2018  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol  
Regarding HB 2249, HD 2, SD 1

Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee on Ways and Means

Young Brothers is Hawaii's only regulated interisland water carrier serving all islands.

Young Brothers **supports** HB 2249 to ensure that the State of Hawaii is prepared to withstand natural disasters and other emergencies and to protect the State's critical infrastructure and its citizens by making investments in grid resiliency, and offers an amendment.

The Committee may want to consider adding an additional representative to join the Homeland Security and Resiliency Council to represent the interisland transportation utility. In the past, transportation services provided by Young Brothers have proven to be a critical part of disaster recovery efforts. Young Brothers is the State's only regulated water carrier and, as such, is responsible for all interisland freight shipping between the Hawaiian Islands. In the event of a natural disaster or other large scale emergency, Young Brothers will need to coordinate its efforts with those of the other identified state agencies and utilities on all impacted islands to provide emergency relief and infrastructure restoration. Therefore, including a representative from the interisland transportation utility as part of the council will be beneficial to realizing the desired outcome of this measure.

In the days following Hurricane Iniki, Young Brothers delivered more than five barges carrying food, water, ice, fuel, generators, and equipment required to restore services. Following a major natural disaster, it will likely be necessary to ship equipment from Oahu to neighbor islands as part of the electric grid recovery effort.

Disaster recovery efforts require tremendous coordination between various utilities and the United States Coast Guard, Army Corps of Engineers, state and county agencies and departments, FEMA, Red Cross, and others.

We respectfully request that you consider amending HB 2249, HD 2, SD 1, as follows:

**(c) The president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives shall jointly invite:**

...

**(4) Representatives of each regulated interisland water carrier serving all islands:**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Email: [communications@ulupono.com](mailto:communications@ulupono.com)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS  
Thursday, April 5, 2018 — 10:30 a.m. — Room 211

**Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports HB 2249 HD 2 SD 1 with Amendments, Relating to Electric Grid Resiliency**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kyle Datta and I am General Partner of the Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally produced food; increase affordable, clean, renewable energy; and better management of waste and fresh water. Ulupono believes that self-sufficiency is essential to our future prosperity and will help shape a future where economic progress and mission-focused impact can work hand in hand.

**Ulupono strongly supports HB 2249 HD 2 SD 1**, which establishes a grid resiliency council.

As a member of the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA) Transformation Advisory Council, I am privy to first hand information on the importance of integrated planning for resilience between the core infrastructure of power, water, telecommunications, fuel systems, roads, harbors and the critical facilities of fire, police and hospitals. Our state is ill prepared for a large-scale natural disaster and integrated planning will be critical. Therefore, we strongly support the creation of the homeland security and resiliency council.

At Ulupono, we are focused on the reliability and resilience of our state's electrical grid as the energy system shifts towards renewable supply.

We offer a few suggestions to improve the council membership and scope:

- On page 4, in Section 128A (b), The council should also include representatives of the State Energy Office within the Department of Business and Economic Development, as well as the Department of Agriculture.
- On pages 4 – 5, in Section 128A (c), representatives of the gas company should be included.

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*



Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Kyle Datta  
General Partner



# ORGANIZING *for* ACTION

To: The Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
From: Brodie Lockard, OFA Hawaii, 262-1285  
Date: Thursday, April 5, 2018

## **In strong support of HB 2249 HD2 SD1**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee members,

I am the Hawaii Climate Lead for Organizing for Action, a progressive group that played a lead in electing President Barack Obama twice. OFA Hawaii strongly supports HB 2249 HD2 SD1.

Anywhere GEMS monies can be used to save energy, they should be. Ideally, funds should be appropriated to all our public schools for energy efficiency and solar energy systems, but if it currently must be done via GEMS, so be it.

After the recent catastrophe in Puerto Rico, the need for better grid resiliency here is obvious. Hawaii is far past due for a direct hit from a powerful hurricane.

Please support HB 2249 HD2 SD1. It will help us reach our clean energy goals, and prepare for impending disaster.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Brodie Lockard  
Hawaii Climate Lead, Organizing for Action





To: The Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org  
Date: Thursday, April 5, 2018

**In strong support of HB 2249 HD2 SD1**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee members,

I am the Vice President of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org strongly supports HB 2249 HD2 SD1.

Anywhere GEMS monies can be used to save energy, they should be. Ideally, funds should be appropriated to all our public schools for energy efficiency and solar energy systems, but if it currently must be done via GEMS, so be it.

After the recent catastrophe in Puerto Rico, the need for better grid resiliency here is obvious. Hawaii is far past due for a direct hit from a powerful hurricane.

Please support HB 2249 HD2 SD1. It will help us reach our clean energy goals, and prepare for impending disaster.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sherry Pollack  
Vice President, 350Hawaii.org

**HB-2249-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 6:52:29 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2018 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB2249. By allowing the use of the Public Benefits Fee to create resiliency in the electric grid, our emergency shelters and hospitals, and residential homes, this measure seeks to safeguard the people of Hawai'i against major disaster.

**HB-2249-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 8:28:02 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2018 10:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sarah Toole	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Sarah Toole, my address is 1128 Ala Napunani St. 96818, and I am a political science student at UH Manoa.

I support this bill.