

**Written Testimony before the
House Committee on
Water & Land**

**By Kerstan Wong
Manager, Engineering Department
Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.**

March 23, 2018

HCR 212/HR 183

(Requesting the City Council of the City and County of Honolulu to Require a Conditional Use Permit-Major For Any and All Allowed Uses on Lands in P-2 General Preservation Districts That Are Within One Hundred Feet of a Residential Area)

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kerstan Wong and I am testifying on behalf of the Hawaiian Electric Company and its subsidiaries, Hawaii Electric Light Company and Maui Electric Company.

Position: Oppose HCR 212/ HR 183.

Hawaiian Electric has existing transmission, subtransmission and distribution facilities throughout P-2-zoned areas on Oahu, often located within 100 feet of residential areas. These facilities are critical to move power around the grid from renewable generating resources as well as conventional generation to maintain overall system reliability. The proposed CUP Major permitting process would unnecessarily delay work on our facilities in these areas, and could negatively impact any emergency repairs on our system, which could elevate the risk for long-term power outages.

Under the existing Land Use Ordinance (“LUO”), Chapter 21, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu, Table 21-3, Master Use Table, Utility Installations Type A (those with minor impact) are currently a permitted use on P-2 zoned lands. For Utility Installations Type B (those with potential major impact) on P-2-zoned lands, the LUO requires a Conditional Use Permit – Minor. The existing process is fair and provides adequate regulatory oversight for Utility Installations. Hawaiian Electric asks that the existing CUP process in P-2 zoned land not be changed for Utility Installations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.