

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

S.B. No. 2910, SD 1

Relating to Electric Grid Resiliency

Friday, February 23, 2018

10:00 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 S.B. 2910, 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. This is a marked improvement over the earlier version of this bill which took a one-size-fits-all technology approach and had little focus on improving the resilience of the actual electric grid.

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 S.B. 2910, S.D. 1.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
HAWAII ENERGY POLICY FORUM
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT MĀNOA

Hawaii Energy Policy Forum

Jeanne Schultz Afuvai, Hawaii Inst. for Public Affairs
David Bissell, Kauai Island Utility Cooperative
Michael Brittain, IBEW, Local Union 1260
Jade Butay, Hawaii Dept of Transportation
Caroline Carl, Hawaii Energy
Albert Chee, Island Energy Services
Elizabeth Cole, The Kohala Center
Kyle Datta, Ulupono Initiative
Richard DeGarmo, Hawaii Gas
Mitch Ewan, UH Hawaii Natural Energy Institute
Jay Fidell, ThinkTech Hawaii
Carl Freedman, Haiku Design & Analysis
Matthias Fripp, REIS at University of Hawaii
Ford Fuchigami, Ofc of Hawaii State Governor
Will Giese, Inter-Island Solar Supply
Dale Hahn, Ofc of US Senator Brian Schatz
Michael Hamnett, SSRI at University of Hawaii
Senator Lorraine Inouye, Hawaii State Legislature
Randy Iwase, Public Utilities Commission
Darren Kimura, Energy Industries
Representative Chris Lee, Hawaii State Legislature
Gladys Marrone, Building Industry Assn of Hawaii
Stephen Meder, UH Facilities and Planning
Sharon Moriawaki, UH Public Policy Center
Rocky Mould, Ofc of Climate Change
Aina Naniolo, Ofc of US Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa
Ron Nelson, Defense Logistics Energy Agency
Dean Nishina, Division of Consumer Advocacy
Denise Oda, US Department of Agriculture
Stan Osserman, HCATT
Melissa Pavlicek, Hawaii Public Policy Advocates
Randy Perreira, Hawaii Government Employees Assn
Fredrick Redell, Maui County Energy Office
Rick Rocheleau, UH Hawaii Natural Energy Institute
Ross Roley, PACOM
Will Rolston, Hawaii County, Research & Development
Peter Rosegg, Hawaiian Electric Companies
Scott Seu, Hawaiian Electric Companies
Carilyn Shon, Hawaii State Energy Office, DBEDT
Joelle Simonpietri, Simonpietri LLC
Ben Sullivan, Kauai County
Lance Tanaka, Par Hawaii
Maria Tome, Public Utilities Commission
Kirsten Turner, Ofc of US Representative Tulsi Gabbard
Alan Yamamoto, Ofc of US Senator Mazie Hirono

Testimony of John Cole
Chair, Electricity Working Group
Hawaii Energy Policy Forum

To the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

February 23, 2018 at 10:00 am in Conference Room 211

IN SUPPORT OF SB 2910, Senate Draft 1 Relating to Electric Grid Resiliency

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

I am John Cole, Chair of the Electricity Working Group of the Hawaii Energy Policy Forum (Forum). The Forum, created in 2002, is comprised of over 40 representatives from Hawaii's electric utilities, oil and natural gas suppliers, environmental and community groups, renewable energy industry, and federal, state and local government, including representatives from the neighbor islands. Our vision and mission, and comprehensive "10 Point Action Plan" serves as a guide to move Hawaii toward its preferred energy goals and our support for this bill.

SB 2910 SD1 establishes 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 and make recommendations. Requires the council to report to legislature. Appropriates funds.

The Forum supports this bill and would like to offer the following comments:

Much of the State's critical infrastructure is vulnerable to major hurricanes or other natural disasters, which could leave residents without power, water, communications, and other necessary services for an extended period of time. Proper planning and implementation to ensure we are as prepared as possible for such events is crucial

The coordination of the operators and major stakeholders of the various categories of critical infrastructure on the council will significantly increase the utility of the assessment of the State's resilience and the strategies, goals and recommendations that come out of the council's work. The committee may want to consider including representation of food, in addition to fuel, distribution on the council



COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

HAWAII ENERGY POLICY FORUM

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT MĀNOA

Hawaii Energy Policy Forum

Jeanne Schultz Afuvai, Hawaii Inst. for Public Affairs
David Bissell, Kauai Island Utility Cooperative
Michael Brittain, IBEW, Local Union 1260
Jade Butay, Hawaii Dept of Transportation
Caroline Carl, Hawaii Energy
Albert Chee, Island Energy Services
Elizabeth Cole, The Kohala Center
Kyle Datta, Ulupono Initiative
Richard DeGarmo, Hawaii Gas
Mitch Ewan, UH Hawaii Natural Energy Institute
Jay Fidell, ThinkTech Hawaii
Carl Freedman, Haiku Design & Analysis
Matthias Fripp, REIS at University of Hawaii
Ford Fuchigami, Ofc of Hawaii State Governor
Will Giese, Inter-Island Solar Supply
Dale Hahn, Ofc of US Senator Brian Schatz
Michael Hamnett, SSRI at University of Hawaii
Senator Lorraine Inouye, Hawaii State Legislature
Randy Iwase, Public Utilities Commission
Darren Kimura, Energy Industries
Representative Chris Lee, Hawaii State Legislature
Gladys Marrone, Building Industry Assn of Hawaii
Stephen Meder, UH Facilities and Planning
Sharon Moriwaki, UH Public Policy Center
Rocky Mould, Ofc of Climate Change
Aina Naniolo, Ofc of US Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa
Ron Nelson, Defense Logistics Energy Agency
Dean Nishina, Division of Consumer Advocacy
Denise Oda, US Department of Agriculture
Stan Osserman, HCATT
Melissa Pavlicek, Hawaii Public Policy Advocates
Randy Perreira, Hawaii Government Employees Assn
Fredrick Redell, Maui County Energy Office
Rick Rocheleau, UH Hawaii Natural Energy Institute
Ross Roley, PACOM
Will Rolston, Hawaii County, Research & Development
Peter Rosegg, Hawaiian Electric Companies
Scott Seu, Hawaiian Electric Companies
Carilyn Shon, Hawaii State Energy Office, DBEDT
Joelle Simonpietri, Simonpietri LLC
Ben Sullivan, Kauai County
Lance Tanaka, Par Hawaii
Maria Tome, Public Utilities Commission
Kirsten Turner, Ofc of US Representative Tulsi Gabbard
Alan Yamamoto, Ofc of US Senator Mazie Hirono

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

This testimony reflects the position of the Forum as a whole and not necessarily of the individual Forum members or their companies