

TESTIMONY OF
JAMES P. GRIFFIN, Ph.D.
CHAIR, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
STATE OF HAWAII

TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE

March 27, 2019
2:30 p.m.

Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

MEASURE: S.B. No. 1442 SD1 HD1

TITLE: RELATING TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION.

DESCRIPTION: Requires the Public Utilities Commission to consider the value of improving electric power systems data access and transparency in order to make informed decisions. Establishes guiding principles. (SB1442 HD1)

POSITION:

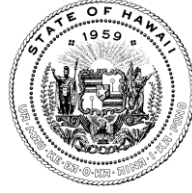
The Public Utilities Commission offers the following comments for consideration.

COMMENTS:

The Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) supports the intent of this measure, which is to improve electric power systems data access and transparency within the State in order to empower ratepayers, improve decision-making related to reliability and operational efficiency of the electric system, maximize the value of grid modernization technologies and investments, and promote innovation and economic development opportunities related to energy data analysis.

The Commission is considering energy data access requirements as part of the Hawaiian Electric Companies’ Grid Modernization Strategy and project implementation (see Docket Nos. 2017-0226 and 2018-0141). As such, the Commission is appreciative of the Legislative guidance provided by this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LT. GOVERNOR

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

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JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI
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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, March 27, 2019
2:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

On the following measure:

S.B. 1442, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, RELATING TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dean Nishina, and I am the Executive Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Division of Consumer Advocacy. The Department supports this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to require the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) to consider the value of improving electric power systems data access and transparency in order to make informed decisions.

For some time, the Department has been advocating for greater access to energy data in various proceedings before the Commission for the very reasons articulated in this measure. The Department appreciates the measured approach set forth in this bill, which requires that the Commission consider the balance of consumer privacy, critical infrastructure security, and other considerations. Customers should certainly have improved access to their own energy-related data, whether such energy

services are provided by a regulated utility or a third-party services provider. The collection and maintenance of data related to energy services are no longer limited to just the regulated utility, and customers should be able to access that data regardless of who is providing the energy services. Thus, the need to establish greater data access must also consider how to allow customers access to all relevant data, and not just data collected by the regulated utility.

The Commission has also acknowledged the need to improve access to data. Pursuant to that acknowledgement, the Commission has initiated steps to address the identified need and consideration of the principles outlined in this measure. For instance, in October 2018, the Commission scheduled a data access and data privacy workshop to determine current practices and technologies related to granting third-party access to customer data. In addition, the Department has advanced the idea of establishing data access as a regulatory outcome in Docket No. 2018-0088, which is investigating the implementation of performance-based regulation. Since the Commission may already be addressing the purpose of this measure, S.B. 1442, S.D. 1, H.D. 1 may not be necessary; however, the Department nevertheless supports the measure.

Finally, the Department respectfully suggests certain amendments to the bill. First, the Committee should require the Commission to consider how to increase publicly available data related to utility and third-party electric power systems. This will ensure that all relevant data that might reasonably be made available, rather than only utility-collected data, will be available to consumers. Second, the Committee should avoid unintended higher costs in utility services by modifying subsection (b)(4) to read: "Ensuring that electric power systems data is made available through simple, electronic, consistent, machine-readable formats with temporal and geographic granularity, where cost-effectively possible." Requiring data with temporal and geographic granularity in all instances may not be cost-effective or possible. Thus, the Department recommends requiring the provision of data with the required granularity only if it is possible and does not result in unreasonable cost increases.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Wednesday, March 27, 2019 — 2:30 p.m. — Room 308

Ulupono Initiative Supports SB 1442 SD 1 HD 1, Relating to the Public Utilities Commission

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Murray Clay and I am Managing 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 manage waste and fresh water resources. 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 supports SB 1442 SD 1 HD 1, which requires the Public Utilities Commission to consider the value of improving energy data access and transparency in order to make informed decisions, because it aligns with our goal of increasing the production of clean, renewable energy in Hawai'i.

For energy consumption reduction to be successful, we need educated and motivated people and businesses to actively practice energy efficiency in their daily purchases and behaviors. By providing ratepayers with their energy consumption, this can help them to think about how best to invest in reducing their energy costs for their own economic interest.

Similarly, it could be additionally beneficial to have comparable energy costs for similar sized spaces. This would further help ratepayers to understand how effective they are in managing their costs.

As Hawai'i's energy issues become increasingly complex and challenging, we appreciate this committee's efforts to look at policies that support renewable energy production.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Murray Clay
Managing Partner

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



ELEMENTAL
EXCELERATOR

**Written Statement of Elemental Excelerator
before the House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, March 27, 2019**

**In consideration of SB 1442 SD 1 HD 1
RELATING TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

Elemental Excelerator respectfully submits our **support for SB 1442 SD 1 HD 1**, which requires the Public Utilities Commission to consider the value of improving electric power systems data access and transparency in order to make informed decisions

Elemental Excelerator is a Honolulu-based growth accelerator program founded and operating in Hawai'i. We have awarded over \$30 million to 82 companies resulting in 56 demonstration projects in Hawaii & Asia Pacific. Elemental Excelerator is a Honolulu-based growth accelerator program founded and operating in Hawai'i. Each year, we select 15-20 companies that best fit our mission and fund each company up to \$1 million. We recruit innovative entrepreneurs from around the world to come to Hawai'i and find transformative solutions to help us achieve our 100% clean energy goals.

In April 2018, Elemental Excelerator commissioned a study entitled *Transcending Oil: Hawai'i's Path to a Clean Energy Economy*. The study found that in Hawai'i, transitioning to renewable energy is cheaper than sticking with fossil fuels like oil and coal. The faster we go, the cheaper it will be. The study also recommended creating an open data environment as an enabling tool to realign incentives with clean energy goals.¹

We support SB 1442 SD 1 HD 1 because we believe improving energy data access and transparency within the PUC provides the state the opportunity to implement an open data environment that will help us make more informed decisions to achieve our clean energy goals. About 15% of Elemental Excelerator's 82 portfolio companies, such as Kevala, focus on clean energy-related data that is meaningful, transparent, and broadly accessible, demonstrating a growing opportunity to attract innovation and our clean energy goals with forward-thinking policies.²

Transcending Oil states that "[a]ccelerating the transition [to clean energy] could reduce oil consumption by 85 to 267 million gallons and spur as much as \$2.8 billion additional cumulative investment by 2030, compared to Business as Usual. It could also create up to 1,500 net new jobs per year, on average, between 2021 and 2030. To realize these outcomes, we find Hawai'i will need to build a more efficient and open electric grid equipped with AMI and

¹ *Transcending Oil*, pg.3, Retrieved from <https://www.transcendingoil.com/>

² Kevala. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://elementalexcelerator.com/companies/kevala/>

*implement regulatory frameworks that allow distributed PV, DR, and other flexible resources to provide an array of grid services. Increased energy efficiency investments can make the acceleration more attainable. **Data sharing and transparency** can make sure all of these resources and frameworks operate efficiently and cost-effectively.*"³

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this legislation.

Sincerely,



Aki Marceau
Managing Director, Policy & Community - Hawai'i

³ Transcending Oil, pg.36, Retrieved from <https://www.transcendingoil.com/>



To: The House Committee on Finance
From: Brodie Lockard, Hawaii State Climate Lead, Organizing for Action
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2019, 2:30 pm

In support of SB1442 SD1 HD1

Dear FIN Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Committee Members—

Organizing for Action supports SB1442 SD1 HD1.

The more energy data that is shared, the wiser the PUC's decisions. It's that simple.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Brodie Lockard
Hawaii State Climate Lead, Organizing for Action