

SB 1442

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| Measure Title: | RELATING TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION. |
| Report Title: | Public Utilities Commission; Data; Transparency; Ratepayer Access |
| Description: | Requires the public utilities commission to consider the value of improving energy data access and transparency in order to make informed decisions. |
| Companion: | |
| Package: | None |
| Current Referral: | CPH/EET |
| Introducer(s): | WAKAI, KIDANI, Baker, S. Chang, English, Ihara, Kanuha, Kim, Moriwaki, Nishihara, Shimabukuro |

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

TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEES ON
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
AND
ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

February 22, 2019
9:30 a.m.

Chairs Baker and Wakai and Members of the Committees:

MEASURE: S.B. No. 1442

TITLE: RELATING TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION.

DESCRIPTION: Requires the public utilities commission to consider the value of improving energy data access and transparency in order to make informed decisions.

POSITION:

The Public Utilities Commission offers the following comments for consideration.

COMMENTS:

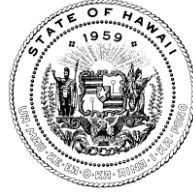
The Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) supports the intent of this measure, which is to improve energy data access and transparency within the State in order to empower ratepayers, improve decision-making related to reliability and operational efficiency of the electric system, maximize the value 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.

However, the Commission respectfully recommends modifications to items (b)(3) and (b)(4) to provide greater flexibility in implementing this measure.

Specifically, the Commission recommends item (b)(3) be modified to read “[~~Maximizing~~ Increasing the amount of publicly-available data related to utility generation, transmission, and distribution systems” and item (b)(4) be modified to read “Ensuring that energy data is made available through simple, electronic, consistent, machine-readable formats [~~at the highest level of~~ with temporal and geographic granularity~~[- reasonably possible].~~”

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

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
and**

Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism

Friday, February 22, 2019

9:30 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 229

On the following measure:

S.B. 1442, RELATING TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Chairs Baker and Wakai and Members of the Committees:

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 with suggested amendments.

The purpose of this bill is require the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) to consider the value of improving energy 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 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 consideration of the maximization of publicly available data related to utility and third-party generation, transmission, distribution, and related energy services to ensure that the focus is on all relevant data that might reasonably be made available, rather than limiting the data to only utility-collected data. Second, the Committee should avoid unintended higher costs in utility services by modifying subsection (b)(4) to read: "Ensuring that energy data is made available through simple, electronic, consistent, machine-readable formats at the highest level of temporal and geographic granularity that is cost effective and reasonably possible." Requiring the most granular data level that is reasonably possible could mean requiring far more expensive monitoring and collection equipment; this, in turn, will result in higher energy bills.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



ELEMENTAL EXCELERATOR

**Written Statement of Elemental Excelerator
before the Senate Committees on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health and
Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism
Friday, February 22, 2019**

**In consideration of [SB 1442](#)
RELATING TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Aloha Chair Baker, Chair Wakai, and Members of the Senate Committees on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health and Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism:

Elemental Excelerator respectfully submits our **support for SB 1442** which requires the public utilities commission (PUC) to consider the value of improving energy 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 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,

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

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

*we find Hawai'i will need to build a more efficient and open electric grid equipped with AMI and 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.*¹³

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/>



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEES ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, & HEALTH AND ENERGY,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, & TOURISM
Friday, February 22, 2019 — 9:30 a.m. — Room 229

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

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and Members of the Committees:

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, 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 these committees' 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

SB-1442

Submitted on: 2/21/2019 8:31:16 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/22/2019 9:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Melodie Aduja | Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-1442

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 10:13:42 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/22/2019 9:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dylan P. Armstrong | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: