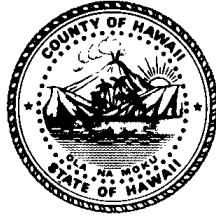


HEATHER L. KIMBALL

Council Member

*Chair, Committee on Governmental Operations,
Relations and Economic Development
Council District 1*



Contact Information

(808) 961-8828

(808) 961-8018 (staff)

heather.kimball@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

*County of Hawai'i
Hawai'i County Building
25 Aupuni Street, Suite 1402
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720*

March 22, 2021

STRONG SUPPORT FOR HCR67/HR55 - DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND REQUESTING STATEWIDE COLLABORATION TOWARD AN IMMEDIATE JUST TRANSITION AND EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION EFFORT TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE

I would like to express my strong support of HCR67/HR55. We must act with urgency and collaboratively on the climate crisis. Our state is arguable one of the most likely to experience the impacts of record heat, wildfires, severe weather, rising seas, and severe disruptions to our marine ecosystem. These issues will only worsen unless we take meaningful action. We must more aggressively drawdown emissions and begin to work on adaptation strategies to mitigate the consequences of climate change.

SCR44 will amplify the commitments made by Hawaii County (Hawaii County Council Resolution 322-19) in 2019 and send a unified signal around the need for timely and effective action to address climate change. SCR44 also lays out critical steps that we must take and will help Hawaii accelerate its progress towards its climate action goals. In this legislative session, we have seen several bills to address climate change by increasing renewable energy production, electrification of transportation, local food security, and reducing carbon pollution. Passage of these bills along with SCR44 will allow us to accelerate our economy's transformation into a genuinely sustainable one.

Please support efforts to drawdown carbon emissions and adapt our economy to increase our sustainability and resilience. Our future generations are counting on this generation to act.

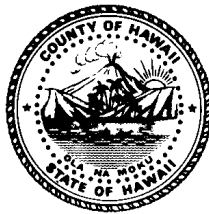
Thank you for consideration of this testimony and please support HCR67/HR55.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather Kimball".

Heather Kimball
Hawaii County Council, District 1

REBECCA VILLEGAS
Council Member
District 7, Central Kona



PHONE: (808) 323-4267
FAX: (808) 323-4786
EMAIL: Rebecca.villegas@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

*West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740*

March 22, 2021

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS
COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
HR55 RELATING TO CLIMATE EMERGENCY; STATEWIDE COLLABORATION,
AND GREENHOUSE GASES

Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Conference Room 325 Via Videoconference

Aloha Chair Lowen, and Members of the Committee:

I thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HR55, relating to climate emergency, statewide collaboration, and greenhouse gases. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Hawai'i County Council and Chair of the Hawai'i County Council Climate Resilience and Natural Resource Management Committee.

The purpose of this measure is declaring a climate emergency and requesting statewide collaboration toward an immediate just transition and emergency mobilization effort to restore a safe climate. Climate change affects human health and well-being. U.S Center for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization, and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change have reported that climate change is a critical public health problem. Though steps are being taken to lessen climate change and its impacts on human health, we will still be impacted by global climate change due to large entities such as U.S., China, and the European Union, continuing to produce greenhouse gases at a scale and pace that runs the risk of run-away climate change. This causes an increased risk for health effects from climate change to our most vulnerable people. Increased risk for health effects from climate change will further stress the health care infrastructure, and financial systems.

For the reasons stated above I urge the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection to support this measure as well. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 323-4267.

Mahalo for your consideration

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Villegas".

Rebecca Villegas

Hawai'i County is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Council Member, Hawai'i County Council

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

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Yuki Lei K. Sugimura



Director of Council Services
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

March 22, 2021

TO: Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

FROM: Councilmember Kelly Takaya King
Chair, Climate Action, Resilience, and Environment Committee
Member, Board of Directors, ICLEI-Local Governments for
Sustainability USA

SUBJECT: **STRONG SUPPORT OF HR55, DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND REQUESTING STATEWIDE COLLABORATION TOWARD AN IMMEDIATE JUST TRANSITION AND EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION EFFORT TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to acknowledge the existential climate emergency threatening humanity and resolve to take immediate action toward a just transition and emergency mobilization effort to restore a safe climate.

In 2019, the Maui County Council voted unanimously to adopt [Resolution 19-209 Acknowledging a Climate Emergency and Committing to an Immediate Just Transition and Emergency Mobilization Effort to Restore a Safe Climate](#).

In addition to the reasons our County Council identified recognizing the dire need for an immediate just transition and emergency mobilization effort to restore a safe climate, I support this measure in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council for the following reasons:

1. Declaring a climate emergency will make climate mitigation and resilience planning and coordination a top priority among government organizations at a statewide level, and will prioritize the appropriate financial and regulatory assistance needed.
2. Combating global warming requires collective action on many fronts. We need a statewide action plan as in HR55 for the climate

March 22, 2021

Page 2

mitigation and adaptation efforts it will take to meaningfully address the climate crisis.

3. We are in the midst of a climate crisis and need a declaration of climate emergency so that the necessary statewide resources can be focused and mobilized.
4. Hawai`i is ground zero for change in climate, from sea level rise to shifting weather patterns. HR55 moves us in the right direction by identifying the urgency of the issue and the need for a response that matches the speed and scale of climate change.

For the foregoing reasons, I **strongly support** this measure.

HR-55

Submitted on: 3/20/2021 11:16:56 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/23/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dyson Chee	Hawai'i Youth Climate Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice-chair Marten, and members of the EEP Committee,

My name is Dyson Chee, I am 19 years old, and I am submitting written testimony on behalf of the Hawai'i Youth Climate Coalition (HYCC) in strong support of HR55.

HYCC is a youth-led, youth-founded organization dedicated to taking on the climate crisis through just and equitable means. Although our generation is on the front line in taking the brunt of the climate crisis, we are already seeing its impacts pervading our lives today, whether it be our streets falling into the ocean or the decreasing tradewinds. COVID-19 has taught us a harsh lesson of being unprepared for a natural disaster, and we would be wise to learn from it. It will take wide-spread collaboration and mobilization of our resources to equip ourselves against the increasingly inevitable impacts of climate change.

But we must not forget about the communities that are disproportionately impacted by climate change as we move towards a more resilient future. That future needs to be just and equitable as well.

Our generation yearns for a future where we belong in Hawai'i. Unfortunately, with climate change looming on the horizon, a small island state seems like a poor place to live out our future. We must take bold action now. We cannot wait 'till 2045 to put out the fire in our house, for it will have spread uncontrollably by that point. For the sake of Hawai'i's future, we urgently ask that you please pass HR55.

Sincerely,

Dyson Chee



Sustainable Energy Hawai'i

sustainableenergyhawaii.org

421 Lama St.

Hilo, HI 96720

March 20, 2021

SUPPORT for HCR67 and HR55, DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND REQUESTING STATEWIDE COLLABORATION TOWARD AN IMMEDIATE JUST TRANSITION AND EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION EFFORT TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE.

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Marten, and members of the Energy and Environmental Protection Committee,

I am Richard Ha, Chair of Sustainable Energy Hawai'i, a coalition of concerned citizens dedicated to improving the quality of life of Hawaii residents through affordable renewable energy.

Sustainable Energy Hawai'i is in strong support of HCR67 and HR55.

Passage of these resolutions will broadcast our State's recognition of the climate crisis and better frame our responses. The declaration will help justify the challenging decisions that we must make to dramatically reduce our emissions, to accelerate our transition to a clean energy economy, and to ensure that our communities adapt to the inevitable consequences of climate change, e.g., sea-level rise, powerful storms, and flooding. This declaration will help our community rally behind and support the actions that we must take.

Hawaii has been at the forefront of climate policy. We have aggressive climate goals, and we have been making decent progress. Renewables are now a significant portion of our energy production, and the adoption of electric vehicles is increasing.

However, much remains to be done. To illustrate, we continue to burn a significant amount of fossil fuel - around 6M barrels of oil for energy and over 300M gallons of gasoline annually. Electric vehicles are slightly over 1% of the over 1 million passenger cars on our roads.

Importantly, we are blessed with abundant renewable energy resources that offer the opportunity of energy independence from fossil fuels, clean jobs and careers, and a dramatic reduction in our emissions.

Our future generations deserve a livable world, one where the air is clean, the climate is hospitable, food is abundant, and nature thrives. Let's pass these resolutions and back them up with concrete actions to accelerate our progress.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Richard Ha

Chair

Sustainable Energy Hawai'i

Citizens' Climate Lobby Hawaii
hi.ccl.lobby@gmail.com



March 21, 2021

STRONG SUPPORT for **HCR 67** and **HR 55**, DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND REQUESTING STATEWIDE COLLABORATION TOWARD AN IMMEDIATE JUST TRANSITION AND EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION EFFORT TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE.

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Marten, and members of the Energy and Environmental Protection Committee,

On behalf of the Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) Hawaii, we testify in strong support of HCR 67 and HR 55.

CCL Hawaii is comprised of over 800 members in four local chapters - Hawaii Island, Honolulu, Kauai, and Maui. We advocate for effective, efficient, and fair climate legislation.

A climate emergency declaration will signal the urgency and importance of our climate crisis and the need for timely and effective action. Declaring a climate emergency would put Hawaii in good company – over 1900 governments in 34 countries have declared climate emergencies¹. This level of support highlights the global acknowledgment of the crisis. A Hawaii State declaration will further cement our state's commitment to action and complements those made by our counties over the past few years². Importantly, HCR 67 and HR 55 lay out critical steps that we must take; it goes beyond a mere acknowledgment of the crisis.

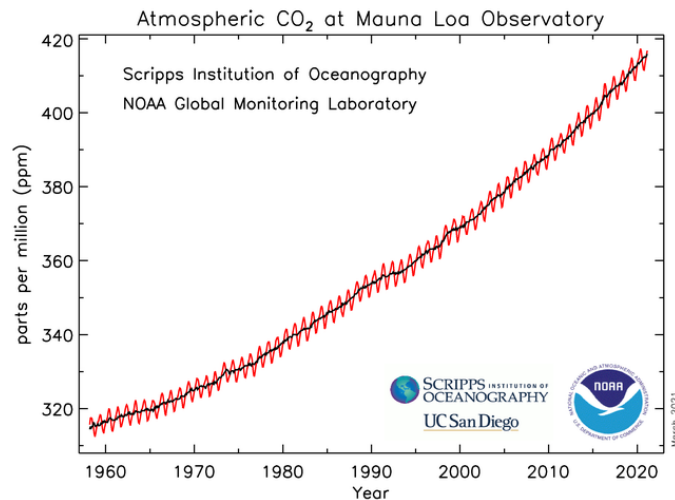
The effects of the crisis are upon us – we see record heat across the state, stronger storms, rain bombs, flooding, vectors spreading and killing native species, degradation of our marine ecosystem, and the erosive impact of rising sea levels. We cannot afford to hesitate or to delegate to future debate the actions that we must take to reduce our emissions and ensure that we will adapt to the inevitable environmental consequences.

Hawaii is making good progress on climate-related goals, already among the most ambitious – our 100% Renewable Portfolio Standard by 2045 and transportation decarbonization plans are good examples. Additionally, we've seen annual attempts to introduce policies geared towards turning the tide on carbon emissions. In this legislative session, we've seen many bills geared to increasing renewable energy production, ramping up the electrification of transportation, improving food security, pricing carbon pollution, and enabling resilience.

While our actions and intentions are promising, we must act with more urgency. We need to back our promises with meaningful action. Emissions of global-warming gases continue to rise – the monthly average CO₂ concentration measured 416 ppm on Mauna Loa, two points higher than in February 2020. The atmospheric CO₂ concentration continues its dangerous upward trend.

¹ As of 9MAR2021. [ICEF Governments Emergency Declaration Spreadsheet](#)

² Hawaii County Council Resolution 322-19, October 2019 and Maui County Council Resolution 19-209, December 2019.



Source: NOAA Global Monitoring Laboratory

As a result, our planet continues to heat up, and we see the consequences, e.g., the acceleration of glacial melt, sea-level rise, wild weather, and climate disasters that have become too common. We must act with urgency and lead efforts to fight the causes of the crisis. We must accelerate the positive things that we are already doing, take on others to reduce our emissions, and inspire other governments to do the same.

CCL supports national climate legislation, particularly carbon pricing and the return of revenue to our households (i.e., carbon fee & dividend (CFD)). We believe it is one of the best policies to bring about a just transition and restore a safe climate. This policy is represented in the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (energyinnovationact.org). This policy is equitable - it's progressive and protects lower-income households by leaving them better off, efficient (endorsed by over 3,500 economists, including 28 Nobel laureates), and effective (estimated to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 40% in the first ten years of implementation). We are thankful that carbon pricing bills were introduced in the Hawaii Legislature this session and hope the legislature will pass such a bill by the next session.

We owe it to our future generations – our keiki and their keiki deserve a livable world. They are counting on us to make it so.

A climate emergency resolution and a commitment to an effective and coordinated effort will result in an even more urgent and laser-focused approach to addressing our existential threat.

Please support HCR 67 and HR 55.

Respectfully,

Citizens' Climate Lobby Hawaii State Coordinator - Molly Whiteley

Honolulu Chapter Leaders - Paul Bernstein, Sara Bower, Susan Gorman-Chang, Charles Cox, Jaymen Laupola, Michael Lewis, Virginia Tincher

Kauai Chapter Leaders - Helen Cox and John Latkiewicz

Maui Chapter Leaders - Carol Cam, Doug Hagan, Barry Solomon, and Jeff Stark

Hawaii Island Chapter Leaders - Bodhi Gaea, Emily Garland, Richard Ha, Noel Morin, Keith Neal, Joanna Norton, Ron Reilly, Nick Rosenberg, and Zoe Whitney

Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy organization focused on national policies to address climate change solutions. CCL Hawaii's 800+ members are part of a 190,000+ global organization. For more information, visit citizensclimatelobby.org.

Big Island Electric Vehicle Association

www.bigislandev.org



March 21, 2021

STRONG SUPPORT for HCR67 and HR55 - DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND REQUESTING STATEWIDE COLLABORATION TOWARD AN IMMEDIATE JUST TRANSITION AND EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION EFFORT TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE.

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Marten, and members of the Energy and Environmental Protection Committee,

Big Island Electric Vehicle Association is in strong support of HCR67 and HR55.

HCR67 and HR55 represent a significant acknowledgment of the urgent nature of our climate crisis. It will help galvanize our community around the various actions required to reduce Hawaii's global warming emissions. It will help us lead other states and countries to do the same.

We only need to reflect on the natural disasters of the past few years to realize that climate change consequences are worsening. News of disappearing glaciers, warming polar regions, melting permafrost, and disruptions to major ocean currents raise extreme concern that we're approaching points of no return, where consequences exacerbate other consequences in a vicious spiral. Notably, atmospheric CO2 emissions continue to climb.

In many ways, Hawaii is leading. Our energy and transportation goals are aggressive and inspiring other governments to follow. We're also making good progress with our clean energy goals. However, we must do more. We still utilize a huge amount of fossil fuel for our energy production and transportation needs. Our transportation consumes over 30,000,000 gallons of gasoline each month and highlights the size of this opportunity.

We should do better - we have access to many cost-effective solutions that can help us accelerate our progress. Renewable energy solutions are now cheaper than fossil-fuel-based options. Electric vehicles now come in many forms and price points and offer owners efficient, clean, and cost-effective transportation options.

HCR67 and HR55 will encourage us to take the climate crisis seriously and inspire action. Please support these, along with the various bills designed to accelerate our transition away from fossil fuels.

Sincerely,
Noel Morin
President

Big Island Electric Vehicle Association (bigislandev.org), established in 2011, is a grassroots non-profit group dedicated to accelerating the adoption of EVs on Hawaii Island. Our members are EV owners and supporters.

Hawaii Electric Vehicle Association

hawaiiev.org
hawaiidriveelectric@gmail.com



March 21, 2021

STRONG SUPPORT for **HCR 67** and **HR 55**, DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND REQUESTING STATEWIDE COLLABORATION TOWARD AN IMMEDIATE JUST TRANSITION AND EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION EFFORT TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE.

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Marten, and members of the Energy and Environmental Protection Committee,

Hawaii Electric Vehicle Association is in STRONG SUPPORT of HCR67 and HR55.

A climate emergency declaration is a powerful acknowledgment of the urgency and importance of the crisis. It will help our communities get behind necessary actions to reduce our emissions and to prepare for the inevitable consequences of global warming.

We are, sadly, becoming accustomed to the impact of climate change. Here and across the globe, mega-fires, unusual winter storms, rain bombs, powerful hurricanes, droughts, and other calamities have become too familiar. These signs will, unfortunately, worsen as global temperatures rise and sea levels rise.

Hawaii is doing its part to reduce its emissions and, in some ways, leading in terms of long-term vision. Our 100% RPS and transportation decarbonization goals are translating into action – we see good progress in the renewable energy space, and electric vehicle adoption is starting to rise. Recent innovations in renewable energy, energy storage, carbon sequestration, sustainable transportation, along with economies of scale) are making the transformation not only good for our environment and people but also our economy.

However, much more is needed if we are to make a timely and meaningful impact. CO2 emissions continue to rise – it is now 416 PPM, higher than it was this time last year. EVs are still just over 1% of the over 1 million cars on our roads, collectively consuming around 30,000,000 gallons of gasoline each month (DBEDT Monthly Energy Trends). We are still very reliant on fossil fuel for our energy production, with over 500,000 barrels consumed each month (DBEDT Monthly Energy Trends). This dependency contributes to significant planet-warming emissions and reliance on energy supplies that are subject to geopolitical risk.

We have the opportunity to turn to our abundant renewable sources for our energy needs. Notably, the cost of renewable energy and storage is now cheaper or on par with fossil fuels, particularly in Hawaii with our very high fuel and electricity prices. We also have the opportunity

to turn to zero-emissions vehicles – battery electric vehicles and fuel cell electric vehicles. These vehicles are becoming more diverse, are increasing in driving range, and are coming down in price. They are cleaner and more cost-effective to operate and offer Hawaii's residents the opportunity to contribute directly to a reduction in carbon emissions and cleaner air.

HCR 67 and **HR 55** will encourage the **focus** and **action** to allow Hawaii to make a timely transition to a cleaner and more sustainable future. Please support it.

Sincerely,

Hawaii EV Association Board

Noel Morin – President, Nanette Vinton – Secretary, Sonja Kass – Director, Tam Hunt – Director,
Bill Bugbee - Director

Hawaii EV Association is a grassroots non-profit group representing electric vehicle owners in Hawaii. Our mission is to accelerate the electrification of transportation through consumer education, policy advocacy, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure expansion. For more information, please visit hawaiiev.org.

Aloha Kakou,

I am writing on behalf of Kauai Climate Action Coalition to **strongly support HCR67 and HR55** to declare a climate emergency for Hawaii, requiring we take urgent action, and make climate action a priority across all parts of State government. Climate mitigation and resilience planning and coordination must be a top priority at a statewide level and be provided appropriate financial and regulatory assistance.

As residents of Kauai who are informed and deeply concerned about the climate crisis, we recognize the need for action today, not some indefinite time in the future. If your house were on fire, you would not wait until to put it out, and yet our house IS on fire metaphorically due to the climate crisis. We are part of the last generation who can stop devastating climate change. We must act *now* and boldly to stop climate breakdown. We ARE in an emergency and need to start acting like it.

As parents, educators, and other community members, we care deeply about creating a livable future for our children and future generations. But caring is not enough. But if we and everyone else just continues to wait for someone else to act, then we are condemning the next generation to a planet that will be uninhabitable. It is our responsibility to do everything we can to prevent that.

As an island community, Hawaii is ground zero for change in climate, from sea level rise to shifting weather patterns. We need to lead by example and take responsibility to clean up our share of the problem. And as the Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency has aptly stated, “if everyone uses the excuse that their contribution won’t make a difference, no action will occur, ensuring the demise of human civilization.” The sooner we inspire others to act and lead by example, the better off the future will be for our children.

Please support and pass HCR67 and HR55. Mahalo,

Helen A Cox, Chair

Kauai Climate Action Coalition



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

March 23, 2021

To: House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Representative Lisa Marten, Vice Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Re: HR 55 / HCR 67 DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND
REQUESTING STATEWIDE COLLABORATION TOWARD AN
IMMEDIATE JUST TRANSITION AND EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION
EFFORT TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE

Meeting: Tuesday, March 23, 2021, 10:00 a.m., Room 325 via videoconference

Position: **STRONG SUPPORT**

Aloha, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i and its Natural Resources Committee are in **strong support** of HR 55 / HCR 67 as these Resolutions declare a climate emergency and requests statewide collaboration toward an immediate just transition and emergency mobilization effort to restore a safe climate.

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i (Party) has adopted at its 2018 State Convention, clear safeguards to promote and protect our clean and healthy environment. At page 17 of the Party Platform, it specifically provides, to wit:

ENVIRONMENT

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i believes that the preservation and restoration of our natural environment is essential. We support a sustainable society that utilizes the earth in such a way that future generations will benefit from the practices of our generation. We support the restoration, preservation, and protection of our native ecosystems on each island. We believe in integrated approaches, practices, and support public policies that create and maintain a sustainable way of life in Hawai'i.

We believe in supporting best management practices in sustaining our environment and in increased citizen involvement. We support programs that encourage sustainable clean, efficient, creative and environmentally friendly modes of transportation, recycling and waste reduction.

The conservation, preservation and restoration of Hawai'i's natural resources are connected to health and welfare of our people; therefore, we support the conservation and protection of our natural environment, which includes reducing our carbon footprint for the benefit of current and future generations.

We support the protection of our *'āina* against destruction by corporate, government, or military usage and expect full restoration and reparation of environmental damage. To handle current and future demands for water, we must assess the current condition of our aquifers and take appropriate actions to secure our fresh water resources.

We support democratic participation of citizens and residents to protect (i) valuable coastal ecosystems and reefs from misuse and (ii) beaches for public use and recreation. The Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management (CZM) law, HRS Chapter 205A, currently provides for public participation in management of coastal resources.

We believe in the vigorous enforcement of our environmental laws and increased public-private stewardships and citizen involvement in protecting our resources.

We know that climate change is a real threat to our islands and the world. We strongly urge our candidates and elected officials to take immediate action to mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change. This includes funding adaptation measures including coastal retreat, effective participation of indigenous peoples in climate change governance, and recognition that indigenous, local, and traditional ecological knowledge is key in climate change adaptation solutions.

We strongly urge you to pass HR 55 / HCR 67 as these resolutions declare a climate emergency and requests statewide collaboration toward an immediate just transition and emergency mobilization effort to restore a safe climate which is consistent with the Democratic Party Platform.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify on this key issue.

Respectfully yours,

Alan B. Burdick
Co-Chair, Environmental Caucus
Co-Chair, Natural Resources Committee
Democratic Party of Hawai'i
Email: burdick808@gmail.com

Melodie R. Aduja
Co-Chair, Environmental Caucus
Co-Chair, Human Environmental Impacts Committee
Democratic Party of Hawai'i
Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com

HR-55

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 11:39:35 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/23/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Mulinix	Our Revolution Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Committee Members,

Mahalo Nui Loa to Representative Lowen and Representative Marten for hearing HCR67/HR55 towards declaring a Climate Emergency. On behalf of Our Revolution Hawaii's 7,000 members and supporters statewide, we stand in STRONG SUPPORT of this important resolution.

This resolution is important because Global Warming is increasing much faster than scientists had predicted. Many governments around the world have set a goal to be fossil free by 2045, which we now know is woefully too late. We are already seeing the effects of Climate Change with sea levels rising, massive and more numerous hurricanes, huge out-of-control wildfires, and extended droughts. Scientists warn that CO2 emissions must be drastically decreased now, or climate destabilization will lead to ever increasing, perpetual, out of control Climate Chaos.

Here are just a few examples of reports of the disasters Climate Change is already causing around the world:

-Just a few weeks ago children in Texas froze to death in their beds as temperatures dropped to subzero amid a massive power outage due to power plants that were ill-equipped for the extreme weather. The cause of the massive failure of the power grid was due to the fact that Texas legislators did not take the threat of Climate Change seriously and failed to adequately prepare for the extreme weather events that are expected as our climate system further destabilize.

-Many of the root causes of Climate Change also increase the risk of pandemics. The scientists who study how diseases emerge in a changing environment knew this moment was coming. COVID-19 is only the first of what will be ever increasing global pandemics.

-Due to sea level rise, the people of Kiribati, who have lived on their islands for thousands of years, are already planning for the permanent evacuation of their island nation. The loss of their traditional land base threatens the extinction of their unique cultural heritage.

-Due to Climate Change we are at the beginning of the 6th great mass extinction with an average of 200 species of plants, insects, birds and mammals going extinct every day. This is dramatically seen in Puerto Rico where 99% of insects species have already disappeared due to Climate Change.

-The refugee crisis on the Southern U.S. border was brought about by a Climate Change drought that stretches across the Central American Northern Triangle. As Global Warming increases there will be ever growing waves of refugees fleeing the effects of Climate Change. As reported by Helen Brunt of the International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies: "In just the last six months (Sept. 2020-Feb. 2021), there have been 12.6 million people internally displaced around the world and over 80% of these forced displacements have been caused by disasters, most of which are triggered by climate and weather extremes."

-In Alaska, Indigenous villages that have been on the coast for thousands of years are disappearing into the sea because of the melting permafrost.

-The civil war in Syria started because of an extended drought from 2006 to 2011 brought on by Climate Change. The Syrian civil war is just the first war caused by Climate Change droughts. As water resources dry up, the fight for limited water supplies will increase. A study by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre has asserted that: "The effects of Climate Change will be combined with an ever-increasing number of people to trigger intense competition for increasingly scarce resources. This can lead to regional instability and social unrest."

These are just a few examples of the beginning of even greater disasters that are on the way.

With the evidence of the Climate Crisis mounting, 13,784 scientists from 156 countries, and 1,864 jurisdictions in 33 countries have already declared a Climate Emergency, urging politicians around the world to act now before it is too late.

Climate Change isn't waiting until we get ready, it is happening now, and it's time for us to act unitedly to protect our island homes and our future.

HCR67/HR55 is a wake up call to our elected representatives, government agencies, community groups, and businesses to acknowledge the reality of our situation and to start working together immediately with a common goal to combat the growing Climate Crisis. We can do this, but we must do it now. The longer we wait the amount of work we'll have to do, and the amount of money we will have to spend will get greater and greater with each passing day.

Hawaii went into emergency mode to respond to COVID19, and because we did we prevented the loss of thousands of lives and millions of dollars. Climate Change is an even greater disaster than COVID19, so it is essential that we begin to act like it. Now is the time to do that.

Please pass HCR67/HR55, the Climate Emergency Resolution, for the sake of our health and safety, for the sake of our homes, for the sake of our economy, and most importantly of all, for the sake of our children's future.

Mahalo Nui Loa for your consideration.

In Solidarity, Malama Pono,

Dave Mulinix

Cofounder & Hawaii Statewide Community Organizer

Our Revolution Hawaii

HR-55

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 11:50:15 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/23/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas Brandt	Foresight/Policy Analysis	Support	No

Comments:

Please support HR55 and HCR67 to start an emergency mobilization effort for a just transition to a safe and healthy climate for our children's future.

Hawaii can and should be a leader in the fight against climate breakdown.

We have made some progress, but not nearly enough to do our part and stay within our carbon budget.

We need a declaration of climate emergency so the necessary statewide resources can be marshalled and mobilized.

As an island community, Hawaii will be hit harder than any other state by the effects of climate breakdown--especially our critical infrastructure--due to sea level rise, ocean warming and acidification, shifting weather patterns, and more severe local storms.

We need to lead by example and take responsibility to clean up our share of the problem.

If everyone just continues to wait for others to act first, then we are condemning the next generation to a planet that will be uninhabitable. It is our responsibility to do everything we can to prevent that.

As the Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency has said: "if everyone uses the excuse that their contribution won't make a difference, no action will occur, ensuring the demise of human civilization."

HR55 and HCR67 move us in the right direction, and at the scale and speed that is needed.

This includes a prohibition on any further public investments in, or subsidies for, projects that will make the climate emergency worse, and redirecting subsidies toward low climate impact energy projects and workforce retraining.

Please pass HR55 and HCR67.

Mahalo and Aloha!

Thomas Brandt

Foresight/Policy Analysis



To: The House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2021, 10am

In STRONG SUPPORT of HCR67/HR55

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Energy and Environmental Protection Committee members,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii's 6,000 members **strongly support HCR67/HR55**. This resolution takes the critical and necessary step to declare a climate emergency and call for a statewide collaboration toward an immediate, just transition, and an emergency mobilization effort to restore a safe climate.

Let's be clear. Climate change is not an abstract problem for the future. Climate change is happening now, we are causing it, and the longer we wait to act, the more we lose. Scientists have made evident that we are part of the last generation that can stop or at least mitigate the devastating impacts of climate change. **Children living today will live to see a 1.5°C warmer world because of the failure of adults to take real action when there still was time to do so.** All decisions from here on out are the differences between 1.5°C and up to 4°C of warming, and the escalated suffering that comes with it. If we are to limit warming to 1.5° we must act now.

HCR67/HR55 would do more than just declare the obvious state of the climate crisis we know we are in. This resolution establishes a framework for the type of bold actions needed to meaningfully address climate breakdown and work towards a livable future for our children. Moreover, it will make climate action a priority across all parts of State government, which is crucial for us to truly and effectively address this crisis.

Hawaii is ground zero for change in climate, from sea level rise to shifting weather patterns, which is why it is even more important we do our part to fight it. HCR67/HR55 lays out a roadmap to move us in the right direction, and at the scale and speed that is needed. This includes a prohibition on any further public investments in or subsidies for projects that will make the climate emergency worse, and redirecting and channeling investments and subsidies toward low climate impact energy projects and workforce retraining. These efforts are a win-win as they will not only help protect the stability of our climate system, they will help ensure a just transition for communities and workers, including those currently employed in the fossil fuel industry, by helping to create quality, clean energy jobs, and as a result, a healthier local economy.

We ask that you not be swayed by those with short-sighted self-interests that may argue that Hawaii's contribution to global warming is too small to make a difference. As an island community, Hawaii will be hit harder than any other state by the effects of climate breakdown. We need to lead by example and take responsibility to clean up our share of the problem. And as the Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency has aptly stated, "if everyone uses the excuse that their contribution won't make a difference, no action will occur, ensuring the demise of human civilization."

We ask that you not be swayed by Climate Delayers, who have unlimited excuses for why we can't take meaningful action now to combat global warming, and have thwarted efforts for making meaningful progress. But just like we thought it was impossible to provide remote testimony for hearings, another emergency, the COVID pandemic, taught us that things we didn't think could be done just took some focused ingenuity. As they say, necessity is the mother of invention.

At today's emission levels, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report written by the world's leading climate scientists states **we only have a few years left at our current rate of emissions before we exhaust our carbon budget to stay below 1.5°C warming**. Their findings show that, in fact, there is no safe level of global warming, and that we are heading toward a profoundly inhospitable planet unless we take bold action now. The overwhelming tragedy in all of this is that we have all the tools we need, all we lack is the political will.

Scientists have made clear that if we are to solve the climate crisis, it will require **all of us** working together. Hawaii can and should be a leader in showing the world the way forward towards a safe and sustainable climate and future. The sooner we inspire others to take action and lead by example, the better off the future will be for our children.

But combating global warming requires collective action on many fronts. We need a coordinated statewide action plan as in HCR67/HR55 for the climate mitigation and adaptation efforts it will take to meaningfully address climate breakdown. Too often the 'left hand' doesn't know what the 'right hand' is doing, and we waste money and precious time that could have been used to move us forward. With every second that we delay in reducing our carbon footprint, we impose costs on ourselves and on countless future generations. If we want to avoid climate catastrophe, we need to act boldly and effectively now.

In closing, I wish to share the words of a young climate activist who was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, Greta Thunberg.

"Adults keep saying we owe it to the young people, to give them hope, but I don't want your hope. **I don't want you to be hopeful. I want you to panic.** I want you to feel the fear I feel every day. I want you to act. I want you to act as you would in a crisis. I want you to act as if the house is on fire, because it is."

It's time to declare a climate emergency. Because it is.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of this very important resolution.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

March 23, 2021

House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

In SUPPORT HR55/HCR67: Climate Emergency; Statewide Collaboration; Greenhouse Gases

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Energy & Environmental Protection Committee members,

We, the 16 undersigned organizations, are in **STRONG SUPPORT** of passage of HR55 and HCR67 “Declaring a climate emergency and requesting statewide collaboration toward an immediate just transition and emergency mobilization effort to restore a safe climate.”

We are a coalition of concerned organizations that support and endorse a climate emergency declaration and society-wide mobilization of resources. Scientists say we have reached a tipping point on climate action and have less than a decade left to avoid the most severe consequences of global warming. It’s time to act at emergency speed to reach zero emissions to protect all people, species, and eco-systems. We must act now to implement 100% zero-emission energy; electric vehicles; energy efficiency; and local, sustainable food production.

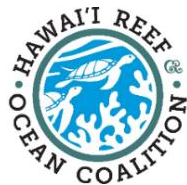
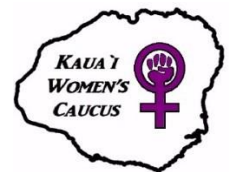
This is necessary because global warming is happening faster than scientists predicted and we are already seeing the dramatic impacts on the environment: larger and stronger hurricanes, increased drought and flooding, shifting rain patterns, more and larger wildfires, a hotter and more acidic ocean, and damaged ecosystems across the planet.

Due to this growing climate crisis 13,784 scientists from 156 countries, and 1,864 jurisdictions in 33 countries have already declared a climate emergency as of January 26, 2021.

Based upon the scientific information and expertise available, Hawaii is in danger of disaster occurrences as a result of the effects of global warming, thereby endangering the health, safety, and welfare of the people, warranting preemptive and protective action.

It is the duty of our legislature to fulfill the mandate of the Hawaii State Constitution that adopts the public trust doctrine for the benefit of the people and the right of each person to a clean and healthful environment. Therefore, we call upon the legislature to declare a climate emergency and initiate a statewide collaboration toward an immediate just transition and emergency mobilization effort to restore a safe climate.

We urge you to pass HR55 and HCR67. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this critical matter.



Environmental Caucus of
The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

HR-55

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 5:44:39 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/23/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rebecca Harris	The Climate Mobilization	Support	No

Comments:

The Climate Mobilization is thrilled to support HR55. By advancing this Resolution, Hawaii will join more than 1,910 governments around the world and 138 local governments in the U.S. that have passed Climate Emergency Declarations. We applaud Hawaii's leadership in considering this measure.

HR-55

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 9:47:33 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/23/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maiya Leibowitz	350 Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Hi, my name is Maiya Leibowitz, I'm in grade 6, and I STRONGLY support bills HR55 & HCR67.

Climate change is the result of burning fossil fuels such as oil and coal. These actions release significantly larger amounts of greenhouse gasses like CO2 into the atmosphere, this prevents the heat entering our atmosphere from escaping, trapping it in. This causes the earth to warm. The ice melt, and the seas rise, endangering countless other species. Such as the polar bears, and the turtles, along with the coral reefs, and consequently creatures that depend on them, along with COUNTLESS others. Really there's nothing that won't be effected by climate change. The rising of our seas will demolish the coasts and islands. PLEASE help declare a climate emergency! Every voice every step and every action in the right direction no matter how small can and will help. If you were trying to climb a mountain you wouldn't give up because the first step won't get you there. And passing this is one of the biggest steps we could take.

In the words of the children's song writer Raffi,"

Home to the children you and me, home to the little ones yet to be, home to the created large and small- blue white planet earth. This is the EARTH we are talking about this is our PLANET there is NO planet B.

The ice caps are melting, the oceans are rising, the polar bears are starving, and the reefs are dying. The forests are burning and coastlines are shrinking, we are destroying the earth yet we have all the power to stop it. We live on the most isolated land mass on earth, an island in the middle of the paciface ocean! Fun fact according to NOAA's Sea Level rise viewer, once the ocean levels rise 10 feet all that will be left of Kailua is bits and pieces of land.

Please we will say it again, help us save the earth. If a 3rd grader can say with confidence what climate change is, then I know you know what it is and you know that we must act. Every action and every voice matters. However you have the power that most of us don't, you can say YES! Yes to these bills and you can

push us forward and into a different future. Please! Act as if the future depends on it, because it does. I've said it before and I will say it again with no voice and no action is to small. Please please please, help us save not just our future but our present as well.

-Thank you



Testimony to the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

10:00 AM

VIA Video Conference

Conference Room 325, Hawaii State Capitol

HCR 67 / HR55

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and members of the committee,

Hawaii Clean Power Alliance (HCPA) **comments** HCR 67/ HR 55, declaring a climate emergency and requesting statewide collaboration toward an immediate just transition and emergency mobilization effort to restore a safe climate.

Hawaii Clean Power Alliance is a nonprofit alliance organized to advance the development and sustainability of clean energy in Hawaii. Our goal is to support the state's policy goal of 100 percent renewable energy by 2045. We advocate for utility-scale renewable energy, which is critical to meeting the state's renewable energy and carbon reduction goals.

We offer these **comments** on HCR 67 / HR55.

HCPA agrees that it is imperative for statewide collaboration to restore a safe climate. We must transition to a just decarbonized economy and mitigate greenhouse gas. In pursuing those goals, we request the legislature ensure that they consider existing state and federal statutes and regulations so as to not create unintended or conflicting consequences. This resolution appears to prohibit technologies that are considered renewable in both state and federal statutes.

Additionally, we urge thoughtful and inclusive stakeholder engagement to include representation of the ratepayer, energy producers, fuel suppliers, renewable developers, environmental representatives, state departments and others who will be able to provide meaningful perspectives that must be aligned. We suggest for example, farmers, cattle ranchers, foresters and businesses be part of the discussion. We urge the legislature to consider all potential solutions before legislating winners and losers in achieving our state goals. For instance, with technology, there are ways to mitigate GHG emissions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frederick Redell".

Frederick Redell, PE

Executive Director

(949) 701-8249, www.hawaiicleanpoweralliance.org





**Testimony to
The Committee the Committee on Energy & Environment Protection**

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

10:00 AM

VIA Video Conference

Conference Room 325, Hawaii State Capitol

HCR 67 / HR 55

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and members of the committee,

Hawaii Gas **offers comments on HCR 67 / HR 55** declaring a climate emergency and requesting statewide collaboration toward an immediate just transition and emergency mobilization effort to restore a safe climate.

Hawaii Gas stands committed to its work to meet the state's clean energy and carbon neutral goals and continues to advance carbon neutral fuels in our pipeline and out to our customers. These proposals are a bold step to underscore the work by Hawaii Gas and others, and we share the intent to put climate change and carbon neutrality in the state's forefront.

We encourage the committee to remain mindful of existing statutes and mandates already in place, however. As written, these proposals stand in conflict with existing law and could slow the state's work toward carbon neutrality.

We are also mindful that all work towards carbon neutrality must put the ratepayers first, both in terms of reliability and affordability. Steps made without those factors addressed can lead to adverse circumstances, potentially disrupting reliability and putting an undue burden on ratepayers.

As the state moves towards its clean energy mandates, ongoing engagement with the community, stakeholders and energy producers is critical to successfully implement the statutes already in place. We request the committee to work with those stakeholders to continue that journey and ensure that any future legislative remains consistent.

Thank you for considering our comments and the opportunity to testify.

HR-55

Submitted on: 3/20/2021 7:35:13 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/23/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven Jacquier	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HR55, as does my ohana. Rural neighbors without web access, likewise. Mahalo.

HR-55

Submitted on: 3/20/2021 12:11:10 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/23/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We are on track to make the world uninhabitable in the near future. Let's do what we can to mitigate disaster. At lease we can slow it down and give ourselves more time to figure out how to deal with it.

HR-55

Submitted on: 3/20/2021 12:20:32 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/23/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Judith A Mick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Despite being a small group of islands, we will be hit hard if we do not face the challenge of climate change which is before us. The science is there- we need to focus and put statewide resources into play. Let's be leaders in the world on this issue.

Mahalo. Aloha, Judy Mick, Kailua

HR-55

Submitted on: 3/20/2021 12:21:03 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/23/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Harriet Burkholder	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support declaring a climate emergency. It is the first step in avoiding catastrophic changes to our world that will disproportionately affect islands in the Pacific.

HR-55

Submitted on: 3/20/2021 12:26:58 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/23/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Harvey Arkin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

-If your house were on fire, would you wait until 2045 to put it out? Please do not be swayed by **Climate Delayers** who profess to understand the Climate Crisis, yet are curiously immobile on the issue as they protect their special interests. Hollow promises for the future won't douse the flames of today.

-I support HCR67 and HR55 to declare a climate emergency for Hawaii, requiring we take urgent action, and make climate action a priority across all parts of State government. We are part of the last generation who can stop devastating climate change. We must act *now* and boldly to stop climate breakdown.

-We need to declare a climate emergency and have government agencies make climate mitigation and resilience planning and coordination a top priority at a statewide level, and have the appropriate financial and regulatory assistance needed.

-My future is on the line if we can't meet the 1.5 degree cap on warming. We are already in an emergency. We need to start acting like it!

-I urge you to support HCR67 and HR55 for a statewide collaboration toward an immediate, just transition, and an emergency mobilization effort to restore a safe climate. These resolutions provide a framework for the actions that are needed to help work toward a safe climate for our children's future.

-I am very concerned about the climate crisis. Combating global warming requires collective action on many fronts. We need a statewide action plan as in SCR44 and SR30 for the climate mitigation and adaptation efforts it will take to meaningfully address climate breakdown.

-We are in the midst of a climate crisis. It's time we act like it. We need a declaration of climate emergency so that the necessary statewide resources can be focused and mobilized.

-I want to have a livable future. We need bold actions to meaningfully address climate breakdown and work towards a safe and stable climate.

-Hawaii can and should be leaders in the fight against climate breakdown. We have made some steps, but not nearly what needs to be done to do our part and keep within our carbon budget.

-We need to declare a climate emergency, not just because of the obvious, but because it will provide for the necessary statewide, coordinated mobilization efforts required to truly address this crisis, and at the necessary scale and speed that are needed.

-Don't be swayed by those short-sighted individuals that argue that Hawaii's contribution to global warming is too small to make a difference. As an island community, Hawaii will be hit harder than any other state by the effects of climate breakdown. We need to lead by example and take responsibility to clean up our share of the problem. And as the Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency has aptly stated, "if everyone uses the excuse that their contribution won't make a difference, no action will occur, ensuring the demise of human civilization."

-Everyone must do something if we are going to prevent climate catastrophe, and Hawaii can and should be the leader in showing the world the way forward to a better future. We are ground zero for climate change and the sooner we inspire others to take action and lead by example, the better off the future will be for our children. But if we and everyone else just continues to wait for someone else to act, then we are condemning the next generation to a planet that will be uninhabitable. It is our responsibility to do everything we can to prevent that.

- Hawaii is ground zero for change in climate, from sea level rise to shifting weather patterns, which is why it's even more important we do our part to fight it. HCR67 and HR55 move us in the right direction, and at the scale and speed that is needed. This includes a prohibition on any further public investments or subsidies in projects that will make the climate emergency worse, and redirecting and channeling subsidies toward low climate impact energy projects and workforce retraining. Please support and pass HCR67 and HR55.

-Scientists have made clear that if are to solve the climate crisis, it will require all of us working together. Hawaii can and should be leaders in showing the world the way forward towards a safe and sustainable climate and future.

HR-55

Submitted on: 3/20/2021 8:05:05 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/23/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I'm from Papakāleia, O'ahu currently residing in Māhili in my ancestral homelands. I support HCR67 and HR55 to declare a climate emergency for Hawaii, requiring we take urgent action, and make climate action a priority across all parts of State government. We are part of the last generation who can stop devastating climate change. We must act *now* and boldly to stop climate breakdown.

Support now.

me ke aloha 'Āina,

Nanea Lo

HR-55

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 12:32:36 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/23/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

Please support HR55.

I support HCR67 and HR55 to declare a climate emergency for Hawaii, requiring we take urgent action, and make climate action a priority across all parts of State government. We are part of the last generation who can stop devastating climate change. We must act *now* and boldly to stop climate breakdown.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

HR-55

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 12:34:30 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/23/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
P Noel Bobilin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HR55 to declare a climate emergency for Hawaii. We can wait no longer to stop climate break down. Our desendants will carry the burden or our inaction. Don't be swayed by those short-sighted individuals that argue that Hawaii's contribution to global warming is too small to make a difference - it takes every government in the world to take action and we need to put people before profit.

Government agencies need to make climate mitigation, resilience planning and coordination a top priority at a statewide level, and have the appropriate financial and regulatory assistance is needed. This requires collective action on many fronts. We are already in an emergency. We need to start acting like it! These resolutions provide a framework for the actions that are needed to help work toward a safe climate for our children's future.

Scientists have made clear that if are to solve the climate crisis, it will require all of us working together. Hawaii can and should be leaders in showing the world the way forward towards a safe and sustainable climate and future. Mahalo

HR-55

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 2:49:06 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/23/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
donn viviani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I'm writing in support of HC55. I'm Donn Viviani. My wife and I live in Kailua and have family in the Punchbowl and Aina Haina areas. Before I retired, I was the director of the Climate Policy Division at EPA headquarters in DC. I served as Chairman of the Great Lakes Water Quality Board's Toxic Substances Committee and I'm currently the Board President for the Climate Protection and Restoration Initiative. I have a PhD in Chemistry. I am familiar with the unique threat climate change poses to Hawaii, and specifically the threat to the water surrounding our islands. I want to describe that risk for the Committees in layman terms and explain how serious the risk is.

Before I do, I want to address the notion that climate change is a global problem that can't be addressed by the US and its individual states. This is exactly backwards. In fact, climate change can't be fixed WITHOUT the US and its individual states. Given our economic power, outsized consumption and massive energy use we are responsible for at least a quarter of the past problem and much of the ongoing problem. So it's important that each State declares its intention to take the action necessary to help deal with this existential threat to mankind.

I hope the committee understands that climate science is not fancy and it is not at all controversial. I will focus here on the ocean threat, because we're a group of isolated islands at the mercy of the ocean. Some of the ocean effects are imminent and many will be catastrophic. Three things are happening that threaten a collapse of the entire marine food web; could cause an inundation and submersion of parts of our islands; and are providing the energy impetus for extreme and catastrophic weather events. Unless we take action VERY SOON these events will become unstoppable. Here is how the problem develops...

First. the sun's light heats the air in the same way a microwave oven heats food. The more CO2 from fossil fuel burning, the more heat. Most of that heat ends up in the ocean. Hot water expands and so the oceans rise. This heat is conducted to lower depths and that water expands as well and oceans rise more, i.e., the sea level rises.

Hurricanes and cyclones start with evaporation, the warmer the water, the more evaporation, and the more storms and damage to our islands. On Oahu, a six foot rise, projected as early as mid century, would inundate Honolulu up to a few blocks from H1. Storm events will drive the water further inland.

Second, the elevated CO₂ in the air from fossil fuel burning, enters the ocean and makes it more acidic. Acidic, corrosive water impairs the growth and survival of animals that build shells. These critters are the oceans primary producers, i.e., they are the base of the food chain and are the marine food webs only source of fatty acids. Because ocean acidification reduces the availability of carbonate ions that marine animals need to calcify their shells and skeletons, CO₂ reduces the ability of these animals to build their protective structures. This uses up energy that they need for reproduction and they will get outcompeted by other species. Destroying the balance that evolved over eons. Acidified waters also can dissolve shells. It's estimated that by 2030 in much of the southern oceans shell would rather dissolve than form. Third, warmer water holds less dissolved oxygen than colder water. A warm top layer stratifies the ocean making it harder for the transfer of nutrients. Less oxygen and less nutrient availability is a double whammy for for marine organism growth.

Together these three stressors: acidification, warming and deoxygenation are a perfect storm and can act together to destroy the marine food web, by wiping out entire trophic levels. Warm water speeds up marine organism's metabolism. Higher metabolic rates require more nutrients and oxygen. But hotter surface water forms a layer that impedes the transfer of needed nutrients, and that same hotter water drives off oxygen.

This with the added stress of acidification has been shown in mesocosm studies to destroy trophic levels and kill all the higher levels dependent on them, i.e. to paraphrase Augustus de Morgan. "Great fish have little fish upon their backs to bite 'em, and little fish have lesser fish, and so ad infinitum" If we start removing layers of fish, it all collapses! If we don't act soon we'll have an ocean full of only jellyfish. Therefore I support HR55's transition to a decarbonized economy, prohibition of fossil fuel projects, increased investment in beneficial projects, public education of the climate exigency and all the other proposals. We all will eventually feel some terrible consequences, however your decision today won't affect me or you as much as what awaits our children and grandchildren. I can say without hyperbole, this is an existential risk to our species! Please support this resolution.

HR-55

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 4:42:48 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/23/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gwendelilyn Cruise	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HR55. Addressing the impending climate disaster is most effective at the government level. We as individuals are trying to effect change because we listen to the scientists and know what disasters our country is facing if we don't act NOW, but we are hamstrung by government inaction. We need you to please be leaders on this issue - the most pressing issue of our lives - by declaring climate change an emergency so we can begin to give this problem the attention it deserves. Hawaii can be looked to as a leader if you pass this very important bill. Thank you.

HR-55

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 6:41:35 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/23/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roseann Michaud	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HR55. We need to declare a climate emergency in order to provide for the necessary statewide, coordinated mobilization efforts required to truly address this crisis, and at the necessary scale and speed that are needed.

HR-55

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 8:26:09 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/23/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jim Albertini	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

Our organization is in strong support of HR 55. Climate crisis and nuclear war and the greatest threats facing our planet.

Mahalo for your efforts for peace and saving the planet for future generations.

Jim Albertini for Malu Aina

HR-55

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 8:50:49 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/23/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniela Escontrela	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HCR67 and HR55 to declare a climate emergency for Hawaii, requiring we take urgent action, and make climate action a priority across all parts of State government. We are part of the last generation who can stop devastating climate change. We must act *now* and boldly to stop climate breakdown.

HR-55

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 9:00:34 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/23/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Hansen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need to declare a climate emergency and have government agencies make climate mitigation and resilience planning and coordination a top priority at a statewide level, and have the appropriate financial and regulatory assistance needed.

Please support this bill. Mahalo.

Elizabeth Hansen

HR-55

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 9:10:19 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/23/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cheryl Ho	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TESTIMONY

Climate Emergency/Crisis

Aloha, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the Energy and Environmental Protection Committee!

My name is Cheryl Ho. I live where I can hear the emergency vehicles going back and forth, up and down Pali Highway, makai of Nu'uuanu Reservoirs #1 and #4.

This morning, as I cringed at the sound of yet another vehicle rushing to aid a victim, I wondered, "Why does it take an emergency to cause us to sit up and pay attention to a dire situation?" Part of the answer is that we're busy; we have other priorities every day; we're tired; we have to live and work our routine, everyday lives.

But when we are alerted to an emergency, by a speeding siren, or by a sharp, insistent beep on our cell phone, our attention becomes more focused; we wonder what is happening; how close to us it is. Our minds try to think of ways to protect ourselves and our families, or review the instructions for evacuation we have received from officials. *We wish there was something we could do NOW, to reduce our anxiety.*

*Honorable Decisionmakers of the House of Representatives, there is an urgent need for your leadership in alerting residents of Hawai'i to the urgent need for decisive action on the part of governmental agencies, private citizens, businesses- anyone who is able and has the time. **Please declare Hawai'i to be in a Climate Emergency. That will be a first step toward shaping effective interventions.***

*Please **Vote Yes on HCR67 and R55.***

Mahalo for your attention!

Cheryl Ho (Retired social worker; active parent, grandparent, kumu hula)

HR-55

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 9:13:40 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/23/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rodger Hansen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need to declare a climate emergency and have government agencies make climate mitigation and resilience planning and coordination a top priority at a statewide level, and have the appropriate financial and regulatory assistance needed.

Please support this bill. Mahalo.

HR-55

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 12:05:07 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/23/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janet Pappas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear EEP Chair Lowen, EEP Vice Chair Marten and EEP Committee members,

Every kama’aina and everyone who loves Hawaii should be concerned about Hawaii’s response to the worldwide climate emergency we are now experiencing. Slowly, but incessantly, we are watching our climate and our natural world change before our very eyes: more rain bombs and flooding; insidious sea level rise and beach erosion; threats of more and stronger tropical storms; erosion runoff and coral bleaching; higher summer temperatures threatening native flora and fauna as well as declining agricultural production. It’s not a world we want to leave to our keiki.

Immediate, bold action—similar to what President Biden is invoking for the COVID-19 pandemic—is needed by the state of Hawaii and all its departments working together for a successful outcome to the climate emergency. Resolution HCR67 clearly lays out the scope and scale of the emergency (backed up by science) and the short time frame remaining for action (9 years) if we expect to resolve it.

I recently heard Gina McCarthy, America's White House National Climate Advisor, describing the Climate Crisis as a people problem. Why? Because the Earth doesn't care whether there are people on the planet or not. The Earth will keep on spinning and circling the sun whether we fix the climate or not. If we care about our successors inhabiting the planet, WE--this generation--must act.

We must handle the climate issue as if we were at war. The "Generals" are our climate scientists. Government at every level needs to prepare for inevitable actualities. Every decision the state of Hawaii makes going forward must consider the climate consequences for our State and for the world. The entire populace must be educated to understand the "why" as well as the gravity of the climate issue and know that every action they take makes a positive or negative difference.

Does saving the climate seem an impossible task? An article in Civil Beat, “What Has the Pandemic Taught Us About Climate Change?” (Sept. 7, 2020), gives us hope from our youth. From the article:

Eighteen-year-old Kawika Pegram [a freshman at American University] said before the pandemic, conventional knowledge was that governments, corporations and the public

generally resist changes to the status quo. But most people have upended their lives and businesses significantly to stop the spread of the virus.

He sees this as a sign that people, corporations and governments have the ability to make significant changes to keep their communities safe.

"It made me really hopeful for the future, saying, if we can do this for a pandemic we can do this for climate change," he said.

We all wish there were no climate emergency, but sadly, that is not the case. Whether we like it or not, it is our responsibility to do our utmost to restore a safe and stable climate.

Please pass HCR67 which sets out the guiding principles for climate action by the state of Hawaii. Only by meeting this great existential challenge can we say we did our utmost to leave a livable planet for all subsequent generations.

Thank you for listening and for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas - Aiea, Hawaii

Ronald Yasuda - Aiea, Hawaii

HR-55

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 6:00:45 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/23/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Gorman-Chang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Susan Gorman-Chang, Ewa Beach, HI

I am in strong support for HCR 67/HR 55, declaring a climate emergency and state wide collaboration to take immediate action to combat climate change. We must act with urgency, and recognize climate change as the emergency it is and the devastation it is causing and will cause to Hawaii and to the world. We have the technology to move away from fossil fuel; technology is not the problem. What we lack is the political and social recognition of the urgency of the issue, and this bill will acknowledge that urgency and give credence to the extraordinary actions we must take if we care at all for ourselves, our children, our community and our planet. Acknowledging the climate emergency is an important first step in taking the actions necessary to mitigate the damage and avoid more catastrophic suffering.

HR-55

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 8:43:19 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/23/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Nandoskar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support HCR67 and HR55 for a statewide collaboration toward an immediate, just transition, and an emergency mobilization effort to restore a safe climate. Human beings and our non human relatives have a responsibility to acknowledge the truth of what is happening on our planet and take thoughtful and responsible actions to change course. This is one of them. Please do this both for our ancestors and those yet to be born.

Mahalo for your consideration.

HR-55

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 8:51:51 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/23/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gerald Riverstone	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to request that you support this bill and recognize that we are in the early stages of a climate emergency.

Even though the immediate impacts of COVID are front and center in many people's minds, the implications of climate change are much greater for Hawaii's people and natural environment. There are direct impacts to consider, such as increasingly volatile weather, dying coral reefs, and sea level rise, as well as indirect effects related to the effects of climate change on the global economy.

It is vital to understand that climate change, along with other 'planetary boundaries' relating to habitat loss, fresh water depletion, land use, etc, share a common underlying cause: our addiction to economic growth. Economic growth is simply a euphemism for plundering and polluting our planet at an ever-increasing rate. The longer we try to avoid this fact, the greater will be our children's and grandchildren's suffering.

In addition to more aggressively transitioning Hawaii's energy system to renewable sources and promoting local food production, I encourage you, our legislators, to recognize that climate change is a symptom of our economic growth model and overconsumption of resources. Attempting to transition to renewable energy is a lost cause unless the pursuit of economic growth is abandoned. Instead we need to rapidly contract our State and global economies by using less of everything, and by distributing wealth more evenly.

I encourage you to openly have the courageous adult conversations amongst yourselves and with the voting public: we need to recognize the emergency we are entering, shift our priorities, and stop seeing economic growth as a positive goal. Instead we can learn to live happily with less while creating a society that provides the basic essentials to everyone rather than concentrating wealth among a privileged few.

Sincerely,

Jerry Riverstone

Maui

HR-55

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 10:08:48 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/23/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Zoe Whitney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Marten, and members of the Energy and Environmental Protection Committee,

I, as a constituent and Bachelor in Environmental Science educated by UH Hilo, strongly support SCR44 and SR30 the climate emergency declaration resolutions. The threat of climate emergency is severe. If our statewide actions do not recognize this, we endanger ourselves further. The legislature must set the tone of your future as a state by recognizing that climate change has begun and will get exponentially worse if not treated as the public health and safety emergency it is. The transition to a decarbonized economy, the redirection of support from high-climate-impact projects to low-climate-impact projects, and the mechanisms for accountability towards swift adoption of climate emergency mitigation and adaption are booth specific and broad enough to address the situation at hand. I respectfully urge your unanimous support.

Signed,

Zoe Whitney