



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION
COMMISSION
POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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Manager, CZM

**Testimony of
Leah Laramee
Coordinator, Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission**

**Before the House Committees on
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
&
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**Tuesday, February 14, 2023
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 325**

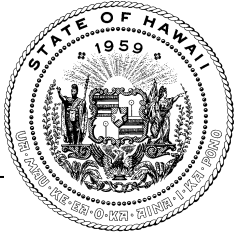
**In support of
House Bill 239
RELATING TO CLEAN ENERGY**

House Bill 239 requires the clean energy initiative program to design, implement, and administer a plan to increase jobs aligned with the State's transition to a clean energy economy and strategies for evaluating and supporting a transition to a clean energy economy that advances social equity. Authorizes use of the energy security special fund to create jobs that advance the State's goals of achieving greater energy security and adapting to climate change, expand workforce development and training programs for workers transitioning to a clean energy economy, and strengthen social equity in the adoption of clean energy technology and appropriates funds. **The Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) supports this measure.**

The Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission consists of a multi-jurisdictional effort between 20 different departments, committees, and counties. Bolstering the local economy and creating new well-paid jobs for local people is a key component of the Commission's objective to promote ambitious, climate-neutral, culturally responsive strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation in a manner that is clean, equitable and resilient. The amendments of Section 196—10.5, Hawai'i Revised Statutes to include language on social equity reflect the Commission's objective. Hawai'i has set the policy to reach 100 percent clean renewable energy by 2045 and this bill will assist in moving the State in that direction.

The Commission recognizes the initiative would require additional staff capacity to stand up the program and respectfully requests the addition of positions to support this initiative.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

MARK B. GLICK
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
**HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Tuesday, February 14, 2023
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

In SUPPORT of
HB 239

RELATING TO CLEAN ENERGY.

Chairs Lowen and Holt, Vice Chairs Cochran and Lamosao, and Members of the Committees, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports HB 239, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget.

HSEO supports the addition in Section 2 of the "socially equitable" and "social equity" language to the existing Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative (HCEI) law. Energy equity is a guiding principle in all HSEO initiatives and activities. For example, HSEO helped establish the Energy Equity Hui (EEH) in 2020 as a statewide public-private collaborative network to ensure equitable transformation in Hawai'i's quest to meet its 2045 clean energy goals. The EEH consists of approximately 100 energy professionals working together to promote equitable outcomes for all of Hawai'i's diverse communities. The EEH created four working groups to focus on key topics including equity definitions and frameworks, community benefits agreements, renewable energy request for proposals process improvements, and energy equity legislation. Outcomes of these working groups include comments for the 'Energy Equity and Justice' docket in

front of the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission¹ and improved coordination between state, county, private, non-profit, and community organizations in the pursuit of an equitable renewable energy transition.

HSEO also supports the addition in Section 2 of new language to the existing HCEI law regarding the need for a workforce development plan for the clean energy sector. The intent of this measure may also benefit from an upcoming partnership of HSEO, the University of Hawai'i Community Colleges, the Hawai'i Chamber of Commerce, and many other partners to launch a multi-year Good Jobs Hawai'i² workforce development initiative funded by a grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration. With clean energy as one of four sector focus areas, the Good Jobs Hawai'i initiative seeks to identify and meet current and future needs of Hawai'i's clean energy workforce.

HSEO supports the addition in Section 3 of new language that would allow for expenditures from the Energy Security Special Fund under section 201-12.8 of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) to go towards clean energy workforce development and strengthening social equity in the transition to a clean energy economy.

HSEO also supports the addition in Section 4 of new language in HRS 225P regarding social equity.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

¹ [Public Utilities Commission | Energy Equity and Justice \(Docket No. 2022-0250\) \(hawaii.gov\)](#)

² <https://uhcc.hawaii.edu/goodjobshawaii/>



‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII’

Legislative Testimony

Hō’ike Mana’o I Mua O Ka ‘Aha’ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
House Committee Economic Development
Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

By
Della Teraoka
Interim Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Community Colleges
University of Hawai'i System

HB 239 – RELATING TO CLEAN ENERGY

Chairs Lowen and Holt, Vice Chairs Cochran and Lamosao, and Members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of HB 239, which expands workforce development and training programs for workers transitioning to a clean energy economy.

The University of Hawai'i Community Colleges recently kicked off its [Good Jobs Hawai'i](#) program which includes clean energy as one of four sector focus areas. The Good Jobs Hawai'i initiative seeks to identify and meet current and future needs of Hawai'i's clean energy workforce. The Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) is the lead organization for the Clean Energy and Skilled Trades sector of the Good Jobs Hawai'i program funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of HB 239, on the condition its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 239.

HB-239

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 8:46:09 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/14/2023 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mike Golojuch, Sr. | Rainbow Family 808 | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Rainbow Family 808 strongly supports HB239. Please pass this bill.

Mike Golojuch, Sr., Secretary/Board Member

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

RE: HB 239 – RELATING TO CLEAN ENERGY

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2023

JASON BRADSHAW, CHAIR
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII LABOR CAUCUS

Chair Lowen, Chair Holt, and Members of the Committees:

The Democratic Party of Hawaii Labor Caucus **supports HB 239** relating to clean energy which requires the clean energy initiative program to design, implement, and administer a plan to increase jobs aligned with the State's transition to a clean energy economy.

Hawaii's economy relies too heavily on the service sector economy which struggles to pay a living wage to many residents employed in that industry. It is important that we diversify our economy that benefits working families and the state by expanding jobs that pay a living wage while also helping us achieve our goal of 100 percent clean, renewable energy.

Our transition to clean energy is currently happening and must be accomplished by 2045. H.B. 239 will help ensure workers benefit as we transition to a clean energy economy. We have an opportunity to develop a plan that could lead to potentially thousands of good-paying jobs and help train and educate current workers that might see their industry change as we proceed to clean energy future.

The Labor Caucus strongly supports initiatives like this that help protect and advance workers and we strongly recommend passage.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

IATSE LOCAL 665

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OF THE UNITED STATES, ITS TERRITORIES AND CANADA, AFL-CIO, CLC

Thirty-Second Legislature, State of Hawai'i
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
House Committee on Economic Development

Testimony by IATSE 665
February 11, 2023

H.B. 239 - RELATING TO CLEAN ENERGY

Aloha Chair Lowen, Chair Holt, and Members of the House Committees,

My name is Tuia'ana Scanlan, president of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. **Local 665 strongly supports HB 239**, relating to clean energy which requires the clean energy initiative program to design, implement, and administer a plan to increase jobs aligned with the State's transition to a clean energy economy.

Hawaii's economy relies too heavily on the service sector economy which struggles to pay a living wage to many residents employed in that industry. It is important that we diversify our economy in a way that benefits working families and the state by expanding jobs that pay a living wage while also helping us achieve our goal of 100 percent clean, renewable energy. Our transition to clean energy is currently happening and must be accomplished by 2045. H.B. 239 will help to ensure that workers benefit as we transition to a clean energy economy. We have an opportunity to develop a plan that could lead to potentially thousands of good-paying jobs and help train and educate current workers that might see their industry change as we proceed to a clean energy future. IATSE 665 strongly supports initiatives like this that help protect and advance workers and we strongly recommend passage.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,



Tuia'ana Scanlan
President, IATSE 665
he/him/his



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

February 12, 2023

To: The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair.
The Honorable Elle Cochran, Vice Chair, and Members of the
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

The Honorable Daniel Holt, Chair.
The Honorable Rachele F. Lamosao, Vice Chair, and Members of the
House Committee on Economic Development

House of Representatives, Hawaii State Legislature

Re: **HB 239 – Relating to Clean Energy**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 9:00 am, Room 325 & videoconference

Position: **Strong support**

Aloha, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Committee Members:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i has an enrolled membership of more than 7,000 voting residents here in Hawai'i. We strongly support HB 239. The bill would require the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative Program to design, implement, and administer a plan to increase jobs aligned with the State's transition to a clean energy economy and strategies for evaluating and supporting a transition to a clean energy economy that advances social equity. This bill would also authorize use of the Energy Security Special Fund to create jobs that advance the State's goals of achieving greater energy security and adapting to climate change, expand workforce development and training programs for workers transitioning to a clean energy economy, and strengthen social equity in the adoption of clean energy technology. The bill would also appropriate funds to accomplish these goals.

Section 1 of the bill notes that not enough attention is being given to ensuring that climate remediation activities must be socially equitable. Section 1 states, in part:

[T]he purpose of this Act is to establish social equity as a foundational principle in the State's efforts to strengthen climate resilience by:

(1) Requiring and appropriating funds for the clean energy initiative program to design, implement, and administer a plan to increase jobs aligned with the State's transition to a clean energy economy and strategies for evaluating and supporting a transition to a clean energy economy that advances social equity; and

(2) Authorizing use of the energy security special fund to create jobs that advance the State's goals of achieving greater energy security and adapting to climate change, expand workforce



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Testimony for the Committees on Energy and Environmental Protection and Economic Development
HB 239 – relating to Clean Energy
Hearing: Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 9:00 am, Room 325
Page 2

development and training programs for workers transitioning to a clean energy economy, and strengthen social equity in the adoption of clean energy technology.

Section 2 of the bill would amend HRS §196-10.5 by adding social equity considerations to the duties of the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative program. It would add two subsections to that statute that would require the program to develop:

(8) A plan, to be implemented from 2023 to 2030, to increase jobs aligned with the State's transition to a clean energy economy, especially those jobs that meet or exceed the self-sufficiency standard established by the department of business, economic development, and tourism pursuant to section 201-3(a)(5); provided that the plan shall include strategies for strengthening workforce development and training programs that assist workers employed in carbon-heavy jobs in obtaining jobs aligned with the State's transition to a clean energy economy that provide an equivalent level of financial security; and

(9) Strategies for evaluating and supporting a transition to a clean energy economy that advances social equity, as defined in section 225P-5(b).

Section 3 of the bill would add three new subsections to HRS 201-12.8, to require that the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism use the Energy Security special fund:

(6) To create jobs that advance the State's goals of achieving greater energy security and adapting to climate change, including jobs that increase clean and renewable energy generation, reduce carbon emissions, expand sustainable agriculture and local food production programs, and advance the State's transition to a clean energy economy; provided that priority shall be given to jobs that meet or exceed the self-sufficiency standard established by the department of business, economic development, and tourism pursuant to section 201-3(a)(5);

(7) To expand workforce development and training programs that assist workers employed in carbon-heavy jobs in obtaining jobs aligned with the State's transition to a clean energy economy that provide an equivalent level of financial security; and

(8) To strengthen social equity, as defined in section 225P-5(b), in the adoption of clean energy technology, transition to a clean energy economy, and development of climate resilience programs for the State."

Section 4 of the bill would statutorily define “social equity” in HRS §225P-5, relating to the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, as:

fair treatment in the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental and climate-related policies for all individuals and communities, regardless of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, or income level.



Environmental Caucus of
The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Testimony for the Committees on Energy and Environmental Protection and Economic Development
HB 239 – relating to Clean Energy
Hearing: Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 9:00 am, Room 325
Page 3

The Environmental Caucus strongly supports legislation that will help ensure that climate remediation measures are not made at the expense of low-income and marginalized communities, which are often people of color. This bill will, if enacted, help advance us toward that goal.

On behalf of the Environmental Caucus, we urge you to PASS HB 239. We thank you very much in advance for your favorable consideration of this bill.

Alan B. Burdick and *Melodie Aakjia*, co-chairs
Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Burdick808@gmail.com 808-927-1500
legislativepriorities@gmail.com 808-258-8889

HB-239

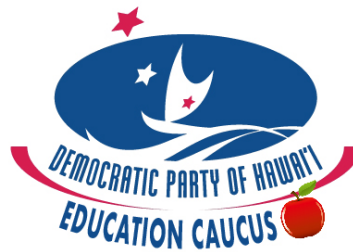
Submitted on: 2/12/2023 3:11:36 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/14/2023 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ted Bohlen | Climate Protectors Hawaii | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

The Climate Protectors Hawaii **Strongly Supports** this measure!



HOUSE BILL 239, RELATING TO CLEAN ENERGY

FEBRUARY 14, 2023 · HOUSE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES · CHAIRS REP. NICOLE E. LOWEN AND REP. DANIEL HOLT

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus **supports** HB 239, relating to clean energy, which establishes a requires the clean energy initiative program to design, implement, and administer a plan to increase jobs aligned with the state's transition to a clean energy economy and strategies for evaluating and supporting a transition to a clean energy economy that advances social equity; and authorizes use of the energy security special fund to create jobs that advance the state's goals of achieving greater energy security and adapting to climate change, expand workforce development and training programs for workers transitioning to a clean economy, and strengthen social equity in the adoption of clean energy technology.

According to a report produced by the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, global sea levels could rise more than three feet by 2100, with more recent projections showing this occurring as early as 2060. In turn, over the next 30 to 70 years, approximately 6,500 structures and 19,800 people statewide will be exposed to chronic flooding. Additionally, an estimated \$19 billion in economic loss would result from chronic flooding of land and structures located in exposure areas. Finally, approximately 38 miles of coastal roads and

550 cultural sites would be chronically flooded, on top of the 13 miles of beaches that have already been lost on Kaua'i, O'ahu, and Maui to erosion fronting shoreline armoring, like seawalls.

As we work to reduce carbon emissions and stave off the worst consequences of climate change, we must begin preparing for the adverse impact of sea level rise on our shores. We are now quantifying the speed at which we must act. We cannot continue to develop the 25,800-acre statewide sea level rise exposure area—one-third of which is designated for urban use—without risking massive structural damage and, potentially, great loss of life. **These changes will have a dramatic impact on our public schools, which remain woefully unprepared for natural disasters that may result from the worsening climate crisis, especially in economically disadvantaged communities.**

Therefore, we should take steps to accelerate Hawai'i's efforts to address climate change and develop a clean economy, **including by developing plans to expand access to “green jobs” and ensuring that social equity is a cornerstone of our state's plans to strengthen climate crisis adaptation.** Working families are disproportionately impacted by climate change, both locally and globally. Many members of the working class are employed in positions that exist within carbon-heavy industries. To truly invest in climate change mitigation efforts that meet the needs of our islands' most vulnerable populations, we must prioritize social equity in the formation of a clean economy, while empowering workers to transition to good-paying jobs that improve personal financial security and statewide climate resilience. For the sake of our keiki, we cannot afford to wait to solidify strategies to preserve our island home for generations to come.

Kris Coffield · Chairperson, DPH Education Caucus · (808) 679-7454 · kriscoffield@gmail.com



HB 239, RELATING TO CLEAN ENERGY

FEBRUARY 14, 2021 · HOUSE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES · CHAIRS REP. NICOLE E. LOWEN AND REP. DANIEL HOLT

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: Imua Alliance supports HB 239, relating to clean energy, which establishes a requires the clean energy initiative program to design, implement, and administer a plan to increase jobs aligned with the state's transition to a clean energy economy and strategies for evaluating and supporting a transition to a clean energy economy that advances social equity; and authorizes use of the energy security special fund to create jobs that advance the state's goals of achieving greater energy security and adapting to climate change, expand workforce development and training programs for workers transitioning to a clean energy economy, and strengthen social equity in the adoption of clean energy technology.

According to a report produced by the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, global sea levels could rise more than three feet by 2100, with more recent projections showing this occurring as early as 2060. In turn, over the next 30 to 70 years, approximately 6,500 structures and 19,800 people statewide will be exposed to chronic flooding. Additionally, an estimated \$19 billion in economic loss would result from chronic flooding of land and structures located in exposure areas. Finally, approximately 38 miles of coastal roads and 550 cultural sites would be chronically flooded, on top of the 13 miles of beaches that have already been lost on Kaua'i, O'ahu, and Maui to erosion fronting shoreline armoring, like seawalls.

Furthermore, according to research conducted by Michael B. Gerrard from Columbia Law School, modern-day slavery tends to increase after natural disasters or conflicts where large numbers of people are displaced from their homes. In the decades to come, says Gerrard, **climate change will very likely lead to a significant increase in the number of people who are displaced and, thus vulnerable, to human trafficking.** While the Paris Climate Agreement of 2015 established objectives to limit global temperature increases and several international agreements are aimed at combating modern-day slavery, it is highly uncertain whether they will be adequate to cope with the scale of the problem that is likely to occur as a result of climate change.

As we work to reduce carbon emissions and stave off the worst consequences of climate change, we must begin preparing for the adverse impact of sea level rise on our shores. We are now quantifying the speed at which we must act. We cannot continue to develop the 25,800-acre statewide sea level rise exposure area—one-third of which is designated for urban use—without risking massive structural damage and, potentially, great loss of life.

Therefore, we should take steps to accelerate Hawai'i's efforts to address climate change and develop a clean economy, **including by developing plans to expand access to “green jobs” and ensuring that social equity is a cornerstone of our state’s plans to strengthen climate crisis adaptation.** Working families are disproportionately impacted by climate change, both locally and globally. Many members of the working class are employed in positions that exist within carbon-heavy industries. To truly invest in climate change mitigation efforts that meet the needs of our islands’ most vulnerable populations, we must prioritize social equity in the formation of a clean economy, while empowering workers to transition to good-paying jobs that improve personal financial security and statewide climate resilience. For the sake of our keiki, we cannot afford to wait to solidify strategies to preserve our island home for generations to come.



House Committees on Economic Development and Energy & Environmental Protection

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB239: RELATING TO CLEAN ENERGY

The Hawaii State Youth Commission (HiYC) was established to “advise the governor and legislature on the effects of legislative policies, needs, assessments, priorities, programs, and budgets concerning the youth of the state.” We are writing in strong support of HB239.

As the climate crisis has continued to impact our land, water, and ecosystems, a transition to clean energy sources becomes an increasingly urgent, yet often neglected, necessity for the safety and wellbeing of our communities. However, transitions to clean energy often disproportionately impact members of our community who are already vulnerable; low-income and Native Hawaiian families especially have been hit the hardest by the changes we’ve experienced as a result of climate change. As such, jobs focusing on equity are essential not only to the success and longevity of Hawai’i’s transition to a cleaner energy future, but also to honoring our commitment to our citizens, present and future.

As representatives of Hawai’i’s youth, we also support this bill on the grounds that it supports the diversification of our employment opportunities, which currently poses a threat to the state’s economic stability, resiliency, and results in “brain drain” – the phenomenon of youth leaving the islands due to lack of employment opportunities. Furthermore, we recognize the need to protect the livelihood and rights of workers of industries such as fossil fuel. The government has the obligation to provide adequate training, resources, and opportunities to not only youth and professionals engaged in clean energy, but also to the many workers impacted by the government’s choices.

Supporting our workers and creating jobs conducive to a just transition to clean energy promotes both better climate outcomes, but also inclusivity and equity for present and future generations, especially those of populations that have been historically excluded and marginalized.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony in support of this important bill.

Hawai’i State Youth Commission
hawaiistateyc@gmail.com



**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

February 14, 2023, 9:00 AM
Room 325

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 239

Aloha Chair Lowen, Chair Holt, and members of the committees:

Blue Planet Foundation **supports HB 239**, which focuses on advancing social equity in Hawai'i's transition to a clean energy economy and promotes workforce development and training for clean energy jobs.

As Hawai'i continues to make progress towards its climate goals, including producing 100% renewable electricity by 2045 (Act 97 of 2015) and becoming carbon-negative by 2045 (Act 15 of 2018), there is a growing need to provide planning and funding to expand education, training, and workforce development in support of a clean energy future. Our state should prioritize the development of a local, skilled workforce with good-paying jobs in the areas of clean energy, energy efficiency, zero-emission vehicles, and other related industries.

Additionally, we must ensure a "just transition," so that Hawai'i workers currently employed in carbon-intensive jobs are given resources and opportunities to transition to careers that advance climate resiliency through livable wages, worker rights, and workplace safety. A just transition requires diversity, equity, and inclusion in our developing clean energy workforce. We see HB 239 as an important step to ensure that the Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative is committed to creating these types of jobs.

HB 239 also focuses on addressing social equity in our transition to clean energy, helping to ensure that marginalized communities are uplifted in our climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. Climate change impacts—such as extreme weather events, human health effects, food and water insecurity, forced displacement, and other related risks—could have a disproportionate impact on economically disadvantaged communities, indigenous residents, children, the sick, and the elderly. By advancing social equity, the Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative can help us collectively create a more sustainable and resilient economic future where all of Hawai'i's people can thrive.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 239.

info@blueplanetfoundation.org

126 Queen Street, Suite 204 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813 • 808-954-6161 • blueplanetfoundation.org



To: The House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection (EEP)
and
The House Committee on Economic Development (ECD)
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 9:00am

In strong support of HB239

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Holt, Vice Chairs Cochran and Lamosao, and members of the EEP and ECD committees,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org is in **strong support of HB239** that requires the clean energy initiative program to design, implement, and administer a plan to increase jobs aligned with the State's transition to a clean energy economy, and strategies for evaluating and supporting a transition to a clean energy economy that advances social equity. This measure also authorizes use of the energy security special fund to create jobs that advance the State's goals of achieving greater energy security and adapting to climate change, expand workforce development and training programs for workers transitioning to a clean energy economy, and strengthen social equity in the adoption of clean energy technology.

Hawaii will not be able to reach its carbon reduction goals if we do not enact policies that support these outcomes. 350Hawaii fully supports efforts by the legislature to establish social equity as a foundational principle in the State's efforts to strengthen climate resilience. A Just Transition means greening the economy in a way that is as fair and inclusive as possible to everyone concerned, creating decent work opportunities, and leaving no one behind.

In 2021 the legislature passed SCR44 SD1 HD1 declaring a climate emergency and requesting statewide collaboration toward an immediate just transition and emergency mobilization effort to restore a safe climate. As part of this declaration, it was resolved that entities statewide pursue climate mitigation and adaptation efforts, with a statewide commitment to a just transition toward a decarbonized economy that invests in and ensures clean energy, quality jobs, and a statewide commitment to a climate emergency mobilization effort to reverse the climate crisis, which, with appropriate financial and regulatory assistance from state authorities, will transform the economy. HB239 is an effective step towards this commitment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of this very important bill.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

February 14, 2022 9:00 AM Conference Room 325

In **SUPPORT** of **HB239**: Relating to Clean Energy

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Holt, Vice Chairs Cochran and Lamasao, and Committee Members,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS HB239**, which will help to enhance our islands' climate resiliency and future economy, by supporting a just transition that ensures continued job security for local workers and that maximizes economic opportunities in our transition to a renewable energy future.

We appreciate this measure's recognition of the wealth of new job opportunities that can be realized in our transition to a clean energy economy, as well as the need to make this transition as fair and equitable as possible. As the transition would otherwise have a disproportionate impact on workers in fossil fuel-related or "carbon-heavy" jobs, prioritizing workforce development training opportunities for these individuals will ensure that they, as well as their families and communities, are not left behind. Such opportunities may also help to accelerate our overall progress towards achieving our islands' carbon-negative goals.

The Sierra Club does suggest that the Committees may wish to consider a friendly amendment to explicitly support the creation of new jobs around the recycling or reuse of renewable energy infrastructure, which can mitigate long-term impacts on our landfills, while also realizing additional economic benefit in our transition to a clean and "circular" economy. For example, the International Renewable Energy Agency estimates that the U.S. could create up to 10 million tons of solar panel waste by 2050. Fortunately, since up to 80% of the materials that solar panels are composed of can be reused, there are already circular initiatives underway to divert solar panels from the waste stream.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club offers the following potential language for the provisions found on page 7, lines 12-18, to read as follows:

- (6) To create jobs that advance the State's goals of achieving greater energy security and adapting to climate change, including jobs that increase clean and renewable energy generation, reduce carbon emissions, advance "circular" economic development such as the recycling or reuse of photovoltaic panels and other energy infrastructure, expand sustainable agriculture and local food production



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

programs, and advance the State's transition to a
clean energy economy; provided that"

Accordingly, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i respectfully urges the Committees to **PASS** HB239.
Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

HB-239

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 6:08:30 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/14/2023 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Caroline Azelski | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Support. Thank you.

HB-239

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 8:12:47 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/14/2023 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Andrew Crossland | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I oppose this Bill.

HB239 testimony, EEP/ECD, 2/14/2023

Chair Lowen, Chair Holt, and members of the committees. My name is Brian Barbata. I have a 35 year background in renewable and fossil fuel energy in Hawaii and I am testifying in favor of HB239, but with additions.

The Legislature is clearly supportive of renewable energy, and has been passing laws and resolutions for the last few years promoting it in various ways. It is clear we are on a fast track to meet the goal of being 100% renewable by 2045, as prior Legislatures have mandated. On Oahu, home to 70% of Hawaii's population, this is apparently going to be mostly solar, with some possibility of wind. These are what are termed "variable" (and even "unreliable") sources, because variations in weather can reduce their performance drastically.

As we proliferate these variable sources, there seems to be a popular misconception that batteries will provide backup for such weather events. I wrote an article for the paper about 6 months ago, which should have debunked that idea. But you don't need to believe me. Ask Hawaiian Electric. They will tell you that the battery storage being installed by solar farms and rooftop solar are only good for a few hours, and are mainly for grid management. There is no scenario in which massive battery farms would fill Oahu's needs during a rainy period, let alone a hurricane.

Come 2045 (a mere 22 years away), what will fill this gap? As it stands today, no one knows how much capacity we will need, how long it will need to run, what the fuel transport and storage will look like, or what technology will be used. What everyone agrees on is that it MUST be renewable. 20 years or so is not a lot of time to put this in place. I don't have to tell you what the lead time might need to be to have this unprecedented transition out of fossil fuels on line seamlessly. If HART is any indication, 30 years? 40? It's pretty clear this needed to be in the study and planning stages like yesterday. It's an integral part of the whole picture.

I encourage you to take advantage of HB239 to add some basic language that requires a beginning study of long term weather projections with climate change and the probabilities of certain events that will affect solar production. I have included below draft language to this effect, which I think helps round out the Bill and will give this issue some visibility.

Thank you for considering these additions.

Proposed additions to HB239:

Section 1, Page 2, between Lines 13 and 14: The Legislature also finds that the dependability of the variable renewable system requires a backup for weather disruptions, which must also be renewable. The utilities will require this in the form of a spinning machine, available instantly and seamlessly to make up for deficiencies in renewable supply, which could be total. The size, use and technology needed to meet this requirement have not been adequately studied.

Section 1, Page 4, after Line 2: Requiring and appropriating funds to conduct a study, both on meteorology and requirements, to address dependability capacity for the state's variable renewable sources, under a range of weather events.

Section 2, Page 4, after Line 19: The framework for a renewable fuels backup generating system to supplement variable renewable sources when they are diminished due to weather events;

Section 3, Page 8, after Line 11: To fund the study and planning for renewable backup generation, a timetable, and a probability assessment of capacity requirements.

Section 6, Page 9, Line 19, between "equitable" and "clean": the word "dependable".

HB-239

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 8:56:19 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/14/2023 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Beth Anderson | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

It is essential to support the clean energy efforts and directives outlined in this proposed legislation. Climate change is the biggest existential threat we face right now and it must be confronted and vital solutions such as clean energy must be developed and applied now.

Chair Nicole Lowen
Vice Chair Elle Cochran

House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Chair Daniel Holt
Vice Chair Rachele Lamosao

House Committee on Economic Development

Tuesday, February 14, 2023
9:00AM

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB239 RELATING TO CLEAN ENERGY

Aloha Chair(s) Lowen and Holt, Vice Chair(s) Cochran and Lamosao, Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection and Economic Development,

My name is Jun Shin. I am a recent graduate of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, a labor activist, and member of the Hawai‘i State Youth Commission. I am testifying as an individual in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **HB239**, Relating to Clean Energy.

It’s not hyperbolic to say that this is a crucial measure for the future of Hawai‘i and our youth. The climate crisis will have serious impacts on our land, our waters, and the living standards of everyone, but especially Hawaiians and the broader working class, notably those who are already struggling with poverty. In response to this crisis, as the preamble points out, the State has set standards and initiatives like achieving 100% clean energy by 2045 and bringing down statewide greenhouse gas emissions to be at least 50% below 2005 levels by 2030.

However, despite our goals and the closing of Hawai‘i’s last coal plant in 2022, we need to understand that most of our energy still comes from crude oil or petroleum¹. I wish I had more specific data/details on this, but from my understanding, many of these petroleum jobs are union jobs. This provides these workers with higher wages, better benefits and good training, with rights and protections in the workplace.

These may be hard and dangerous jobs, but they bring dignity and provide for working class families. While Hawai‘i is the state with the highest rate of union members so the situation may be a little different, around the country, fossil fuel jobs are still way more unionized than jobs in

¹ https://energy.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/2019-FF_Final.pdf

renewable energy. Alongside successorship clauses that keep workers in their unions, other existing rights, benefits, protections, standards, etc that workers have in their current jobs need to follow them into a low-carbon and/or clean energy job.

I believe this bill is important, not only because it intends to create more workforce development and training programs in lower-carbon and/or clean energy jobs, but it has a focus on social equity and even makes sure that jobs at least meet the self-sufficiency standard established by the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism. I think this bill and its introducer understands that present and future generations of working people, especially working people from marginalized groups cannot and should not have to accept lower-paying jobs with little to no rights on the job, in the name of saving the planet.

It is true that as a result of protecting their immediate economic and social interests, workers and their unions will at times be at the forefront of clashing with environmentalists, conservationists, Hawaiians, etc despite the overlap and contradictions that exist. We must continue to struggle to build alliances and coalitions so that Hawaiian workers can practice their customary and traditional rights, and other working class people can have great jobs and housing, while being able to enjoy our land, water, and other natural wonders. Workers and marginalized groups must be centered in this transition, and must be at the head of it. Please **PASS House Bill 239** out of your committees.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

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