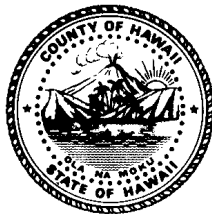


REBECCA VILLEGAS  
Council Member  
District 7, Central Kona



PHONE: (808) 323-4267  
FAX: (808) 323-4786  
EMAIL: [Rebecca.villegas@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto: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 18, 2022

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS  
COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL  
ON HB 2423 HD1, RELATING TO CLIMATE CHAGE MITIGATION

Committee on Governmental Operations  
Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Monday, March 21, 2022 at 1:10 p.m.

Aloha Chair Moriwaki, Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees:

I thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2423 HD1. 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 Act is to require all state building construction projects and state highway projects to use building and construction materials that seek to reduce their carbon footprint, where feasible and cost effective.

Heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems (HVAC) regularly maintained and updated can help reduce a buildings carbon footprint by being as efficient as they can be without wasting excess energy. Reduction of carbon emissions in proposed new building and highway plans will be critical to achieving the climate and sustainability goals in our State of Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan.

For the reasons stated above I urge the Committee on Governmental Operations, and the Committee on Agriculture and Environment 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  
Council Member, Hawai'i County Council

**HB-2423-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2022 1:51:51 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/21/2022 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Climate Protectors Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: The Honorable Michael Gabbard, Chair, The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment, and

The Honorable Sharon Moriwaki, Chair, the Honorable Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee on Government Operations

Re: Hearing **HB2423 HD1 RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION.**

Hearing: Monday March 21, 2022, 1:10 p.m., CR 224 and by videoconference

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Moriwaki, Vice Chairs Nishihara and Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committees:

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i is a group focused on reversing the climate crisis and encouraging Hawai'i to lead the world towards a safe and sustainable climate and future. **Climate Protectors Hawai'i STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB2423 HD1!**

The purpose of this Act is to require all state building construction projects and state highway projects to use building and construction materials that seek to **reduce their carbon footprint**, where feasible and cost effective.

Reducing a building or highway's carbon footprint is increasingly important in building design. State building designs for **new building and highway projects can avoid copious amounts of greenhouse gas emissions and save taxpayers money if agencies consider how to reduce their carbon footprint.**

Requiring the State to reduce its carbon footprint by using lower carbon technologies in its buildings, highways, and other public works projects, where feasible and cost effective, will also provide an opportunity for the State to achieve its goal of becoming carbon negative as soon as practicable but not later than 2045.

**The State should lead by example!**

**Please pass this excellent bill!**

**Mahalo!**

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

**HB-2423-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 1:50:48 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/21/2022 1:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Camile Cleveland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. The state needs to reduce its overall greenhouse gas emissions levels quickly and and drastically, and this bill is a crucial step in that direction. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-2423-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 3:33:33 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/21/2022 1:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support HB2423 HD1

**HB-2423-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 8:44:37 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/21/2022 1:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Azuma Chrupalyk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

More specifically, the state should also contact hemp and licened marijuana growers to collect the stems and discarded portions of the plant at a nominal cost, to incorporate into the building and construction material. Please have this working group look at *hempcrete* online to see the benefits of using this material in construction. Hemp and marijuana stalks absorb toxins from every source, which will contribute to environmental health as it relates to the restoration thereof. *Hempcrete* is also one of the strongest materials in concrete mixtures and would replace x-amount of aggregate materials that are used to make concrete - which would help to reduce the amount of sand that is needed for this purpose.

Furthermore, in cases such as the highly dangerous state of the Hana Highway bridge at mile marker 19 - where the bridge is in such a state of disrepair that residents are counting the days until a car falls through the hole in the bridge - *hempcrete* would withstand the constant moisture that erodes the current bridge at high rates, thus reducing costs upon the State of Hawai'i to repair that bridge. As I understand, the State of Hawai'i likes to bring in tourists for the purpose of profit, but the State of Hawai'i cannot afford to make the bridge safe. Ultimately all residents who live on the East side of the bridge are th eones impacted by the bridge.

Lastly, as it relates to climate change, our rainfall is lacking, due to the loss of trees. You can verify this by asking your computer's search engine about the role that trees play in the rain cycle. Specific example: In the last 5 years, Hana has lost a significant amount of trees. The ride that used to be marked with rainforest is now marked with grassy meadows. Subsequently, recent rain reports are indicating that Hana has undergone a significant amount of rainfall since 2019. My identified request is that you would have the DOT contact and work with native forestry initiatives to plan for the planting of native trees alongside areas where the road was repaired.

**HB-2423-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 7:57:11 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/21/2022 1:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There is NO Climate Change this is all made Up by the Politicians Just to Screu the people and put a lot of Money in there pockets. All you have to do is Fallow the Money it will lead to Some Politicans Pocket.