

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 4:17:38 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
LIBRADO COBIAN	AAC	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this Bill . It is a attack on conservative who prefer to cook with gas . It is ironic that The US ordered the Bombing of Nordstream 2 and caused the greatest and largest release of Methane (Greenhouse) Gas in the history of the planet . This is a Environmental crime disaster of the existential proportions and now they want to ban gas stoves and leaf blowers. ABSOLUTELY HYPOCRISY. I OPPOSE HB835



Ryan Tanaka, Chairman – Giovanni Pastrami Ave Kwok, Incoming Chair- Jade Dynasty

Andy Huang, Vice Chairman-L&L Hawaiian BBQ Tambara Garrick, Secretary – Hawaii Farm Project

Kahili Soon, Treasurer – Hukilau Marketplace Greg Maples, Past Chair – Polynesian Cultural Center

Sheryl Matsuoka, Executive Director Chivon Garcia, Executive Assistant Holly Kessler, Director of Membership Relations

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Date: February 11, 2023

To: Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Rep. Elle Cochran, vice Chair
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

From: Victor Lim, Legislative Lead

Subj: HB835 Relating to Gas Appliances

The Hawaii Restaurant Association representing 4,017 Eating and Drinking Place locations in Hawaii strongly oppose HB835 that will ban the installation of gas appliances in new construction within the sta

Natural gas continues to be the preferred cooking energy source in 76% of restaurants across the country with a makeup of 87% for Full Service and 60% for Limited Service. 90% of restaurants also say that losing the ability to cook with an open flame from natural gas would negatively impact the quality of foc they serve.

Gas ranges typically cost 10-30% less to operate, they provide ease of use and longer lifespans than comparable electric models, and during times of disasters and power outages, many of these equipments can still work.

Yes, we have our state goal of have a zero emissions clean economy target but we need to tread logically Blindly pursing electric everything without taking into consideration the total beginning to end use of energy production and end use should be considered. Gas powered appliances in commercial kitchens li stoves, fryers and other equipment produce nominal emissions and have a negative impact on the restaurant industry.





Ryan Tanaka, Chairman – Giovanni Pastrami Ave Kwok, Incoming Chair- Jade Dynasty

Andy Huang, Vice Chairman-L&L Hawaiian BBQ Tambara Garrick, Secretary – Hawaii Farm Project

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We have also attached a white paper on this issue by the national Restaurant Association done In November 2022.

Thank you very much for allowing us to share our concerns and we hope that we approach our Green goals in a balanced manner and hold this bill.



Developing Issue
**BANNING
NATURAL GAS
AT THE
LOCAL LEVEL**

WHITE PAPER * NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION * NOV. 2022

In recent years, many localities have enacted laws or considered curtailing the use of natural gas in new and existing buildings, including in commercial kitchens. In 2019, Berkeley, California became the first city in the United States to ban natural gas hook-ups in new buildings. Since then, cities in multiple states have adopted similar bans on natural gas, creating a patchwork of ordinances that make operating restaurants difficult.



ADVOCATES ARGUE

Banning natural gas connections will help address climate change and claim their actions are necessary due to inaction on the issue at the federal level.

HOWEVER, GAS-POWERED APPLIANCES IN COMMERCIAL KITCHENS LIKE STOVES, OVENS, FRYERS, AND OTHER EQUIPMENT PRODUCE NOMINAL EMISSIONS. THESE BANS WOULD HAVE AN IMMEDIATE AND NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE RESTAURANT INDUSTRY, WITH LITTLE TO NO EFFECT ON CLIMATE CHANGE OVERALL.

RESTAURANT IMPACT

Natural gas continues to be the preferred cooking energy source in a majority of restaurants across the country. According to recent research by the National Restaurant Association:

76%

OF RESTAURANTS USE NATURAL GAS

87% OF FULL-SERVICE

60% OF LIMITED SERVICE

Source: National Restaurant Association Research Group survey of restaurant operators, July 14-Aug. 5, 2022

Banning natural gas use would have a unique and detrimental effect on restaurants. In fact, 94% of operators of restaurants that use natural gas believe that bans would negatively impact their business. Since a flame is critical to cooking a variety of dishes,

90% of restaurateurs using natural gas say **LOSING THE ABILITY TO COOK WITH AN OPEN FLAME FROM NATURAL GAS WOULD NEGATIVELY IMPACT THE QUALITY OF FOOD THAT THEY SERVE.**



Developing Issue

BANNING NATURAL GAS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL



MORE INFORMATION

RESTAURANT.ORG/NATURAL-GAS

CONTACT: Michael A. Aguilar
Manager, State Affairs
maaguilar@restaurant.org

PUBLIC SUPPORT

Consumers play a critical role in every aspect of a restaurant's business. Currently, public support for banning natural gas connections is a low 20%. Consumer research also shows that:

60%

OPPOSE BANNING NATURAL GAS CONNECTIONS FOR BUSINESSES AFTER HEARING ABOUT OPERATOR CONCERNS

70%

FEEL THAT NATURAL GAS IS IMPORTANT TO THE SUCCESS OF THE RESTAURANT INDUSTRY

66%

ARE CONCERNED ABOUT NATURAL GAS BANS AND THE FINANCIAL IMPACTS THEY WOULD IMPOSE ON SMALL NEIGHBORHOOD RESTAURANTS

Source: National Restaurant Association survey, conducted by Morning Consult, Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 2022.

WHY IS NATURAL GAS SO IMPORTANT TO RESTAURANTS?

Costs to retrofit existing structures to convert to electricity will likely be cost prohibitive for smaller operations, and the demand to obtain the needed appliances for commercial kitchens will further strain our supply chain. Restaurant operators with one or two locations would likely be the most adversely affected by a natural gas ban. Further:

- ✔ **Natural gas appliances provide cost savings for restaurants:** [Gas ranges](#) typically cost 10-30% less to operate on an ongoing basis.
- ✔ **Retrofitted existing buildings to handle the electric capacity required by a restaurant is extremely costly** for an industry with already tight margins (estimated in the hundreds of thousands by some operators).
- ✔ **Professional chefs prefer the control of an open flame** which greatly affects quality of food served.
- ✔ **Gas ranges provide ease of use and longer lifespans** than comparable electric models.
- ✔ **Heated outdoor spaces allow restaurants to operate in cold weather**, providing better dining experiences and additional revenue stream.
- ✔ **During natural disasters and power outages, many restaurants can safely keep food and drink stored at appropriate temperatures** by using natural gas-powered generators, saving money on food losses and providing peace of mind.



BOTTOM LINE

Restaurants are an integral part of the communities they serve. As such, they strive to be good stewards of those communities and the environment. Now, more than ever, restaurants are aware of the importance of reducing their environmental impact and increasing their sustainability practices.

However, banning the use of natural gas in commercial kitchens would have devastating effects on the restaurant industry – hitting local and independent restaurants the hardest. The costs to convert existing building infrastructure to handle the power capacity needed to operate a

commercial kitchen alone would be prohibitive for many locally owned restaurants. Finally, mandating natural gas bans while the industry is still mired in debt accrued during the COVID-19 pandemic, and facing an extended period of record inflation, will only exacerbate these problems.

RESTAURANT OWNERS AND OPERATORS WANT TO BE A PART OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE CONVERSATION BUT BANNING A RELIABLE AND AFFORDABLE SOURCE OF ENERGY IS A DISASTROUS MISTAKE FOR THE INDUSTRY.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 11:23:58 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurel brier	Kauai Climate Action Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Gas appliances leak, emitting greenhouse gases, and hazardous air pollutants inside the home, which have been linked to higher incidences of childhood asthma as well as cancer. Cities across the country are now taking this important step of prohibiting gas infrastructure in new construction. It's a positive step for the environment and people's personal health.



February 12, 2023

HB835 – Relating to Gas Appliances

From Highway Inn

Members of the Committee:

Here is another bill that in our opinion, is tackling legislation the wrong way. In this case it is an issue near and dear to our core values: sound environmental stewardship.

The passage of this bill would further erode the livelihood of restaurants, as both cooks and owners such as ourselves prefer and require natural gas or propane for specific applications. History has shown that better legislation is to use economic incentives rather than bans and penalties. Restrictions and burdens on businesses only weaken the business sector by raising costs to the consumer. Legislation should encourage economic activity.

For example, if using less fossil fuels is the objective, then encourage businesses through tax credits to the extent feasible, to implement photovoltaic incentives to landlords and business owners. Similarly, a significant reduction in fossil fuels can be made by legislating thru incentives that e.g, encourage people to switch small noisy engines to battery-powered alternatives. Or if you want to encourage electric car usage, ensure the installation of electrical charging points at places where people live, work and shop.

Also, if the goal is to persuade people to not use gas appliances, then ensure that Hawaii is not the most expensive state in which to purchase electricity.

- To the reader; in October 2022, the cost of electricity per KWh in Hawaii was 44.85¢ vs the second most expensive of New Hampshire at 30.44¢. Also, further encourage HECO to pursue more renewable sources.
- Iceland, a volcanic island in the middle of the North Atlantic, supplies all of its citizens with energy from geothermal and hydroelectric sources for 13¢ a KWh, with the only use of fossil fuels for transportation.

Lastly, LNG will be a critical resource for the foreseeable future as the world shifts away from the dirtiest and geopolitically riskiest sources of fossil fuels – coal and oil. We believe it is a known fact that gas is the least bad fossil fuel for pollution and global warming. Therefore gas is likely to reduce (relatively) in price as countries seek to increase supply and develop infrastructure for its transportation. Banning gas appliances at this time, when understanding the global macro trends, would, with hindsight, be seen to be a questionable decision.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 4:43:45 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Kohn MD	We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONGLY SUPPORT HB835 - Natural Gas IS NOT safe for people or planet.

I am in strong support of HB835. In addition to emitting greenhouse gases that warm the planet, gas stoves and other gas appliances can harm human health by leaking hazardous air pollutants inside homes even when not in use, including cancer—causing benzene. Gas-burning appliances can also trigger asthma, coughing, and potentially increase susceptibility to respiratory infections. The best path forward for reducing our greenhouse gas emissions and protecting our health is to ban gas appliances from new construction.

-There is no such thing as clean gas — not for our homes, not for our communities, and not for the climate. From the drilling well to the stoves in our kitchens, gas is harming our health and warming the planet. Dirty gas has no place in Hawaii's clean energy future. As such, there is no good reason to install gas appliances in new construction.

www.WeAreOne.cc



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment
Thursday, February 16, 2023, at 9:15am
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference**

RE: HB 835 Relating to Gas Appliances

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and members of the committee,

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **does not support HB 835**, which beginning 1/1/2025, prohibits the installation of gas appliances in new construction within the State.

Hawaii already has the highest electricity rates in the country. With the recent closure of energy projects in the state, the cost of electricity for businesses has gone up significantly, and businesses have been forced to push the costs onto the consumer. Restrictions on natural gas use in new buildings will add to the already increasing costs to do business and overall hurt our economy. Nationally, 76% of restaurants rely on gas cooking equipment. The national residential market sits around 35%. Hawaii users are less than that percentage.

Restrictions on new natural gas hookups are a costly and unnecessary imposition on residents and businesses. This ban will contribute to problems of energy reliability and affordability. Natural gas bans concentrate our energy risks on the electric grid - bans on new natural gas hookups push more demand onto the grid, further taxing the system.

This ban will also have a major impact on local jobs. Hawaii Gas employs over 350 residents. Banning gas appliances in the future will negatively impact the stability of these positions.

We believe this policy would do much more harm to our economy than the good it would do to our environment. The EPA does not list gas stoves as significant contributors to indoor air quality or health hazards. And according to the California Air Resources Board (CARB), cooking reduces air quality, no matter what kind of stove is used. Replacing gas stoves with electric stoves would not eliminate air quality concerns and the cost of switching stoves from gas to electric would impose a cost burden on homes and businesses, who are already paying the highest electric rates in the nation.

We ask the committee to hold this measure, and hope to work with the committee in the interim on policies that would help improve the environment and reduce air quality concerns, all while not harming our economy.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small



Chamber *of* Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

businesses with less than 20 employees. As the “Voice of Business” in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state’s economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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

From: Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: **Hearing HB345 RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.**

Hearing: Thursday February 16, 2023, 9:15 a.m., room 325

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

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB835!

The Hawaii Legislature has declared that we are in a climate emergency! One way to address that emergency and help the State achieve its carbon negative clean economy target as soon as practicable but not later than 2045 is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Installing appliances that use electricity instead of gas (whether naphtha synthetic natural gas, renewable natural gas, or natural gas) in new construction would substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help move the State toward achieving its zero emissions clean economy target.

Over the past three years, the District of Columbia and various cities and counties in California, Colorado, Maryland, New York, Oregon, and Washington have prohibited the installation of gas burning appliances, such as water heaters, refrigerators, ranges, dishwashers, clothes dryers, air conditioners, decorative fireplaces, and other similar devices in new construction within their cities or counties.

In addition to emitting greenhouse gases, stoves, ovens, and other indoor appliances may harm human health by leaking hazardous air pollutants inside homes even when not in use, including cancer-causing benzene, according to a recent California study. Another recent study found that gas stove pollution causes roughly 12.7 per cent of childhood asthma in the United States, on par with second-hand smoke.

This bill would prohibit the installation of gas appliances in new construction beginning in 2025. It would not affect the use of existing gas appliances or the sale of gas appliances for use in existing homes.

To protect public health and the environment, please hold this bill!
Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawaii (by Ted Bohlen)



**Testimony to the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Thursday, February 16, 2023, at 9:15am.
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

RE: HB 835 Relating to Gas Appliances

Chair Lowen and Vice Chair Cochran, and Members of the Committee:

FCH Enterprises, Inc., and its most recognized brand, Zippy's Restaurants, would like to express opposition to HB835 which prohibits the installation of gas appliances in new construction within the State.

The vast majority of restaurants across the country, and in Hawaii, rely upon gas to cook your food. Fully 76% of the restaurants in the country use gas and open flames appliances to cook because the ranges are less costly to operate and have far longer lifespans than electric equipment. And, as we have seen before, gas ranges are not affected by electrical outages during times of disasters and power outages. Should a ban on gas be instituted, it's likely to further increase the cost of eating out at Hawaii's restaurants, negatively impacting all Hawaii consumers, as well as decreasing foot traffic, further harming Hawaii's restaurant workers.

While we believe that a zero-emissions energy goal is commendable, the use of gas in restaurants produces nominal emissions and would make little impact to lowering overall emissions. Instead, this bill will serve to harm Hawaii's thousands of restaurants while not achieving the goal of significant emissions reductions – lose-lose all the way around.

Zippy's Restaurants employs nearly 1,300 people statewide and serves a large percentage of the Hawaii's population each month. We are interested in fostering an economic climate that ensures a thriving business community in Hawaii. We oppose this bill because we believe it is not conducive to a positive business environment.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

February 14, 2023

Members of the Energy & Environmental Protection Committee,

Founded in 1918, the American Gas Association (AGA) educates the public about the importance of natural gas, supports natural gas utilities in their efforts to make their operations safer, more efficient and more environmentally-friendly, and serves as a resource for local, state and federal policymakers when it comes to regulating the natural gas industry. AGA represents more than 200 local energy companies serving more than 74 million customers including approximately 70,0000 homes and businesses across Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to share why nearly 187 million Americans and 5.8 million businesses use natural gas because it is affordable, reliable, safe, and essential to improving our environment. America's natural gas utilities are innovative and committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions through new and modernized infrastructure and advanced technologies that maintain reliable, resilient, and affordable energy service choices for consumers.

Natural Gas is the Affordable Choice for Hawaii Homes and Businesses

According to the U.S. Department of Energy the direct use of natural gas is 3.4 times more affordable than electricity. On a national average basis, households that use natural gas for heating, cooking and clothes drying save \$1,068 per year compared to homes using electricity for those applications.

Given its geographic isolation and land constraints, Hawaii has significantly higher electricity prices than the rest of the country. Any wholesale effort to ban natural gas appliances would saddle homes and businesses with significantly higher energy costs. Restrictions on natural gas appliances not only increases the cost of new homes and prevents new businesses from opening but also raises costs for existing gas customers.

According to the state's largest electric utility, electricity prices in Hawaii are generally higher than on the U.S. mainland due to the cost of imported oil used to power many of the islands' generators. The fluctuation in the cost of fuel, which makes up roughly 50 percent of a typical bill, is the biggest driver. Efforts to aggressively electrify Hawaii homes and businesses would increase the use of oil for electric generation directly increasing emissions particularly in the near-term.

The Natural Gas Distribution System Offers Unparalleled Reliability & Resilience Attributes

On an energy equivalent basis, the gas system provides 2-3 times the energy as that of the electric sector during peak demand. Overreliance on any one source of energy can jeopardize overall energy system reliability and resilience and ultimately result in greater costs for all consumers. Widespread electrification would likely result in significantly higher peak-day

electric power asset requirements which often takes the form of higher-emitting resources. Pathways utilizing the existing gas distribution solve this problem by preventing the unnecessary overbuild out of the electric system to meet peak demand thereby reducing costs while maintaining reliability.

The natural gas distribution system is an incredibly reliable energy delivery system with unplanned outages affecting only about 1 in 800 natural gas customers per year. By comparison, electric distribution systems have an average of one outage per year per customer. In a 2020 analysis, the Government Accountability Office found that compared to electric power outages, the frequency and scope of outages to natural gas consumers appears relatively limited. Gas interruptions usually did not result in a complete loss of service to affected consumers however the scope of electric outages can be extensive, affecting millions of consumers for days at a time.

Gas Utility Infrastructure is Vital to Achieving Ambitious Emissions Reductions

To achieve lasting, affordable, and reliable deep emissions reductions the existing natural gas distribution infrastructure that Hawaii residents have already invested significantly in must be part of the solution. Hawaii can achieve significant emissions reductions by working with its local utility to accelerate the use of tools available today, including high-efficiency natural gas applications, renewable gases, methane reduction technologies, and enhanced energy efficiency initiatives.

Natural gas utilities are recognized as leaders in the energy industry for their successful history of reducing emissions spending almost \$4.3 million a day on energy efficiency programs. This exceptional record can be traced to gas utilities continuing to make safety their top priority and remaining deeply committed to systematically upgrading infrastructure through risk-based integrity management programs.

Distribution systems owned and operated by local natural gas utilities emit as little as 0.1 percent of produced natural gas emissions according to EPA's most recent Greenhouse Gas Inventory. These annual methane emissions declined 69 percent between 1990 and 2020, even as more than 22 million customers and more than 815,000 miles of pipeline were added to the distribution system over the same period.

Hawai'i Gas is already leading the nation in utilizing advanced fuels by providing its customers with a distribution network that currently accommodates a blend of up to 15% hydrogen. Furthermore, Hawai'i Gas is actively involved working with localities to drive innovative solutions that reduce waste, lower emissions, and save money. Hawai'i Gas has partnered with the City and County of Honolulu's Honouliuli Wastewater Treatment Plant to turn waste into renewable natural gas generating enough energy annually to fuel 6,000 homes. At the same time, this RNG project reduces the need for approximately 15,000 barrels of oil and reduces greenhouse gas emissions by the amount produced by 400 cars annually. Additionally, since 2018, the City and County of Honolulu generated approximately \$1.85 million of revenue by

selling the biogas to Hawai'i Gas. Efforts to phase out natural gas appliances would reduce the potential end use applications for these emerging fuels and discourage continued investment and greater innovation.

There are No Documented Health Hazards Associated with Gas Stoves

There are no documented risks to respiratory health from the proper use of natural gas stoves by government agencies and advisory committees responsible for protecting residential consumer health and safety, including the Federal Interagency Committee on Indoor Air Quality and the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Proper ventilation when cooking with any energy source is the most important step you can take to mitigate cooking related air quality. Cooking activities by themselves, (e.g., grilling, frying, broiling, baking) are a source of indoor air emissions, including particulate matter. This is why many jurisdictions require kitchen exhausts in all new homes, regardless of energy source, gas or electric.

Conclusion

AGA appreciates and echoes Hawaii's commitment to a more sustainable environment. Thank you for the opportunity to share how the natural gas energy delivery network can help provide a safe, reliable, and affordable energy source well into the future.

Respectfully,

American Gas Association

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 8:23:56 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Bernstein	HECA Decarbonization of Buildings Task Force	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Hawai'i Environmental Change Agents' Decarbonization of Buildings Task Force **strongly supports** HB835 because it will reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, improve our sustainability, and reduce health risks.

The Hawai'i Legislature has declared that we are in a climate emergency. It has also set a target to be carbon net negative by 2045. The use of gas, whether natural, propane, or synthetic results in significant greenhouse gas emissions. Because this bill calls for prohibiting the installation of gas appliances in new construction, it will help Hawai'i meet its environmental goals by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Furthermore, the prohibition of the installation of gas appliances in new construction would result in less installed capacity that relies on gas thus making it easier for Hawai'I to transition to a clean economy.

Many other jurisdictions have implements laws that this bill would enact. This bill mirrors ones that have been put in place in various counties and cities in various cities and counties in California, Colorado, Maryland, New York, Oregon, and Washington state.

Finally, indoor appliances dependent on gas may harm human health by leaking hazardous air pollutants inside homes even when not in use, including cancer-causing benzene, according to a recent California study. These pollutants are in addition to NOx and other air pollutants that result from the combustion of gas. Another recent study found that gas stove pollution causes roughly 12.7 per cent of childhood asthma in the United States, on par with second-hand smoke.

For the above reasons, we request that you pass this bill out of your committee. Mahalo for your attention to our concerns.

Respectfully,

HECA Decarbonization of Buildings Task Force



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

February 16, 2023, 9:15 AM

Room 325

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 835

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and Committee members:

Blue Planet Foundation **supports HB 835**, a bill that would phase out the installation of gas appliances in new construction after 2025 to reduce carbon emissions and harmful air pollutants in Hawai'i homes and commercial buildings.

The State of Hawai'i has passed aggressive carbon reduction goals, including a mandate to achieve 100% renewable electricity by 2045 (Act 97 of 2015), and a goal to be carbon-negative by 2045 (Act 15 of 2018). Currently, fossil fuel-based natural gas is not included in the state's mandate to achieve a 100% renewable energy portfolio. Policies like HB 835 would help to align all industries in Hawai'i's collective efforts to reduce carbon emissions and meet our clean energy and climate change goals.

House Bill 835 offers Hawai'i an opportunity to build smarter, healthier, and more resilient infrastructure going forward. As construction begins on new homes, buildings, and infrastructure, all of the blueprints should reflect the same goal: having the ability to fully participate in our 100% carbon-free future. **This means that fossil gas connections or other fossil fuel infrastructure should be phased out in new construction.** The buildings and infrastructure that we invest in today will be with us for decades—it is critical that they have the capacity to be 100% powered by renewable energy and not be saddled with soon-to-be-outdated fossil systems, including natural gas appliances.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



1111 19th Street NW > Suite 402 > Washington, DC 20036
t 202.872.5955 f 202.872.9354 www.aham.org

WRITTEN STATEMENT

JOHN KEANE
MANAGER OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

ON BEHALF OF
THE ASSOCIATION OF HOME APPLIANCE MANUFACTURERS

HAWAII HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

HB 835- RELATING TO GAS APPLIANCES

FEBRUARY 16, 2023

Chair Lowen and Vice Chair Cochran and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share the view points of the home appliance manufacturing industry regarding H.B 835, the potential ban of gas appliances in Hawaii.

AHAM represents manufacturers of major, portable and floor care home appliances, and suppliers to the industry. AHAM's membership includes over 150 companies throughout the world. AHAM members employ tens of thousands of people and produce more than 95% of the household appliances that are shipped for sale within the United States. Appliance manufacturers are heavily engaged in the development of standards for the design of natural gas appliances, participating in building safety codes, and standards proceeding. Consumers in the U.S. are fortunate to have a variety of cooking options available and they can rest easy knowing that all ranges and cooktops, whether gas or electric, meet or exceed approved safety standards and building codes.

AHAM supports cooking choice for consumers, and we also recognize that states and municipalities are working toward climate goals. Each state may have a different plan and appliance manufacturers are focused on how they can supply solutions to whatever direction is chosen. However, a potential ban on gas cooking appliances would remove an affordable and preferred technology used in approximately 40% of homes across the country. Many home and professional chef's value gas cooking for its speed and control. A ban on gas appliances would also potentially remove an affordable energy choice that Hawaii consumers may depend on.

All cooking, regardless of whether it is gas or electric, causes byproducts. AHAM is leading efforts to further improve cooking-related indoor air quality, including revising consensus standards as required. The appliance industry is actively working with regulatory bodies including the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to study natural gas cooking appliances. The impact on indoor air quality from the emissions from cooking products has been studied and considered by standards, regulatory bodies and building codes for decades:

- A recent study of California ventilation system requirements completed by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory for the California Energy Commission found that current ventilation requirements were adequate to protect consumer health and safety from a variety of sources, including kitchen sources of airborne contaminants.¹
- CPSC has determined that there is generally a low likelihood of adverse health effects associated with carbon monoxide emissions from properly functioning unvented gas ranges.
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) does not list gas stoves as significant contributors to indoor air quality or health hazards. In fact, EPA recommends using ventilation hoods or downdrafts and states that using a hood with a fan vented to the

¹ https://eta-publications.lbl.gov/sites/default/files/indoor_air_quality_in_california_homes_with_code-required_mechanical_ventilation_0.pdf

outdoors, and properly adjusting burners, greatly reduces exposure to pollutants during cooking.

AHAM continue to develop information and educate consumers about the safety of cooking appliances and ways to reduce cooking emissions including ventilation. As homes have become more tightly constructed, the need has grown for specific steps aimed at improving ventilation. That's why building codes have long required mechanical ventilation and external cooking exhaust in newly constructed more airtight homes for both electric and gas cooking.

The home appliance industry designs products that are as safe as they are useful. AHAM is committed to preserving an environment that allows for choice and innovation in cooking. Bans on gas appliances restrict consumer choice and remove affordable choices that consumers love, such as gas cooking appliances.



**Testimony to
The Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection**

Thursday, February 16, 2023

9:15 AM

**Conference Room 325 & VIA videoconference
Hawaii State Capitol**

HB 835

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

Hawaii Gas **strongly opposes** **HB 835**, which, beginning 1/1/2025, prohibits the installation of gas appliances in new construction within the State.

Established in 1904, Hawaii Gas serves over 70,000 customers on all islands through its pipeline and propane delivery services, all of whom depend on the company for sustainable, reliable, and affordable gas for water heating, cooking, drying, and other commercial and industrial applications. The company employs some 350 professionals, over 75% of whom are members of the Teamsters Union, and provides both regulated utility and unregulated operations.

Hawaii Gas distributes a blend of gas that ranges from **low-carbon to negative-carbon** emissions through approximately 1,100 miles of mostly underground utility pipeline statewide. Our main utility system includes a blend of gas that includes Synthetic Natural Gas (SNG), Renewable Natural Gas (RNG), and Hydrogen. Despite **representing less than 1%** of the greenhouse gases emitted into Hawaii's atmosphere, we are working diligently to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by pursuing cost-effective, local, renewable energy projects.

Hawaii Differs from the Mainland In Critically Important Ways

While similar proposals are being considered on the Mainland, it is important to once again note that Hawaii – and thus Hawaii Gas – are quite different than our mainland counterparts. While gas is a major component in home heating on the Mainland, that is not true in Hawaii. Hawaii homes are also simply designed differently, built to accommodate our indoor/outdoor lifestyle in a way that's not typically possible on the Mainland. Hawaii is already tiny in terms of overall natural gas usage ranking last of all 50 states. While other states are focused on shrinking the footprint of the gas utility in their state, gas usage in Hawaii is already tiny due to the warm weather climate. In Hawaii, gas – including SNG, RNG and hydrogen, considered low to negative carbon fuels – represent less than 1% of the state's greenhouse gas emissions. Further, those fuel sources are on the front line of innovative clean fuel options both in Hawaii and around the world.

In Hawaii, gas-powered appliances are also essential to critical services from the Department of Defense to hospitals to hotels to civil defense to homeland security and more – all of which



sustain the state during both normal times and especially times of adversity. Hawaii cannot afford to shut down that critical infrastructure.

Reliability, Affordability, and Sustainability

Thousands of Hawaii residents depend on gas for everyday home use and especially during life-threatening weather events such as hurricanes, floods, lava flows, and other disasters, when electric power simply isn't reliably available. Power outages during Iniki lasted for weeks and weeks, leaving people desperate for gas to manage basic things like cooking and hot water, and in many cases, powering life-saving devices. During the 2018 floods on Kauai, countless residents report that Hawaii Gas employees were able to re-establish connections quickly, enabling residents to have hot showers, cook and meet their basic needs when they needed it the most.

Other state residents live in areas with minimal or no grid access at all, and this bill will completely eliminate any access to these basic services for those residents. The bill's language specifically makes no exceptions for residents who live in areas with spotty or no electricity, essentially leaving them cold and in the dark. This draconian proposal is devastating to households located in hard to reach, under-served areas that include DHHL homesteaders from across the state (including Molokai and Maui), as well as formerly homeless families who've begun to rebuild their lives as residents of Kahauiki Village on Oahu. Hawaii Gas was a partner in this project which provides backup gas water heater, and gas for cooking. This mix of energy sources provides resiliency for the community to ensure they have reliable energy even through natural emergencies and power grid outages.

These are the people most often forgotten, and they depend on Hawaii Gas for cooking, hot water, and other basic needs. In these areas of the state, the Hawaii Gas trucks are routinely driving their routes, delivering their gas, setting up and trouble-shooting gas cylinders after storms, and talking story with those residents. Hawaii Gas, and especially those drivers, are a lifeline to these families, coming to know them, service them and sustain those working families.

Given its geographic isolation and land constraints, Hawaii has significantly higher electricity prices than the rest of the country and electric rates are twice as much as gas rates¹. Any wholesale attempt to ban gas appliances would saddle homes and businesses with added costs.

Gas appliances in Hawaii – used primarily for cooking, drying, water heating, and commercial uses – are integral to our residents' well-being. The GHG emissions from these appliances is negligible, they provide a critical lifeline during grid instability and in areas without grid access,

¹ Comparing a blended therm equivalent electric rate for an average of a 500Kwhr home on a Hawaiian Electric Residential Schedule R rate



and they provide an affordable and sustainable essential service to our neighbors. Eliminating these appliances leaves people vulnerable, under-served, and in many cases, forgotten.

Indoor Air Quality Impact – Facts & Science

It has long been true that indoor air quality, particularly in a tightly closed home, can be impacted by cooking (both gas and electric), typically at levels most scientists believe can be managed with easily administered counter-actions. The EPA does not list gas stoves as significant contributors to indoor air quality or health hazards, and according to the California Air Resources Board (CARB), cooking reduces air quality, no matter what kind of stove is used. Replacing gas stoves with electric stoves would not eliminate air quality concerns. CARB, indoor air quality experts and others have recommended for years that opened windows and the use of an exhaust fan during any cooking activity is recommended for better air flow within the house. In Hawaii, our indoor/outdoor lifestyle has been providing that ventilation for decades. CARB recommends using a high-efficiency range hood or exhaust fan, a solution far more practical for most Americans than converting from gas to electric. Additionally, Alexander Hoehn-Saric, the Chair of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, made it clear in his January 11, 2023 statement that “I am not looking to ban gas stoves and the CPSC has no proceeding to do so.”

This bill is a great over-reach for an issue already under scientific review and strips Hawaii of one of its most critical assets.

Moving Towards A Clean Energy Future

The state of Hawaii is in the midst of a forward-thinking integrated effort to eliminate fossil fuel in the state’s electricity sector by 2045. As our part in that effort, Hawaii Gas is currently in the midst of an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) regulatory docket. This proceeding, Docket No. 2022-0009, which is comprised of over a dozen subject matter experts, will establish a resource portfolio for Hawaii Gas, which supports further decarbonization of its already very low carbon footprint today (less than 1% of the state’s GHG emissions). The purpose of developing this decarbonized resource portfolio is to 1) design a pathway for Hawaii Gas to meet state decarbonization goals and 2) achieve those decarbonization goals in a manner that is economic and equitable for Hawaii Gas customers.

This IRP process is an action plan to determine how a utility will meet energy objectives and customer energy needs consistent with state energy policies and goals, while providing safe and reliable utility service at reasonable cost through the development of Resource Plans and Scenarios of possible futures that provide a broader long-term perspective. Beyond our RNG and SNG innovations already underway, hydrogen offers some of the most innovative and promising steps forward towards that clean energy future. Hydrogen has been identified as a carbon neutral fuel with the most promising applications to decarbonize transportation, aviation, power generation and storage. Hawaii Gas is part of the consortium of partners across government, community, industry, and academia that is submitting a full application for the Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub (H2Hub) program. The consortium concept paper details the



potential for an integrated Hawai'i Pacific Hydrogen Hub that aligns multiple existing, in-development, and proposed new hydrogen production pathways to deploy hydrogen across all sectors of Hawai'i's energy ecosystem and economy over the next decade.

Given all of the innovation abound and benefits for Hawaii, banning gas appliances is simply short-sighted. By passing this bill, Hawaii Gas's work to innovate, invest, and propel the state forward to a clean energy future is gutted. Like any business, our sustainability – and our ability to innovate – rests on the company's capacity to manage a healthy bottom line that can fund those efforts, and sustain a healthy and thriving local workforce. By sustaining our pipeline and serving our customers, we are able to invest and pursue new technology, clean energy alternatives and further research and development in this quickly growing and evolving clean energy sector. Without that customer base and pipeline, our innovation is virtually erased.

Hawaii Gas is acutely focused on decarbonizing our fuel source with RNG and Hydrogen, with more innovation forthcoming as referenced in our IRP plan. It is also important to point out that gas appliances are not locked into one source of gas. In fact, today's gas appliances in Hawaii are already able to operate with our current blend of RNG and hydrogen. Gutting our ability to continue our important work in a robust and meaningful way is counter-productive to the state's clean energy future.

Before eliminating gas appliances, perhaps it would be wiser to initiate a study to fully identify and understand what this impact would be. Such a study should be integrated with the PUC's ongoing IRP, which would provide a detailed and robust plan for our future options and best investments.

We urge the committee to defer the measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Written Statement of
STERLING YEE
DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC CONSULTING - OCEANIT

Before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Thursday, February 16, 2023
09:15 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

In Opposition of
HB830 RELATING TO GAS APPLIANCES

To: Chair Representative Nicole Lowen and Vice Chair Representative Elle Cochran
and Members of the Committee

From: Sterling Yee, Director of Strategic Consulting - Oceanit

Re: Testimony in Opposition of HB835

Honorable Chair, Vice-Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **Opposition of HB835**.

Oceanit is a technology company working in the energy transformation sector and supports diversified energy sources as a bridge to a sustainable energy future. Both Hawaii Gas and Oceanit are members of and fully support the Hawaii Hydrogen Hub Consortium. Unlike other gas utilities on the mainland, Hawaii Gas is currently blending hydrogen with renewable natural gas today, with the intent of producing hydrogen as a future renewable source of energy for Hawaii. A key part of this journey is transforming and modifying legacy energy sources and systems to adapt to the new demand to “go green.” Oceanit believes this measure is premature and will stifle innovation such as the production and transmission of hydrogen.

Therefore, Oceanit is in OPPOSITION to HB835.



To: The House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection (EEP)
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Thursday, February 16, 2023, 9:15am

In strong support of HB835

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, 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.org is in **strong support of HB835** that, beginning January 1, 2025, prohibits the installation of gas appliances in new construction within the State.

Electric induction cooks as well as gas and is much more energy efficient. Installing appliances that use electricity instead of gas in new construction would substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help the State achieve its zero emissions clean economy target.

Gas for homes in Hawaii has been portrayed to be “reliable, clean, and resilient.” However, the truth is, gas is none of these. This characterization is pure greenwashing. In addition to emitting greenhouse gases that warm the planet, gas stoves and other indoor appliances can harm human health by leaking hazardous air pollutants inside homes even when not in use, including cancer-causing benzene. Gas-burning appliances can also trigger asthma, coughing, and potentially increase susceptibility to respiratory infections.

Last month the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Commissioner Richard Trumka Jr. told *Bloomberg News* that gas stoves are "a hidden hazard" and suggested that new ones should be banned. There is substantial research documenting the hazards associated with the air pollution that methane-powered appliances create. A recent study found that 12.7% of childhood asthma cases in the U.S. can be tied to indoor air pollution caused by gas stoves.¹ As such, state and local governments are increasingly looking to turn away from gas in new construction, moves that will improve air quality and public health, and reduce climate pollution. Already, nearly 100 cities and counties across four states—California, Colorado, New

¹ <https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/20/1/75>

York, and Washington—have adopted policies that restrict the use of gas appliances in buildings in some way, including banning gas hookups in newly constructed buildings.

But its not just pollution in our homes we need to worry about. The methane leaking from gas appliances is polluting the atmosphere and destabilizing our climate system. In fact, gas stoves have been found to be a bigger contributor to the climate crisis than previously believed, producing methane even when not in use. Researchers found that more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of the methane emissions that they measured occurred when gas stoves were switched off. This research recently published in Environmental Science & Technology concluded that the annual methane emissions from gas stoves in the U.S. are equivalent to about half-a-million cars' worth of carbon dioxide.² It must be noted that methane is 86 times more potent than CO₂ in warming the planet.

There is no such thing as clean gas — not for our homes, not for our communities, and not for the climate. From the drilling well to the stoves in our kitchens, gas is harming our health and warming the planet. Using electric stoves will cut greenhouse gas emissions and indoor air pollution. If we want to build resilience, we should facilitate efforts towards true clean power and battery storage. There is no good reason to install gas appliances in new construction. We have the technology for safer options, like electric stoves, let's use them.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

² <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.est.1c04707>

TESTIMONY

House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection RELATING TO GAS APPLIANCES

Thursday, February 16, 2023, 9:15 am
State Capitol Conference Room 325 and via Videoconference

Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Cochren and Committee Members

Respectfully submitted in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB835 by Mrs. Jamie Detwiler,
President, Hawaii Federation of Republican Women for the following reasons:

1. It is unconstitutional. The Fourth Amendment states, the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.
2. In many rural areas of the state, the infrastructure is not equipped with electricity. Many homeowners building new homes have no choice but to use gas as well as catch their water.
3. According to GreenCoast.com, Natural gas is more eco-friendly than electricity that comes from coal-burning power plants. Although natural gas is non-renewable and contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, newer, efficient gas plants emit 50 – 60% less carbon dioxide compared to coal plants.
4. The clear winner in the energy efficiency battle between gas and electric is gas. It takes about three times as much energy to produce and deliver electricity to your stove. According to the California Energy Commission, a gas stove will cost you less than half as much to operate.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



February 16, 2023

**TESTIMONY PROVIDING COMMENTS ON HOUSE BILL 835
RELATING TO GAS APPLIANCES**

House Committee on Energy
The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
The Honorable Elle Cochran, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 16, 2023 at 9:15 a.m.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran and members of the Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony offering comments on House Bill 835. My name is Marc Inouye, Director of Government and Public Affairs for Par Hawaii. Energy security and energy resilience are important for our state. For more than 50 years, Par Hawaii has produced petroleum-based fuels and is now beginning to explore the production of plant-based renewable fuels using our Kapolei refinery assets.

We recognize the importance of charting a clean energy future for Hawaii and creating more resilience. Gas energy has always been an important part of the state's overall energy mix, ensuring residents and businesses can continue to function in the event of electrical blackouts. This may become increasingly important as a result of climate-induced erratic weather conditions.

We believe every energy provider can help contribute to the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative targets by 2045. Hawaii Gas has made great progress in developing renewable energy sources such as hydrogen to meet the gas energy needs of our state. Banning the installation of gas appliances in new construction and attempting to electrify another aspect of our lives would discourage further investment in renewable energy sources. HB835 would impede the positive momentum underway in our state and require Hawaii residents and businesses in new construction to be solely dependent upon electricity.

This ban would also potentially cut residents off from access to reliable natural gas and green hydrogen. Hawaii needs a diversified base of renewable energy options like biofuels and green hydrogen to improve our energy and economic resilience in the decades leading up to 2045 and beyond.

Finally, while there has been no science-based evidence to show a causal link between gas stoves and health conditions such as asthma, both the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the Public Interest Research Group have stated they would prefer prudent measures to mitigate any health risks, including appropriate mandatory ventilation for indoor use and warning labeling on gas stoves instead of calling for outright bans.

Thank you for allowing Par Hawaii the opportunity to present these comments for the Committee's consideration.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 9:15:33 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Mulinix	Our Revolution Hawaii	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Committe,

On behalf of Our Revolutions 5,000 members and supporters statewide we stand on strong support of HB835.

Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) emits about as much greenhouse gas (GHG) as coal. [Methane from the production of fossil gas makes LNG about as bad a greenhouse gas emitter as coal](#). The argument from industry has been that gas is about 50% cleaner burning than coal. But a key study industry cites only looked at emissions from burning the two fuels, not at the whole process, including the extraction, refining, and shipping. More recent studies have shown LNG and coal to have closer overall emissions, and [LNG sometimes being even more emitting than coal](#).

In part, this is due to the huge amounts of methane that leak into the atmosphere while making and transporting LNG. Methane is a much more potent GHG than carbon dioxide (CO2), and methane leaks have long been massively under-reported.

Large volumes of methane can be released while [fracking, the process of extracting gas from shale rock](#). Because methane releases are still under-reported, we don't actually know the full extent of how bad LNG really is. Overall, the case that LNG is lower-emitting than coal is dubious at best.

Please vote in support of HB835.

Mahalo, Dave Mulinix, Our Revolution Hawaii



STANFORD CARR DEVELOPMENT, LLC

▪ February 15, 2023

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

Re: Testimony in Opposition – HB 835, Relating to Gas Appliances
Hearing: February 16, 2023 at 9:15 AM
House Conference Room 325

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and Committee Members:

Stanford Carr Development (SCD) is writing to **oppose** HB 835, which proposes to prohibit the installation of gas appliances in new construction within the State.

First and foremost, consumers deserve affordable options. Banning gas restricts a consumer's ability to choose their energy source in an economy where Hawaii is ranked at the bottom of the list in terms of electric energy affordability. In November 2022, Choose Energy, Inc. published the average electric rates of all 50 states where Hawaii ranked 50 – most expensive – with a statewide average rate of 43.91¢ per kilowatt-hour which represents a 26.4% increase over November 2021. Consumers deserve the option for gas as a more affordable choice.

Our affordable rental portfolio relies on gas as a backup source of energy to the solar hot water systems. We also utilize gas to power the commercial clothes dryers, pools, and BBQs.

Policies prohibiting installation of gas appliances will negatively impact affordability. Low-income communities will bear a disproportionately higher burden as they spend a higher percentage of their budgets on energy bills.

We ask you to consider a no vote on HB 835. Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on this measure.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stanford S. Carr', written in a cursive style.

Stanford S. Carr

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 3:33:55 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Palermo	Hilo Propane	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the legislators, my name is Joseph Palermo, I have been the owner of Hilo Propane Inc for the past 28 years. I have served the good people of the Big Island of Hawaii with propane and propane products and I, myself have lived on the island for the last 40 years and have always used propane. Propane is still the cheapest way to cook, heat your water, dry your clothes and refrigerate. This is a blessing for the people who live off the grid. I do not know where your information comes from but it is incorrect. Propane gives off the least amount of emission compared to other fuels out there. Cow farts give off more toxic emissions than propane. Does that mean you are going to get rid of all the cows in the world. Nevermind you wanting to shut down a billion dollar industry but my business raised my family over the years. How did propane “pollution” become such an issue when the state of Hawaii has larger concerns. People of the Big Island please stand behind me and voice your opinion on how ridiculous this will be for the majority residence of Hawaii.

Joseph Palermo

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 6:09:34 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wai'ala Ahn	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly Oppose HB835 and the long term impact it will have for our island community and those living off grid using alternative sources for cooking, heating, etc.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this bill and please Oppose HB835



**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
State Capitol, Room 325
415 South Beretania Street
9:15 AM**

February 16, 2023

RE: HB 835 - RELATING TO GAS APPLIANCES

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and members of the committee:

My name is Max Lindsey, 2023 Government Relations Committee Chair of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii). Chartered in 1955, the Building Industry Association of Hawaii is a professional trade organization affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders, representing the building industry and its associates. BIA-Hawaii takes a leadership role in unifying and promoting the interests of the industry to enhance the quality of life for the people of Hawaii. Our members build the communities we all call home.

BIA-Hawaii is in opposition to HB 835, Relating to Gas Appliances. This bill would prohibit the installation of gas appliances in new construction within the State, beginning 1/1/2025.

Consumer choice and cost concerns are of the utmost importance to BIA Hawaii, especially during the current dire housing crisis in our state. Gas as an energy resource in Hawaii is extremely important to our resiliency - in a natural disaster emergency, gas would be our only means of cooking.

As the Legislature is aware, the cost of housing in Hawaii is extremely high, with Oahu's median price of homes being currently over \$1 million. Approximately 153,967 U.S. households are priced out of buying a home for every \$1000 increase in price, according to the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB). We are in support of legislation that would allow for the building of much-needed housing at every price point in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our concerns.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/16/2023 4:52:44 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matt Solak	Pacific Propane Gas Association	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please find comments attached opposing HB 835



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 9, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

TESTIMONY ON HB 835
RELATING TO GAS APPLIANCES

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
9:15 AM

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Cochran, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau opposes HB 835, which prohibits the installation of gas appliances in new construction within the State.

Gas and gas appliances play a critical role in the agricultural industry. The state has set a goal of doubling food production. Without the ability to install gas appliances, the state is going to inhibit the achievement of that important priority goal. Gas is utilized in the farming process as well as in manufacturing value-added products, which provide farmers and the community with new sources of revenue and self-sustainability. Some examples of gas appliances utilized in the agriculture industry include:

- Off-grid generator for power generation
- Backup generators for power, especially for refrigeration to comply with food safety standards.
- Propane-powered refrigerators
- Water heating/boilers/Steam for sterilization, processing, and production
- Coffee roasting
- Heating and dehumidification for controlled growing facilities
- Provide heat for baby chickens

Often, farms have commercial buildings without access to the electric grid. Denying an alternative to diverse energy sources for their operations will undoubtedly put a chilling effect on additional agriculture endeavors.

Additionally, the cost of gas is substantially less than the cost of electricity and with farmers having to manage thin margins to subsist, gas provides an affordable alternative.

Electricity is one of the highest operational costs for the farmer. The strength of Hawai'i's agriculture industry is dependent upon affordable and diverse alternatives.

We ask you to defer this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

February 16, 2023

Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair,
Rep. Elle Cochran, Vice Chair, Vice Chair



Working together for Kapolei

Thursday, February 16, 2023, 9:15 a.m.
Conference Rm. 325 and via Videoconference

RE: HB 835 - RELATING TO GAS APPLIANCES

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran and members of the Committee:

My name is Kiran Polk, and I am the Executive Director of the Kapolei Chamber of Commerce.

The Kapolei Chamber of Commerce is an advocate for businesses in the Kapolei region which includes Waipahu to Ka'ena Point. The Chamber works on behalf of its members and the entire business community to improve the regional and State economic climate and help Kapolei businesses thrive. We are a member-driven, member-supported organization representing the interests of all types of business: small, medium or large, for profit or non-profit businesses or sole proprietorship.

The Kapolei Chamber of Commerce is in **strong opposition of HB 835**, relating to Gas Appliances which will prohibit the installation of gas appliances in new construction within the State beginning 1/1/2025.

The impact of banning gas appliances in new construction will impact our economy in multiple channels and will ultimately have a rippling effect during a time when we can least afford it. Hawai'i already has the highest electricity rates in the country. Restrictions on natural gas use in newly constructed homes will add to the already increasing costs to live here and force residents to move off island. Our businesses utilizing gas will also be impacted negatively during a time when we are desperately trying to revitalize our economy. Over 300 jobs will also be negatively impacted by the ban.

West O'ahu is the fastest growing region in the State with an anticipated 16,000 additional residences to be constructed in the next 20 years. West O'ahu's growing population of almost 200,000 includes the Wai'anae Coast, 'Ewa, and Waipahu. In Kapolei and 'Ewa alone households are expected to exceed 56,000 by the year 2035 and over the next 30 years the population in Kapolei and 'Ewa will increase by 40 percent and housing by 52 percent.

The impact of a gas appliance ban may impact housing costs and affordable housing only adding more challenges to the affordable housing crisis we have today.

Thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony and comments.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K Polk".

Kiran Polk
Executive Director

1001 Kamokila Boulevard, Campbell Building Suite 250, Kapolei, Hawaii 96707



February 10, 2023

Representative Nicole Lowen, Chair
Representative Elle Cochran, Vice Chair
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Comments, Concerns and Opposition to HB 835, Relating to Gas Appliances (Increases the conveyance tax rate for certain properties.)

Thursday, February 16, 2023, at 9:15 a.m.
Conference Room 325, State Capitol, Via Videoconference

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers, and utility companies. One of LURF's missions is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to provide **comments, concerns, and opposition to HB 835**.

HB 835. Prohibits the installation of gas appliances in new construction within the State beginning on January 1, 2025.

LURF's Position: We understand the intent of this measure, however, we must respectfully **oppose HB 835**, based on, among other things, the following grounds:

- **The banning of gas appliances is inconsistent with Hawaii laws defining "Renewable Energy."** Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Section 269-91 defines "Renewable Energy" as energy generated or produced using the following nine (9) sources:
 - (1) Wind;
 - (2) The sun;
 - (3) Falling water;
 - (4) **Biogas**, including landfill and sewage-based digester gas (LURF note: Honouliuli WWTP, Sand Island WWTP, Waimanalo Gulch Landfill, etc.);
 - (5) Geothermal;

- (6) Ocean water, currents, and waves, including ocean thermal energy conversion;
- (7) **Biomass**, including biomass crops, agricultural and animal residues and wastes, and municipal solid waste and other solid waste;
- (8) **Biofuels**; and
- (9) **Hydrogen** produced from renewable energy sources.

Hawaii law specifically identifies and allows the use of renewable gas for appliances and other renewable energy purposes. (HRS §269-91) This bill would be inconsistent with Hawaii law, because it would ban appliances that are powered by four (4) of the nine (9) sources of Renewable Energy identified by Hawaii law.

- **HB 835 creates “winners and losers”**, by promoting only “electricity” and banning appliances that use of four (4) renewable energy resources identified Hawaii law;
- **Banning gas appliances will eliminate opportunities for further research, innovation and development of renewable natural gas energy resources identified by State law.** Hawaii Gas has current initiatives to decarbonize its fuel source by blending renewable natural gas and hydrogen and has plans to do more research relating to the use of renewable energy fuels (biogas, biomass, biofuels and hydrogen).
- **Gas appliances can be substantially more energy efficient than other available energy alternatives.** Hawaii law recognizes this in HRS §196-5(c)(2). According to data provided by Hawaii Gas, most gas appliances are already incredibly efficient — upwards of 93% or better in some appliances; while in some cases, electricity delivers only 32% of energy used from generation source to the home.
- **Eliminating the use of gas appliances in new construction will cause hardships for residents and businesses that live or operate in areas that are served with unreliable electric services or where electricity is not available.** This bill is contrary to state laws that specifically recognize that gas appliances are a reasonable alternative use of renewable energy in areas that are served with unreliable electric services or where electricity is not available. (HRS §196-5(d)).
- **A prudent alternative: Create a Renewable Natural Gas Working Group to study and make recommendations.** Prior to adopting a blanket, one-size-fits all ban on all gas appliances, a joint State, county and Stakeholder Working Group should be established to conduct a study and make recommendations to utilizing all nine (9) renewable energy sources under HRS §269-91.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and concerns relating to this proposed measure.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 7:22:32 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this Bill.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 12:20:38 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Support.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 2:30:29 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenny Tanaka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Jenny Tanaka and I am from Kailua, Oahu. I oppose this bill because:

- I love cooking with my gas stove. Please don't take that option away from people and restaurants.
- Hawaii already has the highest electricity rates in the country - Restrictions on natural gas use in new buildings will add to the already increasing costs to live here and force residents to move off island.
- Restrictions on new natural gas hookups are a costly and unnecessary imposition on Hawaiian residents and businesses This ban will contribute to problems of energy reliability and affordability.

Mahalo,

Jenny Tanaka (a proud cooker with propane)

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 3:42:36 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gavon Wong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Gavon Wong and I am from Kaka'ako. I oppose this bill because Hawaii is so expensive and electricity is double what it was, and now you are forcing me to have no choice but pay high rates. The preservation of consumer choice is a necessary condition for maintaining access to affordable and reliable energy. These bans are contributing to a trend of increasing energy costs, thereby exacerbating the problem of energy poverty.

You are limiting competition for electricity companies and therefore giving them an opportunity to make electricity prices even higher. My income is already limited. You are continuing to make Hawaii more and more UNAFFORDABLE for local people again. Are you really here to serve the people? Do you care about the people of Hawaii?

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/11/2023 9:50:25 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Morin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Cochran, and EEP Committee Members,

I support this measure. There are efficient electric alternatives to common gas appliances - water heaters, ovens, cooktops, and dryers. These also do not subject homeowners to toxic indoor air pollution.

Sincerely,

Noel Morin - Hilo

Hazards of gas in homes (Harvard School of Public Health) - <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/change/news/natural-gas-used-in-homes/>

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/11/2023 6:29:15 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Fryer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB835, which would ban installation of gas appliances in new construction. Natural gas is an unsafe power source with serious effects on human health. It contains benzene, a known carcinogen, as well as nitrogen dioxide, which can cause or worsen respiratory illnesses such as asthma. Keiki are particularly at risk. According to researchers at the EPA and Duke University, children exposed to gas appliance emissions have a 20% increased chance of developing a respiratory illness. Gas stoves are implicated in nearly 13% of childhood asthma cases in the US.

Gas appliances are also a climate change issue. Burning natural gas produces carbon dioxide, and unburned gas leakages emit another powerful greenhouse gas, methane. Transitioning away from natural gas will protect our environment and climate as well as homeowners' health.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 8:25:30 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ben Robinson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 2:08:37 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha EEP Chair, Vice Chair & Committee,

I support HB835,

- I am in strong support of HB835. In addition to emitting greenhouse gases that warm the planet, gas stoves and other gas appliances can harm human health by leaking hazardous air pollutants inside homes even when not in use, including cancer—causing benzene. Gas-burning appliances can also trigger asthma, coughing, and potentially increase susceptibility to respiratory infections. The best path forward for reducing our greenhouse gas emissions and protecting our health is to ban gas appliances from new construction.

-There is no such thing as clean gas — not for our homes, not for our communities, and not for the climate. From the drilling well to the stoves in our kitchens, gas is harming our health and warming the planet. Dirty gas has no place in Hawaii's clean energy future. As such, there is no good reason to install gas appliances in new construction.

Keep it in the GROUND, don't be FOSSIL FOOLS!

Mahalo for your consideration,

tlaloc tokuda,

Kailua Kona, HI 96740

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 4:11:24 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Blickley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of HB835. There is no such thing as clean gas — not for our homes, not for our communities, and not for the climate. From the drilling well to the stoves in our kitchens, gas is harming our health and warming the planet. Dirty gas has no place in Hawaii's clean energy future. As such, there is no good reason to install gas appliances in new construction.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 4:53:16 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
P Noel Bobilin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- I am in strong support of HB835. In addition to emitting greenhouse gases that warm the planet, gas stoves and other gas appliances can harm human health by leaking hazardous air pollutants inside homes even when not in use, including cancer—causing benzene. Gas-burning appliances can also trigger asthma, coughing, and potentially increase susceptibility to respiratory infections. The best path forward for reducing our greenhouse gas emissions and protecting our health is to ban gas appliances from new construction.

-There is no such thing as clean gas — not for our homes, not for our communities, and not for the climate. From the drilling well to the stoves in our kitchens, gas is harming our health and warming the planet. Dirty gas has no place in Hawaii's clean energy future. As such, there is no good reason to install gas appliances in new construction.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 7:49:04 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

One way to help the state achieve its zero emissions clean economy target is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Installing appliances that use electricity instead of gas in new construction would substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help the State achieve its zero emissions clean economy target.

In addition to emitting greenhouse gases, stoves, ovens, and other indoor appliances may harm human health by leaking hazardous air pollutants inside homes even when not in use, including cancer-causing benzene, according to a recent California study. Another recent study found that gas stove pollution causes roughly 12.7% of childhood asthma in the United States, on par with second-hand smoke. Please support HB835.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 3:58:25 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joan Gannon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Joan Gannon from South Kona asking you to support HB835. Ther is no such thing as clean gas. From the drilling well to the stove in our homes, gas is harming our health and warming our planet. Dirty gas has no place in Hawaii's clean energy future. So there is no food reason to install gas appliances in new construction.
thank you for your service. Joan

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 5:52:49 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniela Escontrela	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of HB835. In addition to emitting greenhouse gases that warm the planet, gas stoves and other gas appliances can harm human health by leaking hazardous air pollutants inside homes even when not in use, including cancer—causing benzene. Gas-burning appliances can also trigger asthma, coughing, and potentially increase susceptibility to respiratory infections. The best path forward for reducing our greenhouse gas emissions and protecting our health is to ban gas appliances from new construction.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 7:29:11 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of HB835. In addition to emitting greenhouse gases that warm the planet, gas stoves and other gas appliances can harm human health by leaking hazardous air pollutants inside homes even when not in use, including cancer—causing benzene. Gas-burning appliances can also trigger asthma, coughing, and potentially increase susceptibility to respiratory infections. The best path forward for reducing our greenhouse gas emissions and protecting our health is to ban gas appliances from new construction.

1. is no such thing as clean gas — not for our homes, not for our communities, and not for the climate. From the drilling well to the stoves in our kitchens, gas is harming our health and warming the planet. Dirty gas has no place in Hawaii's clean energy future. As such, there is no good reason to install gas appliances in new construction.

Please Support HB835

Thank you for your consideration,

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 7:30:57 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rick Martin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose bill HB835 that will ban the installation of gas appliances in new construction. Natural gas and Propane continues to be the preferred cooking energy source of restaurants and many many homes.

Gas is much more effiecient to use, its clean burning and can be used in times of power outages here in the state of Hawaii.

We have trade winds and open windows with lots of circulation in the homes.

It would be absolutely crazy to ban gas installation in new construction.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 8:32:11 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zachary Tokushima	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Zachary Tokushima from Upcountry, Maui. I oppose this bill as it will take away my choice to have clean affordable gas for my home. This bill will make my energy more expensive and take away my options for reliable and affordable energy.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 8:46:34 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mustafa Demirbag	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Mustafa Demirbag and I am from Pukalani, Maui. I oppose this bill because I love cooking with my gas stove. I grew up using gas for my cooking and hot water heating with no ill effects. It is very reliable and affordable. Just a couple of weeks ago when the power was out for several days on some parts of Maui my relatives who only had electrical stoves and heaters had to come to my house to take showers and eat. We live on an island and need to diversify our energy choices. The government should protect my choice and energy freedom.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 9:27:26 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenny Yahiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Jenny Yahiro and I am from Kahului, Maui. I oppose this bill because I feel like it forces residents to eliminate clean affordable gas for their home. It will also make their energy bill more expensive adding to the rising costs in today's economy which will put more strain on our cost of living. We should have the option of having clean energy for our home.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 9:43:49 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taylor Wong-Monette	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Taylor and I am from Makawao, Hawaii. I choose to oppose this bill because it will take away my choice to have clean and affordable alternative to electricity in my home. Hawaii already has the highest electricity rates in the country and by taking away a cost effective, more efficient and overall clean alternative, we lose our freedom of choice, not to mention more money out of our pockets each month in an already unstable and expensive economy. Locals should be given a choice on what we use in our homes, when you take it away the only choice people will have is electric in an already monopolized market. The focus should be on other sources of greenhouse gases, not the carbon footprint left by natural gas products we use in our home that make up LESS than 1% of carbon emissions in Hawaii. The cost to even convert everything to electric could break the bank for most local families alone, not including the monthly bill payments for electric. Also, what would happen to Hawaii families if the electric were to go out? Time and time again weather has proven that it is unpredictable, we couldnt take a hot shower, cook or even have generators to power our homes if we make the switch. We also have to think of the effects that passing this bill would do outside of the residential homes in Hawaii. You have to take into account what it will do to our commercial establishments. This could affect our restaurants, our hotels and any other commercial business that relies on the affordability that natural gas can provide. Again it would come down to cost effectiveness and efficiency. Most commercial businesses wouldnt survive the switch. Even if their were programs to help those people make the switch, where would the money needed to fund those programs come from? As a concerned citizen of the state of Hawaii, there are bigger issues to tackle than to take away someones right to choose between gas or electric.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 10:59:17 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Day	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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Aloha, I am Ryan Day from Kailua, Oahu. I oppose this bill because, it gives us no choice in energy suppliers.

HECO would be the only energy provider. HECO also has the highest energy rates in the country still using diesel, and can be unreliable in outages. Gas is cleaner than diesel.

Last, The WORLD has been cooking with Propane and Natural gas for decades. It is the only energy source to cook with that is clean and efficient. Electric cook tops waste a lot of energy to heat up.

Mahalo,

Ryan

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 2:04:45 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Felicida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Michael Felicilda and I am from Waikapu. I oppose this bill as it will take away my choice to have clean affordable gas for my home. This bill will force me to select only electric and it is not reliable nor affordable.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 2:39:51 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine Nip	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing to oppose the ban on gas appliances. My hardworking 66-year-old father has been running a small restaurant in Ewa Beach for the past 20 years. Gas stoves allow him to operate efficiently and reduce the cost of his operations. Without gas stoves, he would not be able to keep up with the volume of orders because gas stoves heat up so much faster. Also, restaurants already have slim margins as it is and gas is more affordable than electricity. Banning gas stoves would mean putting more restaurants out of business. My father says that if gas stoves were banned, he would literally not be able to continue with his business. Rather than forcing business owners to use electricity, I would recommend that the state invests in developing other clean energy sources such as hydrogen gas. Like all things in life, it is good to have options so that if one energy source fails (eg. power outage), there are back-ups to rely on. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 2:48:38 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Russell Winkelman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony

HB 835

My name is Russ Winkelman, and I am writing in opposition to HB 835.

Banning gas appliances equates to banning choices. I have gas appliances because they are cheaper to operate, and they are more resilient than electric appliances. We have repeatedly seen the need for alternative sources of power during natural disasters or other electrical disruptions. Whether due to floods, high winds, or hurricanes, having gas appliances has allowed me to cook food and to have hot water without interruption.

Please do not take away the freedom of choice that we so desperately need on Kauai.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 2:48:59 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Loren Pabila	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Loren Pabila and I'm from Hilo, Hawaii and I am writing to oppose HB835.

As a resident of a "rural" community, I believe that we need to have a diversified choice for choosing our own form of energy for our homes. Not all areas in the state have access to the electric grid and/or prefer to be "off-grid" which is a personal freedom that we are entitled to as citizens of the United States. I am for carbon neutrality and renewable energy, but taking away citizen's choices for gas appliances is a step onto a slippery slope. Hawaii legislators/government already lean heavily towards playing the overbearing helicopter mother. I hesitate for them to dictate any more over our personal choices.

I've read up on and researched articles about the hazards of gas appliances vs. other forms of energy, and after weighing the information available to me from both perspectives, I think that banning new construction gas hook-ups would make a negligible impact on the purported goal of this piece of legislation. As for health hazards, everything we encounter daily is a hazard. Taking appropriate steps, such as adequate ventilation, and regularly checking for leaks, etc. is something that any person should be conducting to ensure their health and livelihood in any situation if they are truly serious about their well-being. As I mentioned already, the government shouldn't play the role of helicopter mother for its residents. We cannot keep living in fear of every little thing that is "bad".

Also, restricting choices for Hawaii residents lessens our ability to be resilient when natural disasters occur, especially since we are in the middle of the Pacific Ocean and we cannot rely on neighboring states, such as in the US mainland. Electricity goes out rather easily here and solar/battery power is limited in duration, especially here in Hilo, where there are more clouds than sun most of the year. Having the ability to let people choose their options is essential. Having the option of gas lets us boil water for cooking and cleaning, giving us the ability to continue operating our households without waiting for the electricity to turn back on.

I am also concerned that with this, although not banning existing set-ups, it will affect the cost of energy overall moving forward. As we all know, electricity in Hawaii is the highest in the nation per kilowatt hour, and not everyone can get PV systems. Taking away a viable form of energy will only subject us to increased risk of energy poverty and decrease our resiliency, which I mentioned earlier. Putting all of our eggs into one basket is unwise and a terrible practice.

Residents in Hawaii are already struggling to make it here. Why pass legislation that may inadvertently create unintended negative consequences?

Mahalo for your time and service.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 3:05:48 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Machaela Rapozo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Restrictions on new gas hookups are a costly and unnecessary imposition on the residents and business of Hawaii. This ban will contribute to problems of energy reliability and affordability. With the already high cost of living in Hawaii, this would further increase our living expenses and force more locals to move away. Additionally, Hawaii residents have to consider things such as hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, and lava flows. This ban would make it even harder for our communities to bounce back after these natural disasters and keep our families safe. For example, our families would have never survived Hurricane Iniki without gas appliances. Please reconsider this bill for the people of Hawaii.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 3:18:12 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rick Martin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii already has the highese electricity rates in the country - restrictions on natural gas or propane use in new building will add to the already increasing costs to live here and force residents to move off island.

Gas was available when I've had multiple outages with electricity. I still had hot water as well as could cook.

This bill could affect hundreds of union jobs.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 3:29:17 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph OConnell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Joseph OConnell and I am from Hilo. I oppose this bill because we personally switched all of our appliances to propane and lowered our overall utility bills by \$300 a month. Additionally:

- I love cooking with my gas stove. Please don't take that option away from people and restaurants.
- Hawaii already has the highest electricity rates in the country - Restrictions on natural gas use in new buildings will add to the already increasing costs to live here and force residents to move off island.
- Restrictions on new natural gas hookups are a costly and unnecessary imposition on Hawaiian residents and businesses This ban will contribute to problems of energy reliability and affordability.
- Hawaii is so expensive and electricity is double what it was, and now you are forcing me to have no choice but pay high rates
- It's good to be able to make cook and when power goes out
- This bill will kill hundreds of union jobs
- Natural gas bans concentrate our energy risks on the electric grid - bans on new natural gas hookups push more demand onto the grid, further taxing the system.
- This ban will slow down the process of cooking and reduce a chef's control over the amount and intensity of heat which is needed to prepare food appropriately. It's like taking paint away from a painter and asking them to create a masterpiece.
- This is an infringement on people's ability to secure reliable and affordable energy on a remote island
- This bill does not protect consumer choice and energy freedom
- The preservation of consumer choice is a necessary condition for maintaining access to affordable and reliable energy. These bans are contributing to a trend of increasing energy costs, thereby exacerbating the problem of energy poverty

Respectfully Submitted, Joseph OConnell

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 3:34:52 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Lau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Jason and I am from Kakaako District. I oppose this bill because:

1.) I love cooking with my gas stove it provides a depth of flavor compared to electric. Please don't take that option away from people's choice and from restaurant or commercial users.

2.) Hawaii already has the highest electricity rates in the country - restrictions on natural gas use in new buildings will add to the already increasing cost to live here and force residents to move off island.

I implore the State Legislator to oppose this bill as this will affect multiple people in the community. By removing our ability to choose, goes against an individual's constitutional right and the consumer protection act. In turn this bill is helping our electric company become a monopoly amongst the Hawaiian Islands when electricity cost is already so high. As part of the millennial generation I decided to work hard and to stay in Hawaii to take care of family, but with cost of living going so high I might be looking to move out of state. More and more residents are moving out because of the decisions of activists and the government. There must be some realization that the state and activists are causing the "Aloha" spirit to disappear. No one should dictate what I should be using, instead I should have that right to decide what is best. I am truly disappointed in the State and elected officials for having this sort of role in determining what people should buy or not buy.

HB 835

My name is Cedric Nakagawa and I am from East Oahu. I oppose this bill because:

- I love cooking with my gas stove. Please don't take that option away from people and restaurants, its quicker way to cook without waiting for the stove burner to heat up.
- Hawaii already has the highest electricity rates in the country - Restrictions on natural gas use in new buildings will add to the already increasing costs to live here and force residents to move off island. Installing PV is very costly, there are no incentives which will help homeowners like me to install PV. The tax credit is not enough, we need assistance in the installation costs.
- Restrictions on new natural gas hookups are a costly and unnecessary imposition on Hawaiian residents and businesses This ban will contribute to problems of energy reliability and affordability.
- Hawaii is so expensive and electricity is double what it was, and now you are forcing me to have no choice but pay high rates. My electric bill doubled during COVID, my income stayed the same.
- Gas was the only way I could survive hurricane iniki, at that time all we had was a propane stove which we used to boil water and cook. Our neighbors were using our stove to cook and boil water. If we have another natural disaster like Iniki where homes lost their roofing, where would all those PV panels go. How would we get power if there was only ONE source?
- Natural gas bans concentrate our energy risks on the electric grid - bans on new natural gas hookups push more demand onto the grid, further taxing the system. A benefit of gas is having a backup propane generator to power to power during a natural disaster.
- This ban will slow down the process of cooking and reduce a chef's control over the amount and intensity of heat which is needed to prepare food appropriately. It's like taking paint away from a painter and asking them to create a masterpiece.
- This bill does not protect consumer choice and energy freedom, unless the State is willing to cover the upfront cost to install PV on every home in Hawaii.
- The preservation of consumer choice is a necessary condition for maintaining access to affordable and reliable energy. These bans are contributing to a trend of increasing energy costs, thereby exacerbating the problem of energy poverty.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 4:25:35 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Fukuzawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Representatives,

I am in opposition of this bill. Although I do understand the concerns of this bill, I also understand that there is no incentive for the people who already have gas appliances and want to install this type of device in new construction. There is no type of rebate or tax credit to help owners make changes to existing systems to all electric. And let's be clear, electricity in Hawaii is still being produced by fossil fuels and probably will be until at least 2035. Please do something to help out the existing home owner decide to make a major shift from gas to electric. Also the construction changes and builds that revolve around a major shift like this are also costly and time consuming. Again, we want to make drastic changes without assisting the common person who is already stretched just making a mortgage, association fees, and maintenance fees. Let's be real.

Sincerely,

David Fukuzawa

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 4:29:38 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is Communist Control all who are involved will be REMOVE PERIOD!!!!

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 4:49:16 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeff Hoylman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is not a good idea to ban gas. It will be very hard for the power grid to compensate for the loss of gas for heating and cooking. The heating of large pools like resorts have will be very hard to accomplish and require huge capital upgrades to existing systems. Most all restaurants use gas as it is the best method for cooking. Please do not pass this bill, as everyone in Hawaii will suffer higher utility bills.

Mahalo,

Jeff

Kristen Murota
924 Manono Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720
kmurota@hawaii.edu

February 13, 2023

House of Representatives
Thirty-Second Legislature, 2023
State of Hawaii
Committee of Energy and Environmental Protection
Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Rep. Elle Cochran, Vice Chair
And other respected representatives

To whom it may concern,

My name is Kristen Murota and am a lifelong resident of Hilo, Hawaii. It brings me much concern that there is a house bill (835) trying to be passed to outlaw the use and installation of gas appliances in new construction within the State. Therefore, I am opposing HB835 which infringes on the right to choose the form of energy one prefers within their households and businesses.

With the use of gas appliances, many families are able to prepare meals, take hot baths, and have dry clothes to name a few. Living in the middle of the Pacific Ocean where there are many rural communities, some families have no other choice but to use gas appliances as they are not able to connect to electrical lines and are solely forced to use gas appliances, generators, and solar power. As great as it would be that we are equipped with sources of solar power, this too can cause problems as we live on an island where sunshine can be scarce and is not a sufficient and reliable source for extended periods of time. There has been on more than one occasion that my residence has been out of electricity due to Hawaiian Electric Companies rolling blackouts for their power conservation efforts. If it weren't for my gas appliances, I would not be able to provide hot meals for my family. With people being forced to be on the electrical grid, this means that conservation tactics will be greater and cause an even bigger strain on an already failing system. While on this subject, my mother is a resident of Hawaiian Paradise Park, and when Hurricane Iselle came and destroyed much of the Puna area restricting their access here on the Big Island, she was able to stay safely in her home with the use of these gas-powered appliances. It only seems fitting that without the proper tools, backup efforts, and a guarantee that there will be no issues with electric energy people should be given the option to choose energy options as they see fit.

Along with households, businesses that rely on naturally gassed energy will also be taking a hit. As a preferred gas stovetop cooker, it is apparent that food cooked on a gas stove has great differences from the same dish cooked on an electric stove top. Cooking times are much faster, and heat is distributed differently as well. My significant other is a small business owner of our

small own in Hilo, and his establishment relies on the use of these gas appliances. It is apparent that chefs and cooks tend to prefer gas appliances as the burners and ovens heat up faster and hold temperature better than electric appliances. There is hardly any small or large business that operates solely on electric stovetops. If this were the case and gas hookups were to be banned, the cooking times of these businesses would take a hit and could gradually affect business. This does not also cover the concern of the extra expenses of converting to electric costs. Electricity costs here in Hawaii are significantly higher than anywhere else in the continental United States. Therefore, businesses will also have to factor in another unexpected cost into their financials which can drive up prices and possibly slowly drive them out of business completely.

Finally, a major concern about HB835 is that the passing of this bill will kill hundreds of union jobs. With an already increasing poverty level, it only seems fitting that we take into consideration the struggles that families will face with losing jobs. Many families are forced to live paycheck to paycheck, with both partners needing to find jobs to support themselves and their children in an effort to stay afloat with the rising costs of living. This bill goes much further than trying to have a zero-emissions economy target. The loss of these union jobs can be detrimental to families who rely on this line of work to not only support their families but also provide them with health care and other crucial benefits. There is definitely no way we can expect these people to live comfortably after losing their jobs and being forced to pay an absurd amount for a basic need such as electricity.

With all this being said, I hope that you take this letter into deep consideration when deciding the fate of our right of choice, costs of living, local businesses, and families of those working in this field. Thank you for your time.

Best regards,

Kristen Murota

Kristen Murota

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 6:30:27 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikolai Jones	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Nikolai Jones and I am from Maui, Hawaii. I oppose this bill as it will take away my choice to have clean affordable gas for my home and my family's homes. I have been using gas all my life and had no issues with it. I would rather use gas then electric as it is a lot more consistent and has a more precise heat. It is also way safer in my opinion. If there is a problem you can smell the gas. If your electric has a problem you won't know until you get shocked! Gas provides an alternative energy that everyone can use when there are power outages and world disasters. Which has been happening alot lately. This energy can easily get food on the table, hot water, and warmth to millions of people on demand with very little work. In my eyes this is the most reliable and affordable source of energy. It would be a shame if you took away our options.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 6:34:16 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kerry Kamalii	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it would create hardship for many families and businesses. Our economy is already suffering with many restaurants closing, this would only intensify it. Many businesses and restaurants are barely surviving and forcing them to buy new appliances or limit their options would create more problems, possibly forcing them to close their doors. Many families rely on gas ranges to cook their food, some by choice and some by circumstances. Taking away the option of gas appliances really limits families' choices on how to prepare and provide food for those in their home.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 6:36:46 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Kamalii	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it would create hardship for many families and businesses. Our economy is already suffering with many restaurants closing, this would only intensify it. Many businesses and restaurants are barely surviving and forcing them to buy new appliances or limit their options would create more problems, possibly forcing them to close their doors. Many families rely on gas ranges to cook their food, some by choice and some by circumstances. Taking away the option of gas appliances really limits families' choices on how to prepare and provide food for those in their home.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 8:32:08 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John K. Kamei	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii already has one of the highest electricity rates in the US. Any type of restriction on energy choices will not only decrease reliability, but increase the cost to Hawaii home owners. We are already being inundated with higher food prices, increased property taxes, etc.

With the electrical grid already over burdened, this will simply exacerbate the energy problem.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 8:50:53 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
donovan egloria jr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My Name is Donovan Egloria Jr and I am from Mililani Mauka. I oppose this bill because it does not protect consumer choice and energy freedom. This bill will destroy hundreds off union jobs that the company employ. Hawaii is so expensive and electricity is double what it was, and now you will be forcing me to have no choice but to pay high rates. Please don't take that option away from people and restaurants

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 7:19:48 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kirstie	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii already has the highest electricity rates in the country- Restrictions on natural gas use in new buildings will add to the already increasing costs to live here and force residents to move off island. The preservation of consumer choice is a necessary condition for maintaining access to affordable and reliable energy. these bans are contributing to a trend of increasing energy costs, thereby exacerbating the problem of poverty.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 8:22:21 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lawrence Ching	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii already has the highest electricity rates in the country by far. Gas is clean burning, cost-effective, and efficient. Restrictions on natural gas use in new buildings will add to the already increasing costs to live here and would force me to highly consider relocating to the mainland. Also, we cannot forget how and what we burn (#2 and #6 oil) to produce electricity on Oahu and throughout the state. Banning gas appliances for new construction is not the answer for Hawaii's residents and businesses.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 8:41:39 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zoe Williams	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Zoe Williams and I am from Kailua. I oppose this bill because:

- I grew up cooking with gas and love it! Please don't take that option away from people and restaurants.
- Hawaii already has the highest electricity rates in the country - Restrictions on natural gas and propane use in new buildings will add to the already increasing costs to live here.
- Gas bans concentrate our energy risks on the electric grid – on Oahu, one of the dirtiest in the country. HECO is trying to go all renewable, but doesn't have the infrastructure to store energy created during the day; their old, petroleum burning plants struggle to keep up with the daily changes in demand. The electric grid is taxed to the point of failure on a daily basis.
- The preservation of consumer choice is a necessary condition for maintaining access to affordable and reliable energy. These bans are contributing to a trend of increasing energy costs, thereby exacerbating the problem of energy poverty.

I urge you to vote NO on HB 835.

Mahalo,

Zoe

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 10:38:51 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shaunee Egloria	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

New gas equipment is cheaper and it cooks my food faster. If you get rid of new gas equipment, people will lose their jobs.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 10:50:08 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Serena Alexander	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There is a house bill (H.B No. 835) that is being proposed, to ban all gas-burning appliances effective Jan. 1, 2025. This will affect all residences in the state of Hawai'i. If the bill passes new residences will no longer have the choice of choosing a gas range, gas dryer, gas water heater, and/ or gas backup generator. This bill forces homeowners to purchase all electric appliances.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 11:37:26 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Smart	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB835. Gas appliances are not a threat to our environment. I understand all the enviromental cults are pushing this type of measure all over the country, but we don't need it in Hawaii. It is all part of the climate change hoax to force us into the dark ages and perhaps cooking (if that will still be allowed) over twigs or eating everything raw. I understand that there is a global movement to stop the population from eating beef and have us eat bugs. These measures should not be forced on Hawaii residents.

Please stop wasting your time and our taxes on these outrages/useless bans and mandates. Please focus on more essential issues like solving homelessness and crime.

Do not pass HB 835. Vote NO.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 11:39:03 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Ruiz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Are you out of your minds! What happens when a hurricane hits or the power goes out? If you really care about the environment, then give pepper a tax credit for going electric.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 3:32:59 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tracy Manabe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Tracy Manabe and I am from the island of Maui. I oppose this bill as it will take away my choice to have clean affordable gas for my home. This bill will make my energy more expensive and take away my options for reliable and affordable energy.

Nobody can rely on electricity, as we always have our electric going out. This is where having gas for homes is the way to go. You can continue to cook, use hot water, or even dry your clothes if you wish to.

It is also so much cleaner for the environment.

Maui, Wailuku, Hawaii

RE: HB 835 Relating to Gas Appliances

This bill is not beneficial or even logical to the residents, businesses, and tourism of Hawaii. Electricity is an energy source however, when the electricity goes out, it leaves cities of large populations out of power for hours, sometimes even days, for HECO to resolve the issue to restore power. In that time of no heat, source to cook, places to eat or go to business establishments to get a meal, no hot showers, how is that ethical to put this bill into place?

Imagine, residents that RELY on LPG appliances, off the grid kanaka maoli, local residents who have been living this lifestyle of utilizing LPG appliances for 10-20+ years, now may need to change that because the Capitol says so? There are many who can't afford even their electric bill – reports need to be pulled from LIHEAP/MEO to compare the financial assistance requests for their Utility bills and see how many requests assistance for the electric bill compared to their LPG bill. LPG is cost efficient and affordable compared to solely electric as an energy source.

The number of hotels and restaurants that have LPG appliances. Tell us how having to change thousands of dollars of equipment would be beneficial to that business? Then having to have a significantly large electric bill to top that off, how would that business do with the economy that Hawaii has now days? We will see another mom + pop shop close, sadly. Do we need that? No! The majority of the hotels in Hawaii rely on LPG to provide hot water, heat the pools, dish washing services and commercial kitchens. The number of complaints that will come in, the number of refunds that would have to be issued, the number of non-returned tourists. The list goes on.

As this trickles down, it hits home as it will affect long-term care assistance homes, schools of all sort, small businesses, the hospitals which are the core of Hawaii. If we are for the future, for our people, we need to be innovative and be smart of the energy sources we have. We can't depend solely on ONE energy source and expect that to work 100% of the time because it will not. When something doesn't work, we move on to the next option, for example in this case, when the electricity goes out, we have our LPG appliances to depend on. The number of jobs that could be lost due to this bill is substantial. The homes you will be causing hardship in, the dependable and reliable LPG providers that would have to go out of business because of this. This is not right; it has never been right. The fact that this was even a THOUGHT process, is ignorant.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 5:12:30 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Corinne Solomon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB835. Keep the overreaching government out of our kitchens please. You all are going too far.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 5:13:28 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Remigio Dela Cruz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I live on Kauai, and we do not have the redundant electrical options that other states have. I need a backup plan to electricity. Gas is that backup plan. Please do not take that away from me.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 5:20:36 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glenn Matsunaga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Glenn Matsunaga from Kauai and I oppose HB835.

I am all for protecting our environment and our families. This bill feels more like environmentalist trying to electrify the entire world at any cost. This bill does not make me any safer, it will cost me more money, and does not provide and resiliency to my energy needs. Please do not allow this bill to go any further.

Thank you for your consideration.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 5:33:54 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Nagai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Writing in opposition of HB 835. Stop drinking the sauce. You guys are getting out of hand. You think going electric in everything is the way to go. Look up cobalt mining and look what it's doing to the people where this is happening. After seeing those videos no one in there right mind would think for one second that this is the way to go. Every company in the world who makes EV products gets it from mines like that. Gas is cheaper and with the over all cost of everything going up your only hurting the people. Stop the planes, trains, and boats from polluting first and let them set the example before coming down to the little guys. Ahhh but I guess it's easier to go after the people than big corporate businesses since it's a cheaper fight. That just shows me your character.

V/r

Scott Nagai

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 5:49:13 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas K. Beck	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it creates an undue burden for the citizens of Hawai'i. As well as, creating a monopoly of energy sources.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 5:53:20 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emerson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Finding gas alternatives will cost a lot of money that the state or the people have. We're too busy paying for the rail still to where the politicians are already pocketing the money. It will on raise cost for commercial such as restaurants that will increase cost to the consumer. We're already headed into the biggest recession yet and this will only make it happen faster. Can we do financial audits and see who benefits from this move? Who has ties. HECO has already said they are finding it difficult to provide energy with the power plant in Kapolei being cut. You politicians may not care but the people do. You work for the people, not we work for you. What happens to all the gas pipelines, is it all somehow going to 'coincidentally' end up in our drinking water just like red hill and the midwest. Dont overstep.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 5:54:07 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darin Miyashiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB835. This is government

overreach!!! This will kill Gas companies and all related gas businesses. What's next our gas cars?

Please kill this bill right away!

Mahalo

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 5:57:53 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole LeClaire	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stop with the government overreach!

The People do NOT need the nanny state to watch out for them.

Let The People be FREE.

Personal Responsibility needs to be the way things work for a Free People.

This type of bill does not serve The People.

Your job is to serve The People, NOT CORPORATIONS.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 6:41:37 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zaira herrod	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We should have a choice to choose between propane appliance and electric appliance. I know my family personally rather have propane appliance in our home for a few different reasons. It is more affordabile to have majority of our appliance on propane vs electric. Sexond, whenever we lose electric we are still able to use our propane stove to cook dinner for us. With a electric stove we would not have this option. It should be up to each individual if they want a propane appliance in there or home or not.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 6:47:31 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Cabjuan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Government overreach is ridiculous & tyrannical. Stop this madness and please OPPOSE this bill.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 6:48:17 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Kamau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in opposition to HB835 which would prohibit the use of gas appliances. The choice of appliances one chooses to use should be an individual's own personal choice and not limited or prohibited by any politician. Hawaii's geography is very diverse especially on the Big Island. Not everyone has access to electricity or can afford it therefore they depend on gas appliances. Again, the type of appliances one chooses to use should be an individual's choice and not made by any politician. As there is no climate emergency, please focus your energies on the real needs of the people in Hawaii such as affordable housing, equal access to healthcare, jobs, education, infrastructure, etc. As stated earlier, I am in opposition to HB835. Thank you.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 6:53:34 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandi Bright	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. This will only cause more hardship for the businesses and residents of Hawaii.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 7:11:22 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Lono	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in *opposition* of bill **HB835**. Trying to force people of Hawaii to go *electric* is ridiculous.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 7:31:19 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruth Love	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Gas appliances should not be banned.

Many good cooks prefer gas stoves/ovens.

Why would you eliminate consumer choice?

Thank you,

Mrs. Ruth Love

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 7:32:00 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ilihia Herrod	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The cost of housing and electricity is already high. Providing gas appliances allows homeowners & renters an alternative to decreasing financial burden.

You are monopolizing the electricity industry by forwarding this bill. Hawaiian electric is operating at only approx 30% of renewable energy and they supply 95% of the island chain. Instead of taking away options for consumers, you should instead focus on policies regarding the suppliers. Alternately, if gas is banned, solar should be incentivized. A gas tank is \$20-30 dollar and can last 2-3 months. Installing solar is thousands of dollars. A family of 4's previous electricity would cost approximately \$250, sometimes up to \$300. With a switch to gas appliances, and frequent use of appliances, that number was able to decrease by half. This may not seem like a lot, but the extra money can be used for groceries, vehicle gas, and other bills. Once again, take into consideration of the individuals/families of the consumer and housing levels. Allow those to have the option that can help with the ongoing financial crisis.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 7:53:06 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donna Thompson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am strongly opposed to this bill which is based on junk science perpetuated by the United Nations and World Economic Forum which are two very corrupt organizations. There is no climate emergency and recent data of average world temperature shows slight cooling trend over the last decade. https://www.nsstc.uah.edu/climate/2023/JANUARY/GTR_202301JAN_1.pdf

A global network of more than 500 knowledgeable and experienced scientists and professionals in climate and related fields have the honor to address to Your Excellencies the attached European Climate Declaration, for which the signatories to this letter are the national ambassadors. The general-circulation models of climate on which international policy is at present founded are unfit for their purpose.

Therefore, it is cruel as well as imprudent to advocate the squandering of trillions of dollars on the basis of results from such immature models. Current climate policies pointlessly and grievously undermine the economic system, putting lives at risk in countries denied access to affordable, reliable electrical energy. We urge you to follow a climate policy based on sound science, realistic economics and genuine concern for those harmed by costly but unnecessary attempts at mitigation.

<https://www.aei.org/carpe-diem/there-is-no-climate-emergency-say-500-experts-in-letter-to-the-united-nations/>

Representatives of Hawaii have no right to propose this type of bill without providing a solution. In Hawaii many people are on solar energy, but even solar power homes with high storage hours cannot sustain cooking, heating water, and clothes dryer. How does the state propose to solve that issue? Where is the encouragement of innovation such as hydrogen cooking and other forms of energy that have been suppressed for many decades?

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 7:56:37 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dreama Allegretti	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to bill HB835 because many families living in Hawaii do not have access to electric, including electric appliances. Many individuals and families will be without hot water, access to electricity through generators, and the ability to cook food.

Electric poles are expensive and not everyone can afford to place poles to gain access to electricity. Many properties do not have access to place poles unless 10+ more are added.

I am opposing bill HB835 because every person, family, and child deserve to have access to the basic necessities required to live and survive. Until poles are placed in rural areas where many, many, people live, this bill is absolutely ABSURD. If this bill is passed, people will not have access to basic necessities.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 8:27:07 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jesse white	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am 100% against this proposal. It's government overreach, and it's completely illogical. The only example needed to prove this bill is worthless and potentially harmful is to remember the effects of hurricane iniki. Kauai was without power and running water for a substantial amount of time. During that time if you had gas stoves, you were able to cook and boil water to sanitize. Gas stoves burn much cleaner and more efficient than the gas generators people are going to have to run in order to use their government mandated electric appliances. Makes no sense. The bill is nothing more than a virtue signal From those who wrote and sponsored the bill.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 8:35:15 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vallisa Tavares	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Are you guys absolutely crazy? I strongly oppose this bill for reasons above your comprehension. Please don't be ignorant. Do your homework.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 8:45:06 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Geyer	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Thank you for hearing HB 835.

Please support this measure in its efforts to eliminate gas appliances in new construction. A recent study shows that gas appliances in buildings cause significant health problems to the building's users.

Also, Hawaii is attempting to get to net zero, so it would contradict that goal to add more fossil fuel burning appliances that could be burning and polluting for decades.

For these reasons and many more,

Please support HB835

Mahalo,

Matthew Geyer

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 8:54:47 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Lagana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB835

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 9:11:09 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Duchess Aranaydo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi my name is Duchess Aranaydo and I live in Ainaloa on the Big Island. I oppose bill HB835. Currently in Hawaii families are experiencing great financial difficulties with very high electric bills. The cost of food has gotten to be burdensome on top of the high cost of electricity. I know of families that has a \$500 monthly bill and they have all electric appliances. My electric bill is around \$220 with the same amount of people but with both electric and gas appliances. Electricity rates are climbing higher every year. I have built and own my own home. I have and currently use a gas stove and dryer. The gas dryer allows me to conserve and control how much propane I will use in a month. Cooking on a gas stove uses less energy because it heats up faster than an electric stove or oven. When the electric goes off because of storms or rolling black outs I am still able to make a meal for my family. We have experienced this especially during hurricane season and storms. Currently we have been experiencing frequent blackouts because Helco is not able to keep up with the demand of electricity. Notice have been given to communities to conserve energy during peak hours. On a positive note households are currently using more air fryers that will cut back on usage of ovens. On the Big island a lot of families are going off grid and use propane appliances. Let the people choose their own appliances. Educate and do more workshops on solar usage. Maybe you should start with regulating all state and county buildings with your regulations before going after the hard working people. You should upgrade appliances at the schools. The school in my district still uses propane. In your bill it talks about propane causes asthma. I grew up in a home with both gas stove and heaters and never had asthma growing up. People in Hawaii gets more asthma from the active volcano that pumps out a lot of toxic chemicals. In those other states with those similar regulations when they have storms people are not able to get heat or air conditioning for several days until the electric grid can be fixed or turned back on. We have a lot of rural communities that can get cut of during storms. In conclusion stop oppressing the people. People are really are struggling and can't afford food much less higher electric bills. Thank you for your time.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 9:26:28 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JoAnn Salakielu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

What is wrong with you people?! You want to take away our gas appliances? You want us back living in grass huts with no electric, no air conditioning, no stoves, no washers and dryers? You want us driving electric cars, but where will you get the electricity to charge them from? Come on!!

I OPPOSE this bill.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 9:31:51 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
shayne pung	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly opppse this bill. I'm a native Hawaiian homestead born and raised on dhhl.. 100%
oppose.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 9:39:04 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Klink	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is an illogical bill given we encounter disasters which cut off electricity frequently and certain industries prefer the quick on and off of gas cooking appliances...this bill makes no sense also in that electricity is also created in large part by burning fossil fuels in Hawaii. Thank you and Live Aloha, Paul Klink

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 9:53:18 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cards Pintor

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 9:57:20 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lilinoe Lum	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB835, it helps off set the price of electricity. When the electricity goes out we can still cook and shower. It heats faster than electric too.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 10:08:32 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
allison vincent	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello, this bill is absurd. We live in a part of Kauai where the power goes out constantly when the wind acts up. If we weren't allowed to have a gas stove, we wouldn't be able to feed ourselves. There's nothing wrong or unsafe with gas appliances. Most chefs prefer to cook over gas flames rather than electric if given the choice. Who is this bill even for or supposed to protect? Please, stop meddling in people's private lives. Even if you can ensure that the power won't go down constantly at my house, I would not support this bill. If this goes through, people will just buy camping stoves because many don't want to deal with poor quality electric stoves.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 10:18:03 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cyerra Aiona-Owings	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Cyerra Aiona-Owings oppose this bill.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 10:39:34 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keikilani Ho	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is absolutely critical for our people to have gas appliances! This is insane! Representatives Garrett, Kapela, Lowen, Marten, and Perruso. Do you think that this bill will not affect YOUR day to day living? You were elected into office to be a representative of your community! What you are doing is working against them. It is not just gas stoves that need to be eliminated. It will be water heaters, refrigerators, clothes dryers, air conditioners, and more! These are essential to everyday living. Voting in favor of this bill will create a huge backlash in the community and I highly suggest that all the legislature OPPOSE this bill. YOU ALL WILL BE AFFECTED by it. When are you all going to start doing right by the people? The people of Hawaii are suffering. Remember that the decisions you make today, will affect not only YOU, but YOUR CHILDREN, and their children's children. HAWAII IS SUFFERING ENOUGH AS IT IS. DO RIGHT BY THE PEOPLE FOR ONCE!

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 10:51:31 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Windler	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill! Please do not take any more rights we have away from us!

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 11:00:59 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
M. Leilani DeMello	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose this bill.

M. Leilani DeMello

‘Ōla‘a, Puna, Hawai‘i

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 11:17:31 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daisy Tim	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I want to OPPOSE this HB 835 Bill . I have been using gas appliances for years and I see no reason to ban them. They work just as good as electric appliances. They have been in use for years probably before appliances were converted to electric energies.

There is a small amount of people who may have tendencies to get asthma from gas appliances, but it's the MAJORITY who are not affected. There should be data and peer review as far as the seemingly dangerous affects of gas appliances. I don't believe the climate will be affected by humans all around the world using this method of power.

Gas appliances cannot be regulated as much as electric appliances which is a way of more Big Brother surveillance techniques to have control over the population. So everyone will be accountable. This is unfair and against people's privacy.

I strongly OPPOSE this ban on gas appliances. AND I want to know what YOUR votes will be. Pro or Con. This way I will let all my neighbors know how you have voted on this bill.

Sincerely,

Daisy Tim

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 11:19:40 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark W Iobst II	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I absolutely oppose the banning of gas appliances. Power outages are common on the Big Island. Removing the option for gas appliances will greatly affect the ability of the citizens to cook food during times of significant weather events. Using propane as a fuel source is much cleaner than the alternative of either burning wood or using gasoline or diesel to operate a generator to power your house/cooking range. Besides the lack of reliability regarding electric stoves; cooking on gas is a much more enjoyable and effective method for those who enjoy cooking. You have more control of temperature by reducing flame size than you do on electric coil stoves. Residual heat is left in the coils which doesn't allow for fine adjustments. There is a reason why restaurants have gas ranges and not electric. Induction stoves which are electric are considerably more efficient than both standard electric coil stoves and gas stoves, but are also more expensive, requiring specific cookware, and have the same reliability issues as mentioned before. Gas dryers are also more efficient than electric dryers and are cheaper to operate. They run hotter and dry faster which in turn uses less electricity. Propane refrigerators are also fairly common here for those who live off-grid.

If the citizens of Hawaii want to use electric appliances over gas appliances that is their choice but it should not be a requirement of the government. This is more about control than it is for care of the environment. There are pros and cons for both types of appliances, but for my situation and those that live in Puna district gas is far superior. Please vote against the banning of gas stoves in HB 835.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 11:25:02 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Barientos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB835 because GAS is MORE AFFORDABLE than electricity. Trying to get rid of gas is absolutely ridiculous when we depend on it when there is power outages. It's not smart to get rid of one of the essential alternative power source and to go completely on electric is not dependable.

The grid will be overwhelmed so quickly that it will shut down our entire island in seconds and we do not have the manpower or resources to get all electricity back online in the event of natural disasters or accidents that causes power outages, GAS is an ESSENTIAL RESOURCE for us to have and this should never be up for discussion. With inflation rising no one will be able to afford electricity and it will directly affect our economy and our livelihood. Again, I STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS BILL! Mahalo!

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 11:29:19 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvette Guerrero	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I YVETTE GUERRERO OPPOSE HB835..

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 11:39:19 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maly Gella	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill!!!

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 11:56:04 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Barientos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE BILL HB835. Gas is more dependable than electricity. When the power goes out at least gas will be there to help all of us on this island. In the event of a natural disaster we will still have gas as a back up plan. It's not wise to stop all gas products and appliances and FORCE US to get on electricity. This is free country and we have options to choose to be on gas, our hardworking money pays for gas when we use the products and appliances so we shouldn't be forced to use only electricity. When the electric grid goes out which it has been, there's not enough man power to maintain it. This is careless and unwise! When the lights go out, are you going to band candles too? Think about how ridiculous that sounds. Again, I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB835.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 12:42:37 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvonne Alvarado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB835. This government is going too far, slowly trying to infringe on Our Rights and Liberties all in the of name "climate change". The only change Hawai'i need is to change those that created this Bill.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 2:01:36 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cameron Andrade	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 2:44:41 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Shedko	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

You have got to be kidding!

For the love of GOD, let me live my LIFE!

Allow me the LIBERTY to install a gas range. I don't want to depend on electricity in the case of a power outage due to some natural disaster, or infiltration and sabotage of our electrical grid by China, or some other enemy.

Let me PURSUE HAPPINESS boiling my pot of water on my new gas stove!

Do we really need more burdensome government regulations in this over regulated state? This is just virtue signaling! And not even allowed "in areas that are served with unreliable electric service or where it is unavailable."?!

Please, vote NO on HB835!

Respectfully, Scott Shedko

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 5:06:22 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dalene McCormick	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii electric cost is one of the highest in the nation. Hawaii residents are struggling with inflation and the high cost of living, working multiple jobs just to make ends meet. Why would you consider a bill that drives those electric costs even higher, why would our legislators force consumer choice onto only one available product type. I suspect this has nothing to do with the climate and more to do with special interests.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 5:39:53 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Wurst	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill trying to ban gas appliances in new construction. Electric appliances are not "green energy" at this point and may never become fully green. Electricity is still made mostly from non renewables. The state of Hawaii shouldn't be in the business of banning gas appliances. If the power goes out, which happens often (due to weather and even poor infrastructure), gas stoves are the only way for residents to cook food and it may end up saving lives in the long run. When everything is attached to the grid, we put ourselves in a precarious position. Relying on electricity as our one energy source is too much at this point in time. Hawaii would need to stabilize energy sources and the grid to make sure residents have back up generators, if they're going to ban the very thing that can help us when outages happen. Please don't make a hasty decision without thinking through the real human impact.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 5:40:21 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Mosk	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I 100% oppose this bill!! Save gas stoves!

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 6:01:21 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaleo Nakoa	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

In 2020 my family and I decided to install a PV system for our home to help off set the costs of the very high electricity prices. Instead, we are now paying over \$800 for electricity for a 2br/2ba townhome.

Now the very people who should be fighting for the people are part of the system that is pricing the people of Hawaii out. I'm a retired military veteran collecting my pension, working a full time job and my wife is active duty and we are still living pay check to paycheck in Hawaii. I can't imagine how hard it is for the folks that are working more for less. With this bill, you have just limited the livelihood for the families that live off grid, in places on the Big Island, Molokai etc...

Thank you to the representatives who continue to make our living situations in Hawaii even harder.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 6:40:05 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jae P	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose!

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 6:42:26 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Abellanida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. Have we lost our collective minds as a society? There is no justification for even introducing this horrible piece of legislation. Vote no!

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 6:55:38 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gillen Neff	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 7:13:47 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nichole A.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill, it ignores the events and science that is happening in "greener" countries, that have gone electric/ solar that have citizen that are suffering right now because the grid and weather cannot support them. California's new electric car plan has left their citizen unable to charge their cars because of failures in the grid and weather. Germany has their citizens resorting to wood burning because they can't support the country heat systems this winter. Forcing this "climate emergency" policies only make citizens suffer and it does kill some. Our electric bills have already gone up significantly and these "representatives" think our economy can handle higher electricity bills! Our grid and our wallets cannot endure our "representatives" pressure. It's like they don't represent us at all they represent their own pockets and business partners .

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 7:15:14 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Irvine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I unequivocally oppose this bill as there has been no thought on the impacts it would cause in the residential and commercial markets. Our politions should go after the countries that are major contributors of pollution.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 7:15:44 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judith Braaten	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Judith Braaten and I live in Mililani, Hawaii, on Oahu.

I oppose HB 835 for the following reasons:

- I, and most of my friends, love cooking with gas. It heats faster, cooks more evenly and the food just seems to taste better when it's cooked more thoroughly, with less chance of food-borne illnesses. Because it heats faster, it also means spending LESS time in the kitchen and more time with the family.
- Most stove tops in Hawaii have range hoods or exhaust vents, which helps to keep the heat down in the kitchen and focused on the range top. I don't know anyone who cooks with the windows closed, either. This is Hawaii, you know.
- The alleged studies were in Europe regarding UNVENTED gas stoves (no doubt in enclosed rooms). There has been no definitive link found between gas stoves and asthma in children in worldwide studies. This was even admitted by RMI who released the study.
- Here, in Hawaii, we don't have Natural Gas, we have SYNTHETIC and RENEWABLE Natural Gas. It is a manufactured product using waste products from other industries that are manufactured into clean-burning gas. Waste products, I might add, that would otherwise pollute the aina. We are unique in that our methods in our state HELP, not hinder, reduction in global warming, contrary to what the activists say, who have not thoroughly done their research. Campfires have more harmful emissions than synthetic natural gas, but there is no pending ban on campfires.
- The plant used to manufacture the gas, here in Hawaii, already has a low carbon footprint. In fact, the plant uses more carbon than it emits. I understand emission is much lower than 3%. Can you say the same for electric?
- When the electricity goes out, gas is still available (and the electricity, here is NOT reliable, even though electric prices continue to rise. I was told my electric bill would rise about 7%, instead, it shot up 30%, and my usage DECREASED. This is outrageous!) Without electric power, gas customers still have hot water for sanitizing, and stove tops for cooking. Banning gas appliances only increases the load on the electric grid and we can expect even MORE outages. (Solar, while helpful, is not a cure-all, as it rains somewhere in Hawaii every day, making solar not completely reliable without a backup system in place. In many areas of Hawaii, solar is not feasible at all.)

- Everything causes cancer. I am far more worried about the chemicals in GMO foods than the emissions of gas stoves. The rise in illnesses, such as ADHD and autism is no doubt due to the chemicals in the foods we eat, and our poor diet choices, and not related to the type (gas or electric) of the stove we prepare it on.
- Forcing people to replace gas stoves with electric is not financially feasible for most. The added costs and hassles could very well be the tipping point and would mean losing even more qualified people to the mainland.
- Taking away consumer choices on vague studies that have little to no relationship on how we, here in Hawaii, live, is not the answer. Rather, it seems like a push for HECO to obtain a monopoly. Without options, Hawaii is unsustainable.
- In summary, this ban is illogical, expensive and a poor choice for Hawaii and her people.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 7:19:29 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Namon Formica	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Namon Formica and I am from Kamakana at Hoakalei in Ewa Beach. I oppose this bill as it will take away my choice to have clean affordable gas for my home. This bill will make my energy more expensive and take away my options for reliable and affordable energy

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 7:21:42 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arlyn Inay	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Arlyn Inay and I am from Ewa Beach. I oppose this bill as it will take away my choice to have clean affordable gas for my home. This bill will make my energy more expensive and take away my options for reliable and affordable energy.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 7:33:40 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jessica dias	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this ridiculous bill. Before you try to virtue signal on the backs of taxpayers, based on headlines and rigged so-called scientific studies, you are obligated to read and understand those studies. Everyone knows that the gas stove study was done in a room that was sealed off with plastic sheets, resulting in the accumulation of the fumes or whatever you are pretending to protect us from. This was one experiment where the outcome determined the design. That is NOT the scientific method! This bill would cause more harm than good, especially to our struggling economy, making it more difficult for restaurants, appliance sales and services trades, and individual families to operate without the boot of big government on their necks. Know your place! Find ways to make our lives easier, not harder.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 7:45:10 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynda Williams	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Gas appliances are not what's causing climate change. Replacing gas appliances with electric appliances when the electricity generated is produced by burning gas is pointless. This bill is premature because the primary cause of climate change is a reliance on gas for energy production for people living off the grid where there is no electricity available or it's not reasonable or affordable to install solar, this would be catastrophic. Instead, people will have gas powered generators to run their electric appliances and it's a no-win situation. I would support this bill after the problem of power generation in Hawaii is solved with other sources of electricity besides burning gas.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 8:04:25 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB835.

Hawaii Legislature has declared that we are in a climate emergency. It has also set a target to be carbon net negative by 2045

- The use of gas, whether natural, propane, or synthetic results in significant greenhouse gas emissions
- This bill calls for prohibiting the installation of gas appliances in new construction thus it would result in a significant reduction in greenhouse gases
- The prohibition would result in less installed capacity that relies on gas for its source of energy
- This bill mirrors ones that have been put in place in various counties and cities in various cities and counties in California, Colorado, Maryland, New York, Oregon, and Washington
- indoor appliances dependent on gas may harm human health by leaking hazardous air pollutants inside homes even when not in use, including cancer-causing benzene, according to a recent California study. Another recent study found that gas stove pollution causes roughly 12.7 per cent of childhood asthma in the United States, on par with second-hand smoke.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 8:06:49 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judi Morris	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB835.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 8:07:38 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cherie Castanares	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill does not make sense. This will cause the costs of electricity to go even higher, overload our grid and then we'll have rolling blackout. The cost of living in Hawaii is already one of the highest in the nation. This will make life harder for the people. I strongly oppose this bill.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 8:16:56 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Kitahara	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is ridiculous. Stop trying to infringe on more of our freedoms.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 8:18:30 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Martha Stanwood	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Cooking with gas is the best way to cook. Using the "climate" to control people is criminal. It would be great if we got some methane production going on the islands (sustainable protein and sustainable gas production) instead of propping bans on gas appliances.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 8:23:15 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephen Wilson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB835

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 8:25:06 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris Hodges	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to HB835.

This is a non sensical bill that is a perfect example of government overreach.

Consumers need options. Options help keep prices lower.

Hawaii is already the most expensive state in the US to live in.. Inflation is out of control.

Gas prices are near record levels.

Much of the states electricy is produced from BURNING DIESEL FUEL.

Please vote NO on HB835.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 8:27:23 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stella Blue	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE THIS BILL! This is not progress and not what the people want! Allow people freedom and choice, which is what this country was founded on!

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 8:27:39 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcelle Liana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE this HB835

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 8:31:14 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Mock	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We OPPOSE HB835. We live on the North Shore. Electricity is interrupted a lot. We are able to provide meals to our neighbors who are dependent on electric stoves when the electricity goes off. In Pupukea, the power is interrupted so often, most residents have gas appliances, and the newer homes definitely have gas stoves. This is a bad idea, and should not be seriously considered or passed. We OPPOSE HB835! Please do not allow this bill to move forward. Thank you, Melissa & Steven Mock

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 8:34:45 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katie Acpal	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This ban would limit our community to either solar power or electric from the grid. It is common knowledge that the Tesla batteries are very difficult to dispose of and are very toxic to the environment. And it is common knowledge that the grid is very susceptible to power outages as well as being vulnerable to attacks.

There is no proof that solar/tesla barriers are safer for the environment than gas, and the grid is unreliable and makes us vulnerable as a community.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 8:34:49 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andy ozie	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

You guys are a joke for even considering this.

Stop trying to be like the mainland..

The pollutants that cause us to be unhealthy are toxic environmental exposure from Chem trails. Redhill water and now, even Haleakala water.

You have failed the people and the majority of the citizens have lost all trust and credibility in you.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 8:55:51 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adriel Lam	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Why are you banning a life-saving alternative? Are you not concerned that when the power grid is down, or when disaster strikes that whole communities will not have options to boil water, cook food or even to power appliances?

My solar water heater works great in the summer. On hot and sunny days, I can enjoy plenty of scalding hot water. On cold, cloudy and stormy days, not so much. The electric water heater kicks in. It's okay, it's never hot enough, and then it consumes more energy as there's not enough hot water.

This is legislation is an overreach of political power, based on deeply flawed assumptions, and illogical projections. We don't need 20-/30-year plans to solve a crisis. The people know how to adapt, innovate, improvise, and overcome. If we do need to adjust, we don't need legislation to further restrict, hamper, and destroy in an attempt to fix something. We do need legislation to free our hands to do what is necessary to adapt, innovate, improvise, and overcome.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 8:56:52 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Bergin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We are not climate skeptics nor climate alarmists. We simply seek the truth. in the past 10 years has the average temp in Hawaii increased or decreased. Regarding severe weather has the weather become more or less severe. Frequency & Severity for flooding/drought/hurricanes. Based on the data is there even a plausible reason to be concerned ??? If so what is the average/median income for Hawaii vs what would the average price increase be for any stated infrastructure investment ??? Cause vs Effect ??? Is there quantifiable data to substantiate any infrastructure investment ??? What would the cost be ??? What is the predicted outcome & in what time frame ??? Thanks in advance for you taking the time to respond to our questions ...

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 8:56:57 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Now that we know that gas appliances leak unhealthy gas, and we aim to lower emissions, it makes sense to prohibit possibly dangerous gas appliances in new construction.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 9:04:02 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Polido	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this because we rely on gas in our home.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 9:10:00 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glen Miguel-Matsumoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I heavily oppose HB 835.

With average electricity price rates ranging from around 30 cents (for residents of Hawai'i) to nearly 40 cents per kW (For business usage), prohibiting gas appliances from being installed in new construction projects will not help for the average citizen in Hawai'i. And this is especially when the bill does not take considerations of those extremely high electricity rates.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 9:12:51 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Lilinoe Darlene Yong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE HB 835. We can't rely on only 1 source of engery. Hawaiian Electric pays 10 cents per kilowatt to buy electricity that homeowners store. However, if you concume MORE than you produce, you buy the electricity for 30 cents per kilowatt. Photovoltaic is NOT producing income for Windward Oahu residents because the wind, rains, cloud keep moisture in the air, the earth doesn't heat up enough to produce electricity. OPPOSE HB 835. It is misleading to believe that it is best for the environment and the people.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 9:31:58 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauravelle Lewis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am strongly taking advantage of my rights as citizens to provide testimony to the Hawaii State Legislature to and:

I VOTE NO on HB835.

This measure will PROHIBIT the use of gas appliances (stoves, water heaters etc) in new construction starting January 2025.

Many people do not know this, but the federal Energy Information Administration estimates that 77% of Hawaii's power comes from burning fossil fuels, mostly oil and some coal.

How does banning gas stoves help? I am all for clean energy but this measure will just limit our options in the future and with that comes more expense.

Plus who does not love flame broiled burgers and steaks! This is not politics, this is just common sense.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 9:32:17 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shigemi Okada	Manoa HRP District 22	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Gas is clean energy, and has been used safely for decades if not over a hundred years around the world. Do not legislate the energy options for the Hawaii state residents. This is not what we would like you to spend time working on. Please respect the intelligence of your constituents.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 9:33:34 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ellen benton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it is nonsensical. If the state of Hawaii cannot provide adequate electricity to the citizens of Hawaii then it's not feasible to ban gas appliances in the coming years. Much of the Big Islans relies on gas to power their off grid homes, so banning gas powered appliances is a way of taking freedom and power away from the people. Those in office need to remember they work for the tax payers not the other way around. We will not tolerate having our freedoms stripped by government overreach.

I urge my senators to oppose this bill!

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 9:52:20 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brendan Owings	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Brendan Owings

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 9:57:45 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
neal okada	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

All expenditures of energy have consequences. There is no justifiably sufficient reason to ban gas stoves while there is no energy source to replace the production of electricity in quantities that can sustain demands. The energy source to replace gas needs to be in place before banning means to power homes and businesses. If you get further with geothermal or nuclear or tidal generation then lets talk, otherwise dont think HECO can produce more energy without fossil fuel generating plants.

The ban will affect Gaspro and The Gas Company businesses and their employees.

What restaurants or chefs or foodies relish not being able to use gas in their art of cooking?

Seriously reconsider proposing more worthy bills.

Neal Okada

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 10:20:16 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Benavente	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha HB835 Committee,

NO on HB835!

STOP attempting to make Hawaii the FIRST in your agenda! We the People in Hawaii are not proud of your efforts and are concerned of the LONG TERM affects especially on our Ohana! Something I thought all of you consider before making some of these concerning laws.

HB 835 is NOT REASONABLE, NOT AFFORDABLE, AND LACKS COMMON SENSE AS WELL AS HONEST & ACCURATE RESEARCH ON GREEN HOUSE EMISSIONS FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE ISSUE!

EMISSIONS ...?

DO NOT COMPARE US TO OTHER COUNTIES, CITIES ON THE CONTINENT let alone DC! We are islands in the middle of a great ocean, not a city in a vast land.

E ALA E LEGISLATORS, E ALA E! WAKE UP LEGISLATORS WAKE UP TO WHAT IS PONO, RIGHTEOUS, NOT TO AN AGENDA!

UA MAU KE EA O KA AINA I KA PONO

THE LIFE OF THE LAND IS PERPETUATED IN RIGHTEOUSNESS not an AGENDA.

MAHALO NUI, ANN BENAVENTE

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 10:28:57 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deirdre Madrid	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is government overreach. We don't have the infrastructure for it. Who does this bill benefit?
Not the working class.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 10:51:04 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Wurst	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB 835, as it relates to protecting the environment, is fundamentally flawed. The assumption that banning gas appliances would save the environment is ground not in science but in the personal interests of those who benefit financially from “alternative energy” and those who lack critical thinking skills.

The report cited as proof of the dangers of gas appliances, specifically stoves, was authored by individuals with an agenda. If we are to believe that gas stoves pose a threat because of methane emissions, then most certainly, we should outlaw rice, as rice paddies have been proven to be large producers of methane. Additionally, methane is the cleanest burning fossil fuel. To ban gas appliances would necessitate the installation of electric stoves. In Hawaii, we are still heavily reliant on fossil fuels to power gas appliances to generate electricity. Does the State of Hawaii intend to promote greater reliance on fossil fuels? Or, as I suspect, there are individuals promoting biofuels that may further negatively impact our environment. These “environmental warriors” stand to gain financially while inflicting hardship on the citizens of Hawaii while having no real positive impact on the environment.

This act is a knee-jerk reaction to flawed science. It wreaks of virtue signaling with no logic. If you were truly interested in caring for the environment, you would immediately address the homeless encampments that pollute the islands and the myriad of abandoned cars that leach oil and gasoline into the soil and eventually run into the ocean. HB 835 is a hollow attempt to address real issues. It obfuscates real needs and legitimate applications of science and logic to help the people of Hawaii.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 10:56:07 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tatiana Maumausolo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

stop with your climate agenda! stop trying to micromanage us! you've got bigger problems to worry about! enough already!

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 11:26:04 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawn Koehler	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB385 for multiple reasons.

I live in a rural area of Hawaii island and HELCO power lines do not reach all properties in our subdivision. Renewable energy, like solar, is a dream for many, but unfortunately, not feasible due to cost. Gas stoves and water heaters make it possible to cook and have hot water without HELCO.

Another challenge we have here are the many vehicle accidents that occur on our roads that damage power poles and power lines. Losing electricity during the times of these accidents happens too frequently to count. This makes gas appliances a necessity during these times. In one instance, it was almost 24 hours before some places had their electricity restored.

A final reason is the HELCO grid itself. There have been numerous occasions where we have been asked to limit our usage so as to not overload the grid. If all of our households depended on electricity for cooking and hot water, I am not sure the current grid would be stable during peak use times.

Thank you

Dawn Koehler

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 11:26:53 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leah Aquino	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Gas appliances have stood the test of time. This legislation idea is ridiculous.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 12:16:03 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marianne Cagampang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to say I opposed this bill, HB-835.

Us that live in rural area, like Ocean View, Hawaii is already suffering with these high gas prices, that you have not resolved yet. We commute from Ocean View to Kona and paying over \$5 a gallon for gas., now you want to also increase our propane gas which will affect our cooking, showering, and for some their refrigerators.

When I reached out to Me. Kapela she stated that we have tax breaks, whether you realize it or not these tax breaks actually don't help us. This year we all are getting back a whole lot less from taxes so these tax breaks do not work.

Please stop killing the people that live paycheck to paycheck. We are suffering so bad now in this economy. And you still trying to strip us of our basic necessities. Propane is needed, and it's a whole lot cheaper than your green deal.

I say NO to HB-835

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 12:32:26 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steve Chang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Gas has long been the lifeline in Hawaii during heavy weather conditions and power outages. Banning gas could leave residents and businesses without critical energy - while the electric grid is restored.

Hawaii has the highest electricity rates in the country and one of the most expensive cities to live. Restrictions on natural gas use will add to the increasing costs. This ban will contribute to problems of energy reliability and affordability.

According to the Energy Information Administration (EIA), the shift to natural gas for electricity generation resulted in 57% more emissions reductions than renewables from 2005-2018.

With a balanced approach, we can achieve our clean energy goals and preserve choice, while minimizing disruption and cost.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this matter.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 12:34:02 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Traci Palermo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I understand the concerns for the increase in health issues due to indoor use of propane appliances but propane has been the livelihood for my family my whole life. My father started a small business about 28 years ago that sells propane and propane appliances, along with repairs. Since being in business for almost 3 decades we have developed a relationship with our customers and notice a large part of the population live remotely on the island of Hawaii and run their house off propane. What will happen to all the people that rely on propane? Not just us as a business but our customers, the residents of the island of Hawaii.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 12:49:54 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angelo Palermo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have grown up with propane my whole life. my father owns a small business for 28 years that sells propane and propane appliances with repairs. I have worked for him for over 15 years and noticed that most of the residence and busiesses on the island of hawaii run off propane. what will happen to our business and our customers? Also i do not agree with the study that has to do with health issue when it is a study based in california. propane has become this islands way od life, off grid living.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 1:01:04 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Clark	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This Bill is very intrusive..It is also only going to hurt low income and remote Counties as well as the mostly minority owned restaurants. Including all laundry mats AND Restaurants. 100 PERCENT of the coffee farms on the Islands use Propane to dry and roast there coffee..Rural Counties use propane for hot water and cooking and some use it as generator fuel. Why would you even CONSIDER such a racist bill . IT only hurts the poor and working class of Hawaii.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 1:04:13 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Damien Dias-Elderts	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am an employee of a small business for the past 6 years that sells propane and propane appliances along with repairs. I have noticed that a large portion of residences and business for the island of hawaii run off of propane. Off the grid living has become this islands way of life. What will happen to the businesses like us and our customers?

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 1:31:29 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Grunke	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have been and working for 10 years for a small business that sells propane and propane appliances with repairs on the island of hawaii. Over the years i realized that a large majority of the island is working off grid. they rely on us to run their homes. what will happen to business like us and our customers?

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 1:43:48 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Camlyn Pola	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is ridiculous! I strongly oppose this bill. Electric prices are constantly increasing and the people of Hawai'i are suffering financially. Gas appliances should always be an option or Ohana here in Hawai'i. Mahalo for your consideration!

Camlyn Pola

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 2:52:06 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tania victorine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Let people have a choice to choose. Gas appliances in homes are an affordable option with crazy electricity prices these days

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 3:39:49 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalawai'a Goo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stronly Opposed

This is an uninformed bill, incredibly uninformed. This bill should never have made it through the "passing thought" process.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 3:49:52 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
julie schaus	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB 835

this is ridiculous governmental overreach, the biggest Carbon footprint is made by private air travel of politicians and global elite, stop that first! Leave our food alone

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 3:56:57 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg schaus	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB835

stop the madness. Air travel, multi million dollar home builds and pool construction should be on your radar. Leave we the people alone to cook our dang food without the high cost of electricity. Maybe you want us to go back to wood stoves?

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 4:02:59 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sam schaus	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB 835

the government has no legal right to mandate how we cook our food. Go after air travel of the rich and politicians. The real polluters,

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 4:05:15 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danica Ann Marie Barretto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There are an abundance of residents that live off grid and rely of gas appliances. Puna (Hilo occasionally) gets electricity outages all the time. Electric is unreliable! Electric is control! Taking power and freedom from the people you serve. You politicians forget or just plain don't care who you serve and what your purpose is!

Don't use this bs "unsafe" excuse! It's the people's decision what they choose to have or use in their homes it's not up to you political figures to dictate what people choose.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 4:13:28 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordan Urbanovich	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Banning gas stoves would be racist against Asian cultures residing in Hawaii. Many styles of Asian cuisine use [Wok cooking](#), the delicious effects of which cannot be replicated with an electric stove. These families would not be able to cook their traditional foods in their own home.

That said, for this reason banning gas stoves would also likely put many locally-owned restaurants out of business because they would no longer be able to cook their dishes to their own standards.

Banning gas appliances would also be unfair to those of us living in neighborhoods that suffer from weather-induced power outages. How will we cook when the grid goes down?

If Hawaii wants to do something about climate change, maybe it should start by banning private jets from its airports.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 4:38:28 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
heather culp	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB835.

It is NOT the governnet's business whether or not a home chooses a gas or electric stove. There is NO danger to using a gas stove. In addition many people in this state live off-grid and it's not possilbe to use an electric oven or stove on a humble solar system.

I am appaled at this government overreach in their attempt to decide for its citizens what type of stove they can use.

OPPOSE HB835

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 4:59:37 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyle Ginoza	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Kyle Ginoza and I live in Wailuku on Maui. I am in opposition of this bill. I have friends that are chefs and they do not want to cook with electric appliances. I also believe in providing citizens options, particularly since electricity costs are so exorbitant. Until there is a viable alternative to gas use, please do not restrict the community.

PLEASE DO NOT PASS THIS BILL. OPPOSE!

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 5:11:30 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lyn Moler	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a bad idea for Hawai'i; Please stop over reaching legislators!

Historically, hurricanes, earthquakes, storms and rain bring down electric lines and/or cause power outages that can last for days. Additionally, HECO charge per kilowatt hour is extremely high due to the cost of gas prices, UNION employee and EXEC salaries.

According to The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, "Americans should be able to CHOOSE to switch from gas to electric, and if so, there is support available—Congress passed the [Inflation Reduction Act](#) which includes a \$840 rebate, Natural gas stoves are currently used in about a third of households in the U.S., or about [40 million homes](#)."

Their action plan mentions for FY 2023:

23339 - Chronic Hazards: Rulemaking Activities By March 1, 2023, staff will prepare and submit to the Commission a Request for Information (RFI) to seek public input on hazards associated with gas stoves and proposed solutions to those hazards.

The National Asthma Council recommends, "A simple measure parents can take to reduce the harmful effect of gas cooking is to use a high efficiency range hood that carries air contaminants outside rather than recirculating it indoors. Those without an exhaust hood should consider opening their windows during and after cooking."

So please consider this action in the year 3000, and please FOCUS on CLEAN WATER and affordable housing and food for island NATIVES.

MAHALO NUI LOA...

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 6:09:34 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wai'ala Ahn	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly Oppose HB835 and the long term impact it will have for our island community and those living off grid using alternative sources for cooking, heating, etc.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this bill and please Oppose HB835

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 6:11:37 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaimana Cameron	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Kaimana Cameron and I am from Kaneohe. I oppose this bill because this bill will kill hundreds of union jobs and hurt or kill many buisnesses/careers in the state of hawaii. Many commercial businesses uses gas appliances to cook, heat water, and for sanitation purposes that electrical appliances may not do as effeciently or as good as gas appliances. Many chinese and korean restraunts need the gas appliances because they need the flame to heat many of their pots and pans so they can good their food effeciently and well so people do not get sick from under cooked food. You will hurt the buisnesses that bring in gas appliances and parts for the state of hawaii tremendously that may eventually lead to shutting down or laying off people from their careers that help support their families and paying their bills. Gas appliances also helped and will help people survive hurricanes and tropical strom from the past and in the future. If everyone has electric appliances and the electric goes out during a hurricane or storm and is trapped in their houses, how will they cook the food that they need to survive? How will they heat their water to sanitize dishes and things so they dont get sick? Gas in hawaii is a synthetic natural gas that is affordable and reliable energy. With me bringing up affordable we already had electrical prices rise which hawaii already has the highest electricity rates in the country when we already have a issue with people not being able to afford housing because they cant afford rent and utilities. Those are the two main things you need to be able to afford to have a roof over your head and be able to servive. We are basically forcing people into homelessness (which we already have a issue with) or move away from the state of hawaii, which will effect the economy tremondously. Tourist industry will be affected as well because it will hurt the restraunts in waikiki that may close down because they cant keep up with the ammount of people that want to eat at those restraunts will then make people not want to eat there or eventually leave which will effect the businesses income. This bill does not protect consumer choice and energy freedom. Restrictions on new natural gas hookups are a costly and unnecessay imposition on Hawaiian residents and businesses this ban will contribute to problems of energy reliability and affordability. Thank you for hearing my testimony and I hope you guys make the right decision.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 6:17:48 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tammy Fox	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill/measure is not in the best interest of the citizens of Hawaii. There are many communities where gas is the only options for powering appliances. The electrical infrastructure just simple does not exist in all areas to make having electric appliances possible. Also, has it been taken into consideration where the power for electrical appliances comes from? It takes fossil fuels or coal to power electrical plants and to provide the electricity needed for electric appliances. As a citizen who lives off grid and powers our home via solar, having electric appliances is not feasible. I understand the want and need to protect our environment, however, measures and bills like this do not seem to take into consideration the execution of said bill/measure or the infrastructural impact it will have on an already failing and insufficient power grid.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 6:52:24 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Taylor	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am standing firm against this bill, as I use gas appliances in my home, and have for years with no concern. I know many people who live off grid and cannot use conventional electronic appliances such as an oven/stove/dryer.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 7:35:50 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jan Gomes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

I think it's very foolish to create an "electric" only state when we already don't have the infrastructure to support it. It's also more costly for businesses and home owners. We have PV and the hoops you have to jump through with the electric company and not to mention the expense of the PV system itself makes it not worth it. All this bill does is hurt the middle and lower classes which is most of the state at this point.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 9:56:11 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Marsocci	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

With electricity being the highest in the nation I don't understand how this could be a good thing. I have all gas appliances and in a 1500sqft home my utility bills are around \$200/month. If my house was all electric it would be upwards of \$450-\$500/month. This is not an economical choice for most of your constituents. This is a hard no!! Please vote NO!!

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 10:22:41 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessie Cleghorn	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is completely unnecessary.

Gov't, PLEASE TRUST YOUR CITIZENS!

we have common sense, we can take care of our own homes.

this is ludacris! Think again. PLEASE KILL THIS BILL. This is government overreach!

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/16/2023 2:02:04 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Halina Yin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose the ban of gas appliances. Electricity has sky rocketed and continues to increase without cease due to the monopoly the Hawai'i government officials allow. Many areas of Hawai'i experience rainy seasons which in turn would make solar operate poorly. Many families on low income or those off grid utilize gas as a way to combat the need for large electric use. This band would set them back even more. It is we the people's decision on which appliances work well for our households, not the government.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/16/2023 5:56:54 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Shinkawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

RNG GAS IS CRITICAL TO HAWAII'S SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

Banning direct use of gas will cut residents off from access to renewable natural gas created by processing organically grown agricultural feedstock in Hawaii through anaerobic digestion.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/16/2023 6:49:23 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christy Ceraso	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

The people of Hawaii need the option to utilize gas stoves to prepare their food. The power grid in Hawaii is very unstable and in many cases unavailable. There are many storms and hurricanes here, and people are often cut off from the power grid. Many people in Hawaii live off grid out of necessity, and gas cooking is the only option for their homes. Gas had also also more affordable than electric, and many people here are economically poor and need this option. The idea of banning gas stoves is not only impractical, it is cruel and bizarre and should be completely discarded.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/16/2023 7:14:03 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jerome cantin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern;

In regards to HB835 Please oppose this bill It will put undue hardship on our citizens and we do not have adequate infastructure now perhaps in furture. Instead if you feel the need for this bill please put out for a vote by the citizens and let the people decide Thank you for your time
Jerome Cantin

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/16/2023 7:32:14 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Goddard	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My husband and I are registered voters for Hawaii island and we oppose the proposed ban on Gas appliances. As a homeowner that lives in a rural part of Hawaii island, we use propane for cooking and for hot water. We find it more efficient than electric especially due to the high cost of electricity in Hawaii. We also believe that it's important to have more than one choice for cooking or heating due to the possibility of power outages related to storms or fallen trees. Many voters live off grid and to remove the option of gas appliances is not feasible. Please reconsider.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/16/2023 8:02:16 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Devik	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I currently live in Ka'u district and most people I have met use a propane appliance for something at their place of residence. Generally I lean towards green renewables but I don't believe banning propane is the green energy solution we need to consider right now. I strongly oppose a propane ban.

Currently I am using propane for heating water, cooking, and refrigeration. Scores of individuals are surviving because of propane appliances while they wait years for their permits to go through. This action will absolutely CRIPPLE people that are struggling to make their lives work as it is.

Propane is a relatively environmentally friendly option. It is much cleaner and more affordable than gas generators, which is what many people will be forced to turn to...they will create more emissions and be worse for the environment.

This move to action is so disconnected from the reality most of us are coping with right now. I won't even begin to address how unprepared the infrastructure is to manage this sort of ban.

There have been power rations for people connected to the grid over here. Brown outs. Hawaii's power grid relies heavily on burning FOSSIL FUELS and has trouble keeping up with the demand it currently has. I understand that a push for renewable energy is important, but a propane ban is only going to hurt families, the elderly, and low income populations. There is also already a burn ban, which exacerbates this issue.

I would argue that a propane ban would cause a SERIOUS crisis. Especially for many living on the Big Island.

How about cleaning up the grid first...

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/16/2023 8:13:56 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kristen c	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is absolutely ridiculous. Strongly oppose. When are lawmakers going to look at the actual problems?! Go after the big corporations actually polluting our planet, not individual citizens.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/16/2023 10:28:47 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Whitney Harvey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi, I'm writing to vehemently oppose this bill.

So many of the Big Island's neighborhoods are built off the electric grid, a result of decades of corruption and selfish acts at the state level from Honolulu based representatives in our blemished past. You would think the recent lava flows would have alerted our officials to the utter lack of care they have shown to these neighborhoods and residents, but alas they present a bill that would be extremely challenging to comply with for these off-grid neighborhoods. We already have a huge issue with people constructing without permits here, a result of our understaffed building and planning department (no surprise, who can work for \$500/week here and still ends meet,) this bill will only drive MORE unpermitted building in areas that are off-grid, which in turn will limit real property tax income and safety/code regulations. It's compounding the risk on the at-risk (read: no insurance, dangerous building practices, people driven to those communities because of the increase in home prices due to tourism and lack of development for residents, etc.) Additionally on this topic I would venture to bet any house in any one of these off-grid communities, who are going to be mostly impacted by this bill, are more energy efficient than any home the legislators who wrote this bill live in (probably 2-3x over.)

Adding the commercial limitations will only further the struggle for small businesses here. We have a huge lack of commercial capacity for small restaurants and limiting propane stoves will only lessen the likelihood a commercial development will include restaurant space. Small restaurants and businesses are the lifeblood of our community, we all know working for wages has its limits and to stifle small businesses would be to stifle your constituents potential wealth building/ripple effect in the community. Plus, small businesses like restaurants play a huge role in our community connectedness, supporting local farmers, etc.

Lastly, the idea that limiting the use of propane stoves and switching to electric stoves is going to lessen our dependence on fossil fuels is a gimmick. I live less than 100 yards from the power plant in my town and I can hear the diesel generator from my house cranking power out to our homes and businesses DAILY. So, unless the entire grid is going to be replaced with solar, wind, geothermal, hydro or something other than fossil fuel, this bill is a feel good joke that doesn't accomplish its goals. I'd rather see a bill mandating HELCO switch their power to something renewable or allow a proper buy-back like net metering which actually incentivized homeowners to upgrade to PV instead of the agreement they offer now which incentivises more grid-dependence, more profit for them. Or better yet a competitor in the power industry! We pay 76%

times more than the next most expensive state in the country, and now they are charging us a "green infrastructure fee" so we can pay for them to get current with the times?

I'm sorry this bill is just another stab to the residents of Hawai'i and I can't support it.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/16/2023 10:58:57 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clark Goebel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Regulating if individuals want to use gas appliances or not is a major government overreach. People should be able to decide how they want to cook. It's ridiculous that is even on the table.

HB-835

Submitted on: 2/16/2023 11:04:51 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/16/2023 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doreen Trudeau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is the most ridiculous bill I have ever heard of. Banning gas stoves.....? Seriously???? Aren't there more important and serious concerns that the legislature should deal with? For anyone who cooks, they know that gas is the preferred stove.

Occupy your time with problems that will improve the lives of your constituents.