



**Hawaiian
Electric**

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE**

HCR 43 / HR 38

**REQUESTING HAWAIIAN ELECTRIC COMPANY TO CONDUCT A STUDY TO
IDENTIFY AND REMOVE ANY REDUNDANT UTILITY POLES ON OAHU.**

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

2:00 p.m., Agenda Item #8

State Capitol, VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE, Conference Room 329

Paul Nakagawa
Supervisor, Joint Pole
Hawaiian Electric Company

Aloha Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Paul Nakagawa, and I am testifying on behalf of Hawaiian Electric Company **in opposition** of HCR 43 / HR 38.

Hawaiian Electric is already aggressively working with joint pole owners and attachers to identify and remove redundant utility poles, also known as “double poles,” on Oahu, so this resolution is unnecessary. Many of the double poles are the result of incomplete transfers of lines and other equipment from the double pole by other utilities, and the lack of notification that such changeovers were complete so that the appropriate party could remove the double pole. We want to clarify also that there are other redundant utility poles that do not belong to Hawaiian Electric, and therefore are not the responsibility for Hawaiian Electric to remove.

In 2018, we estimated from our pole records that Hawaiian Electric had approximately 12,100 backlog double poles in our fleet of poles on Oahu. Since then, through field audits, coordination and follow up with other utilities, and select

communication line transfer work and double pole removal by contractors, approximately 4,700 backlog double poles on Oahu that we are responsible for have been removed.

When double poles are found to be at risk through maintenance inspections or through follow up from customer inquiries, priority is placed on such poles to address the risk. If it is determined that work is required by other utilities attached to our poles, we promptly notify them to complete their changeovers and notify us when they are complete so that the appropriate party can remove the double pole.

We also want to clarify the paragraph on line 7, where it states that “Hawaiian Electric owns over 100,000 utility poles on the island of Oahu.” Hawaiian Electric owns approximately 70,000 poles on Oahu, both solely and jointly.

Hawaiian Electric is committed to ensuring public safety and reducing the risk from redundant utility poles we are responsible for removing. Hawaiian Electric is actively working towards removing double poles and is in the process of performing an audit to confirm its pole records. Accordingly, the Hawaiian Electric is already doing what this resolution is encouraging and therefore **opposes** HCR 43 / HR 38.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.