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Statement of  
**MIKE MCCARTNEY**  
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE**

Tuesday, April 5, 2022  
2:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

**HCR 46/HR41**  
**REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE TO ENGAGE THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT PRESENCE WITHIN THE STATE OF HAWAII.**

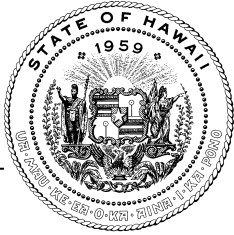
Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism strongly supports HCR 46/HR 41, which requests the Hawai'i State Energy Office to engage the United States Department of Energy (USDOE) to establish a permanent presence within the State of Hawai'i.

DBEDT is ready and willing to assist HSEO in pursuing this effort. The USDOE is a strategic partner to the State of Hawai'i in achieving Hawai'i's clean energy goals and transforming Hawai'i into a knowledge-based, zero emission, digital, and global economy. Many DBEDT agencies and numerous businesses across the state engage the USDOE through numerous initiatives.

A permanent presence for the USDOE in Hawai'i would deepen this partnership to accelerate Hawai'i's transformation, enable the USDOE to better assist other jurisdictions with undertaking these transformations, and enhance the United States' ability to engage with partners throughout the Pacific region to enhance national security through economic prosperity and fighting climate change.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit this testimony.



# HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

SCOTT J. GLENN  
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

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Testimony of  
**SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer**

before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE**

Tuesday, April 5, 2022  
2:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

**SUPPORT  
HCR 46 / HR 41  
REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE TO ENGAGE THE UNITED  
STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT PRESENCE  
WITHIN THE STATE OF HAWAII.**

Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports HCR 46 / HR 41, which requests the Hawai'i State Energy Office to engage the United States Department of Energy (USDOE) to establish a permanent presence within the State of Hawai'i.

The USDOE has been a critical partner to the State of Hawai'i in achieving its clean energy goals and economic transformation. As noted in HCR 46 / HR 41, the Legislature designated HSEO as the lead agency for the Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative, a partnership between the USDOE and State of Hawai'i. The Legislature further tasked the Chief Energy Officer to "Coordinate the State's energy programs with those of the federal government, other territory and state governments, the political subdivisions of the State, departments of the State, and governments of nations with interest in common energy resources." 196-72(d)(4), HRS.

Since the re-establishment of HSEO as an independent attached agency to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT), HSEO has pursued its statutory responsibilities diligently in a way to increase public support of and confidence in Hawai'i's renewable energy transition and US leadership on renewable energy and climate change mitigation.

A permanent USDOE presence in Hawai'i would accelerate the leadership and transformation of Hawai'i toward a resilient, clean energy economy. In addition to the policy leadership cited in HCR 46 / HR 41, Hawai'i is leading in innovative project development and execution. Hawai'i's unique geography and discrete energy systems serve as models for testing and demonstrating effective policies and technologies. For example, O'ahu now has more distributed rooftop solar generation than produced by any one power plant. Through the Powering Past Coal Task Force, Hawai'i is pioneering the level of coordination needed to reliably retire Hawai'i's last coal plant and replace it with renewable energy projects. Kaua'i has achieved approximately 70% renewable energy for electricity eight years ahead of its 2030 target and is currently planning an innovative pumped storage hydroelectric project to achieve the next 20% of its target. Moloka'i has a grassroots community-led renewable energy transition underway. Many of these initiatives have received support from the USDOE through its various programs and national labs. A permanent presence in Hawai'i would deepen and further integrate these collaborations.

Concurrent with the Biden-Harris Administration's Justice40 Initiative, HSEO has been intentionally including an equity viewpoint in its office, structure, planning, programming, and projects. As HSEO works to more equitably advance Hawai'i's clean energy and climate goals, a successful path to a clean-energy and carbon-free economy requires green economic development innovation that creates living-wage jobs while enhancing environmental and social justice. To this end, HSEO partnered with other state and county agencies to establish the Energy Equity Hui focused on creating energy equity and justice programming outcomes.

As an example of practice, this is also the second year that three full-time AmeriCorps Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) service members are contributing to HSEO's efforts to make clean energy and clean transportation more accessible and affordable for all Hawai'i residents. The VISTAs, part of the Climate Ready Hawai'i VISTA-AmeriCorps cohort coordinated by the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, were selected for their ability and commitment to help strengthen HSEO's capacity to serve vulnerable and under-represented communities.

The HSEO has also launched a new Clean Energy Wayfinder program through the Kupu 'Āina Corps program, which the Legislature funded in Act 181 last year, and in partnership with Hawai'i community and energy industry stakeholders. The purpose of the program is to advance Hawai'i's clean energy goals and create jobs for a new generation of clean energy leaders while addressing inequities in vulnerable communities. Increasing vocalized community concerns about energy projects' benefits and impacts on host communities have made it clear that a deliberate and more intentional effort must be made to reach out to and include everyone in Hawai'i to more effectively, efficiently, and equitably achieve our 100% clean energy and carbon free economy goals. The Wayfinders serve as liaisons between communities and energy industry stakeholders by working with host community organizations, especially those in low-to-moderate income (LMI), asset limited, income constrained, employed (ALICE), or under-resourced communities with existing or planned renewable energy projects. The Wayfinders will co-create strategies for sharing information, providing referrals to resources, and facilitating community input regarding energy efficiency and renewable energy policy, program, and project development. This will help increase energy conservation and efficiency, lower monthly energy utility bills, increase access to clean transportation and renewable energy resources, and promote green career training and employment opportunities.

Lastly, Hawai'i, as a US State centered in the Pacific, regularly engages in international diplomatic relations. Hawai'i's clean energy leadership has resulted in partnerships directly with countries and islands across the Pacific. The Biden-Harris Administration has identified clean energy and climate technology, investment, and policymaking as critical tools for the Indo-Pacific National Security Strategy. As Hawai'i is also the home to the Department of Defense's presence in the Indo-Pacific region, having a permanent USDOE presence in Hawai'i would enhance not only Hawai'i's engagement and support for the Biden-Harris Administration's objectives, but collaboration between the USDOD and USDOE on national security.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

TESTIMONY OF  
JAMES P. GRIFFIN, Ph.D.  
CHAIR, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
STATE OF HAWAII

TO THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

April 5, 2022  
2:00 p.m.

Chair Johanson and Members of the Committee:

**MEASURE:** H.C.R. No. 46 / H.R. 41

**TITLE:** REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE TO ENGAGE THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT PRESENCE WITHIN THE STATE OF HAWAII.

**POSITION:**

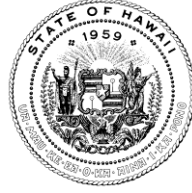
The Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) supports these resolutions and offers the following comments for consideration.

**COMMENTS:**

The Commission supports these resolutions, which intend to engage the U.S. Department of Energy to establish a permanent presence within Hawaii.

Federal assistance in support of the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative has been important to the State’s current progress on clean energy goals. The Commission is willing to provide support, as needed, to the Hawaii State Energy Office in these efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN  
LT. GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

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CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN  
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs**

**Before the  
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
Tuesday, April 5, 2022  
2:00 PM  
Conference Room 329 & Videoconference**

**On the following measure:  
HCR46/ HR41, REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE TO  
ENGAGE THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TO  
ESTABLISH A PERMANENT PRESENCE WITHIN THE STATE  
OF HAWAII**

Chair Johanson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dean Nishina, and I am the Executive Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Division of Consumer Advocacy. The Department supports this resolution.

The purpose of this resolution is to request the Hawaii State Energy Office to engage the United States Department of Energy (USDOE) to establish a permanent presence within the State of Hawaii. This resolution also requests that "all departments and agencies with energy-related duties and responsibilities . . . support the Chief Energy Officer in this endeavor".

As noted in the resolution, there is a well-established history of collaboration between the USDOE and Hawaii with respect to Hawaii's clean energy and climate goals. As Hawaii continues to push forward with its transition, the need for assistance in many areas, such as technology, research, and education to name a few examples,

will increase. The need for such assistance will become even more pronounced as the relatively low-hanging fruit that are currently being pursued and eventually exhausted. As acknowledged by the resolution, the State must also focus on pursuing the transition in a manner that benefits all consumers rather than simply assuming that such benefits will accrue equally to all communities. In addition, the State, which is geographically isolated, needs to pursue the transition in a manner that will increase Hawaii's resiliency both for the purposes for residents and businesses but also for the purposes of supporting the Department of Defense's ability to stand ready to address national security needs. Having USDOE assistance in thoughtful and comprehensive planning to meet these objectives is desirable.

The Department supports this resolution because it believes that such a permanent presence in the State by the USDOE could: 1) enhance opportunities to create more Federal/State partnerships; 2) increase opportunities for Hawaii to take advantage of Federal assistance in terms of technologies, studies, and programs that will help Hawaii's transition to clean energy; and 3) explore opportunities to ensure that the benefits of Hawaii's transition to clean energy are delivered to all customers and make the transition more affordable for all.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.



**Hawaiian  
Electric**

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

**HCR 46 and HR 41**

**Requesting the Hawaii State Energy Office to Engage the United States Department of  
Energy to Establish a Permanent Presence Within the State of Hawaii**

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

2:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

Darren Ishimura, P.E.  
Director, Grid Technologies  
Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.

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

My name is Darren Ishimura and I am testifying on behalf of Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc. ("Hawaiian Electric") in support of HCR 46 and HR 41.

Hawaiian Electric supports efforts to establish a presence by the U.S Department of Energy ("DOE") in Hawai'i. This presence could help the State by (1) increasing availability of federal funding, technical expertise, and laboratory capabilities that can strengthen the State's ability to evaluate, demonstrate, and deploy new technologies and (2) attracting skilled labor needed by local government agencies and private industry to develop and implement solutions that address the State's energy challenges.

Hawai'i faces unique energy challenges compared to the continental U.S. due to its non-interconnected island-based electric grid systems and industry-leading levels of renewable energy and distributed energy resources. As such, DOE technical studies and federal funding opportunities do not always align to Hawai'i's situation and needs. DOE's presence could help address this gap as Hawaiian Electric proactively seeks opportunities that advance its planning and operational capabilities to generate and deliver safe, reliable power and strengthen the electric grid by making it more resilient to achieve the State's goals for renewable energy and decarbonization.

Accordingly, Hawaiian Electric supports HCR 46 and HR 41. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.





Written Statement of  
**Len Higashi**  
Acting Executive Director  
Hawaii Technology Development Corporation  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE**

Tuesday April 5, 2022  
2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
**HCR 46 / HR41**  
**REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE TO ENGAGE THE UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT PRESENCE WITHIN THE STATE  
OF HAWAII**

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

The Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) **supports** HCR 46 / HR41 requesting the Hawaii State Energy Office to engage the United States Department of Energy to establish a permanent presence within the state of Hawaii.

HTDC supports initiatives aimed at promoting technology and manufacturing jobs. HTDC believes that having the United States Department of Energy (DOE) present in the state of Hawaii will lead to better opportunities for research and advanced manufacturing companies. One of HTDC's core programs supports Hawaii companies participating in the federal Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program. Hawaii companies have received 49 SBIR awards for Department of Energy topics, 39 of which were awarded after 2017. Furthermore, Shifted Energy, a local company headquartered at HTDC's Entrepreneurs Sandbox, was 1 of 10 companies selected in 2019 to participate in the Wells Fargo Innovation Incubator co-administered by the DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory. A presence in Hawaii will allow better communication and collaboration between Hawaii companies and the DOE.

Another of HTDC's programs is the Hawaii Center for Advanced Transportation Technologies. HCATT has a long standing partnership with the DOE and would welcome to the opportunity to continue to pursue innovative renewable energy transportation projects for the state and is a key asset in HTDC's ability to compete for federal funding, particularly in hydrogen technologies and sustainable aviation fuel.

Finally, HTDC's INNOVATE Hawaii program is the Hawaii center for the National Institute for Standards and Technology Manufacturing Extension Partnership (NIST MEP) program. NIST MEP and DOE previously piloted a strategic agreement for Manufacturing Impacts Through Energy and Commerce (MITEC). The MITEC pilot is a step toward linking innovation resources across the federal government. It will expand the partnerships between the MEP Centers and DOE national

labs to help states develop strong, regional clean energy manufacturing and economic development clusters. The DOE Advanced Manufacturing Office also has direct synergies with our program.

Hawaii HTDC looks forward to working with all stakeholders in moving this initiative forward. Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce  
Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

By  
Richard Rocheleau, Director  
Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute  
And  
Michael Bruno, PhD  
Provost  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HCR 46/HR 41 – REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE TO ENGAGE THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT PRESENCE WITHIN THE STATE OF HAWAII

Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

HCR 46/HR 41 requests that the Hawai'i State Energy Office engage the U.S. Department of Energy to establish a permanent presence within the State of Hawai'i; and further requests that the Governor, Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, as well as all departments and agencies with energy—related duties and responsibilities, are requested to support the Chief Energy Officer in this endeavor.

The Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute **supports** HCR 46/HR 41 and looks forward to working with the Hawai'i State Energy Office on this endeavor.

In its efforts to engage the USDOE to establish a permanent presence in Hawai'i, HNEI respectfully encourages HSEO to work with the USDOE to ensure that any efforts to establish a permanent USDOE presence in Hawai'i fully support and are not duplicative of place-based applied research and technical assistance by Hawai'i-based entities. Critical needs that could be fostered by USDOE in a permanent local presence should include workforce development and capacity building within the state to support Hawai'i Innovation Initiative objectives.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of HCR 46/HR 41.



**Testimony to  
The Committees on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
Monday, April 5, 2022  
2:00 PM  
Conference Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol and VIA Video Conference  
HCR 46 / HR 41**

Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee,

Hawaii Gas **supports HCR 46 / HR 41**, which requests the Hawaii State Energy Office to engage the United States Department of Energy to establish a permanent presence within the state of Hawaii.

Hawaii Gas is a national leader in the transmission and distribution use of hydrogen in our clean energy mix, and it is our vision to continue to lead the gas industry in its ability to safely, affordably, and reliably increase the amount of this zero-emissions fuel source in our utility pipeline.

Hawaii Gas is incorporating RNG and studying the feasibility of increased levels of hydrogen, while providing cost-effective rates and reliable service. Our goal is to leverage Hawaii Gas's established and resilient pipeline infrastructure to enable a long-term energy transition for Hawaii.

Hawaii Gas is participating in the H2@Scale initiative, led by the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies Office (HFTO) within the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), which brings together stakeholders to advance affordable hydrogen production, transport, storage, and use while increasing revenue opportunities in multiple energy sectors. It includes DOE funded projects at National Laboratories and in collaboration with industry to accelerate hydrogen research, development, and demonstration activities.

These resolutions call on the HSEO, with the Governor and executive branch agencies' support, to engage the USDOE on establishing a permanent presence in Hawaii, which could help advance similar future collaborations with the DOE and National Laboratories.

The 2008 State and USDOE Memorandum of understanding created the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative (HCEI) that was instrumental in facilitating Hawaii's progress in the renewable electric sector. We hope that the depth of information, technology, R&D, collaboration, experience, and forward-thinking ideas from the passage and execution of this resolution will establish a platform for Hawaii's move towards the clean energy goal in other sectors and we hope that the gas utility, as a provider of low carbon and resilient energy be invited to participate as a stakeholder.

We urge the committees to pass HCR 46 / HR 41. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



# NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY



An Authority of the State of Hawaii attached to the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism

Written Only

Statement of  
**Gregory P. Barbour**  
**Executive Director**  
Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority  
before the

## **HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE**

Tuesday, April 5, 2022  
2:00 pm

State Capitol, Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

in consideration of

**HCR 46 and HR 41**  
**REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE TO ENGAGE THE**  
**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TO**  
**ESTABLISH A PERMANENT PRESENCE WITHIN THE STATE OF HAWAII.**

The Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority (NELHA) strongly supports HCR 46 and HR 41 which requests the Hawaii State Energy Office to explore expanded relationships with the US Department of Energy (US-DOE). This makes good business sense, as the establishment of a US-DOE Field Office here will permit Hawaii to re-position itself among energy leaders in the US and the Asia-Pacific and enable us to attract substantial activity and investment in the area of renewable energy.

The large amount of interest generated in the US Department of Energy by the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative (HCEI) affords a great opportunity for Hawaii to market itself as a hub for energy research and commercialization, while promoting commerce and partnerships in the Asia Pacific Region. As a result, Hawaii certainly has unique and valuable assets and holds an exclusive place in

the Pacific for energy and distributed energy applied research, demonstration, test and evaluation, and deployment of clean energy technologies and can play a key role in support of the Indo-Pacific National Security Strategy.

The relationship and interest in Hawaii has been strong and it is our understanding that Hawaii is on a list of facilities suggested for future facilities and/or programs from US-DOE. We possess an extraordinary combination of physical infrastructure and access to natural energy resources. These assets can be coupled effectively with the challenging demands faced by our electrical system to integrate substantial amounts of renewable energy, efficiency resources, and other non-fossil fuel distributed energy resources on relatively small, isolated island electrical grids and achieve the HCEI goals. Studies of renewable energy technologies in tropical conditions is an added enticement for researchers at US-DOE and national labs as well as a site for future demonstration projects.

With timely implementation, we can take advantage of the growing interest among academia, utilities, federal and state government agencies, and industry to address the types of deployment challenges that are already being faced in Hawaii. President Biden's stimulus packages also increase the possibility of partnerships and funding for our renewable energy initiatives.

Over the years, NELHA has built strong relationships with the US-DOE, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Sandia National Laboratory, and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Recent and ongoing projects funded in cooperation with these agencies include hydrogen production, storage and fueling, energy storage, solar desalination, microgrid development. A US-DOE regional Field Office in Hawaii will assist us in growing these initiatives and attract new projects to our outdoor demonstration testbed in Kailua-Kona.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.



## HAWAII GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY

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**LATE**

Testimony of  
**Gwen Yamamoto Lau**  
**Executive Director**

before the

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE**

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

Time: 2:00 P.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room No. 329 & Videoconference

In consideration of

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 46**

**REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE TO ENGAGE THE UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT PRESENCE WITHIN THE  
STATE OF HAWAII**

Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Concurrent Resolution No. 46, requesting the Hawaii State Energy Office to engage with the United States Department of Energy to establish a permanent presence within the state of Hawaii. HGIA **supports** this bill.

As a clean energy leader, having a presence in Hawaii would be a mutually beneficial arrangement for the U.S. Department of Energy ("US DOE"), allowing for closer collaboration and implementation of pilot projects in Hawaii that can be scaled nation-wide.

The US DOE could adopt the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's Telework Enhancement Act Pilot Program ("Program"), which has been in existence since February 2012. Through this program, we have U.S. Patent attorneys living and working in Hawaii. Similarly, the US DOE could leverage said Program and have a presence in Hawaii while complying with the Biden-Harris Administration's Justice40 Initiative.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HCR 46.