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Helping to keep Hawai'i
clean, green, beautiful,
livable and sustainable
since 1912

April 3, 2022

RE: The Outdoor Circle STRONG SUPPORT of HCR43 and HR38 and SCR98
REQUESTING HAWAIIAN ELECTRIC COMPANY TO CONDUCT A STUDY TO IDENTIFY
AND REMOVE ANY REDUNDANT UTILITY POLES ON OAHU.

Dear Committee Members,

The Outdoor Circle has for 110 years advocated for the protection, preservation and promotion of Hawaii's natural and scenic beauty. Our advocacy from decades ago to have wiring on roads and new developments placed underground has resulted in less visual clutter and improved the views for residents and visitors alike.

We have advocated for underground wiring of ugly, unsightly view plane-disrupting utility poles, when these can and should be placed underground for the many reasons listed in HCR43, HR38 and SCR98. Having duplicate poles across in many areas of the city is even more egregious and we applaud this measure to remove the excess poles.

As the resolutions state, they are susceptible of falling during times of adverse weather or earthquakes and underground placement eliminates dangers of falling poles and wires, in addition to enhancing the view planes.

We would like to see these efforts go much further and require that whenever and wherever feasible, perhaps when streets are repaved or in some other manner, that wiring be placed underground in neighborhoods where wiring is still hung by poles. This has been done in the past in many neighborhoods and should be resumed to encompass the island wherever above-ground poles exist.

We also realize that other companies besides the electric company utilize these poles and we urge that they work with Hawaiian Electric company to come up with equitable solutions for removal of duplicate poles.

Thank you for these resolutions and hearing our testimony.

Winston Welch
Executive Director