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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Thursday, March 24, 2022
10:00 AM
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
HCR47/ HR42, REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE TO CONVENE
A WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE ISSUES AND BARRIERS TO THE
INSTALLATION OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING SYSTEMS IN MULTI-UNIT
DWELLINGS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING CHANGES TO
STATUTES, RULES, AND OTHER GUIDANCE TO HELP CLARIFY AND
FACILITATE THE INSTALLATION OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING SYSTEMS
IN MULTI-UNIT DWELLINGS**

Chair Lowen 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 appreciates the intent and offers comments on this resolution.

The purpose of this resolution is to request the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) to convene a working group to examine issues and barriers to the installation of electric vehicle charging systems in multi-unit dwellings and make recommendations regarding changes to statutes, rules, and other guidance to help clarify and facilitate the installation of electric vehicle charging systems in multi-unit dwellings.

The Department recognizes the benefits of electric vehicles has on helping Hawaii with its climate goals, especially since the transportation sector represents the

largest contributor to carbon emissions, including motor vehicles. For that reason, the Department supports the exploration of how electric vehicles (EV) and EV charging can be encouraged in an equitable and cost-effective manner, where EVs and EV charging will be broadly accessible, affordable without requiring vulnerable customers to bear the burden of supporting the costs without being able to benefit from such efforts, and to allow EV charging to benefit the grid. Therefore, while the Department defers to HSEO about convening a working group per this resolution, the Department believes it is reasonable to better understand barriers and issues that may inhibit the installation of electric vehicle charging systems in multi-unit dwellings and determine possible changes to support the cost-effective and equitable installation of EV charging infrastructure.

The Department also offers that the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission (Commission) is currently investigating the facilitation of electric vehicle charging within the context of current statutes and rules in various proceedings such as, Docket Nos. 2018-0088, 2018-0135, 2020-0152, and 2021-0173, to name examples. Further, the Department - as well as HSEO - participates in the Drive Electric Hawaii initiative that is exploring similar issues. Thus, the Department looks forward to collaborating with the proposed working group to take advantage of the work already done and is being done by the Drive Electric Hawaii Initiative as well as the Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.

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

TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

March 24, 2022
10:00 a.m.

Chair Lowen and Members of the Committee:

MEASURE: H.C.R. No. 47 / H.R. 42

TITLE: REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE ISSUES AND BARRIERS TO THE INSTALLATION OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING SYSTEMS IN MULTI-UNIT DWELLINGS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING CHANGES TO STATUTES, RULES, AND OTHER GUIDANCE TO HELP CLARIFY AND FACILITATE THE INSTALLATION OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING SYSTEMS IN MULTI-UNIT DWELLINGS.

POSITION:

The Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) offers the following comments for consideration.

COMMENTS:

The Commission supports the intent of these resolutions to examine barriers to the installation of electric vehicle charging systems and develop recommendations to resolve any identified issues.

The Commission notes that it recently approved Hawaiian Electric’s (“Companies”) “Charge Ready Hawai’i” Pilot Project. This program proposes installing make-ready infrastructure to enable an estimated 180 charging points in the Companies’ service territories. This is intended to support customer installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure at commercial sites, multi-unit dwellings, and fleet parking locations. The program intends to reduce upfront costs for customers seeking to install charging

infrastructure by providing make-ready infrastructure at the Companies' expense. In its approval order, the Commission "encourage[d] the Companies to deploy infrastructure in underserved communities and to prioritize when possible, sites that provide unrestricted public access to charging facilities."¹

The Commission is willing to work with the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) on the efforts proposed in these resolutions and defers to HSEO on the specific contents of the resolutions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

¹ [Decision & Order No. 38194](#), at 40.

HR-42

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 10:07:19 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HR42 is a common sense measure to create a mechanism for identifying the barriers to creating a charging infrastructure that will allow widespread adoption of evs in Hawaii and enable us to meet our climate goals. Please advance HR42