



Aloha Chair Nicole Lowen, Vice-Chair Elle Cochran, Rep. Amy Perruso, Rep. Justin Woodson, Rep. Cedric Gates, Rep Kirstin Kahaloha, and Rep. Gene Ward,

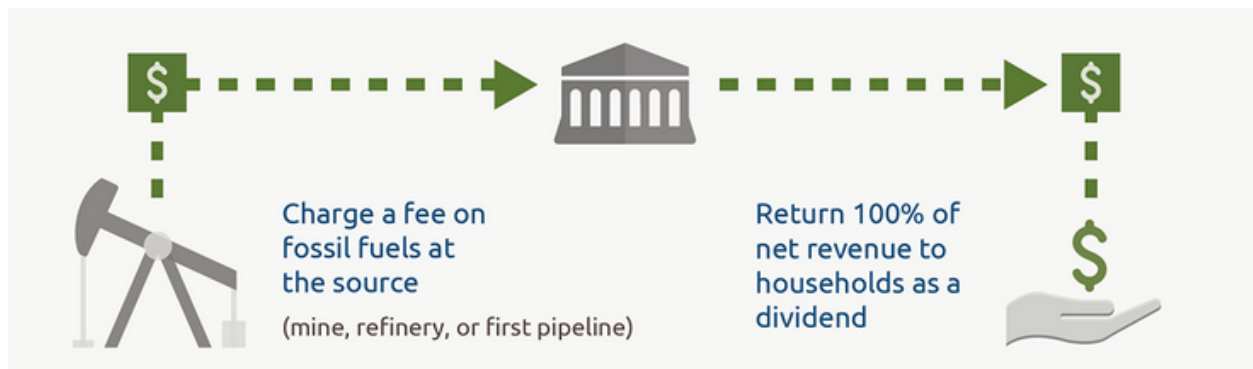
The Carbon Cashback Task Force urges you to support HCR124 and HR125

The Carbon Cashback Task Force is a task force of Hawaii Environmental Change Agents that is formed of dozens of dedicated volunteers who have spent countless hours for several years, striving to pass state carbon cashback legislation, for the environment, and for the financial well being of low to moderate income individuals.

HCR124/HR125 supports national carbon fee and dividend legislation, which will have many of the same benefits that the local legislation, “Carbon Cashback”, would have provided.

It will reduce carbon emissions while benefiting low- and middle-income households. It would assess a fee on fossil fuel companies and return the revenues to individuals. Many studies have found this to be the most cost-effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; at the same time, it would provide cash benefits directly to families most affected by rising inflation and climate impacts.

This carbon-pricing strategy has proven successful in British Columbia, Sweden, Singapore, and other jurisdictions.



“In terms of policy carbon pricing is definitely the most significant single policy that there could be if it’s tax and dividend it’s even better because basically you’re rewarded for taking less and doing more if you will for the environment in terms of the energy use.” — Paul Hawken

Thanks for supporting this resolution.

Carbon Cashback Task Force.

Carbon Cashback Task Force
hawaicarboncashback@gmail.com

HR-125

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 2:36:59 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/23/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

In support.

Thank you.

HR-125

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 2:47:42 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/23/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

This can't be enacted too soon: fair, effective tool to lower emissions & move citizens to renewables. Well thought out carbon fee & dividend bill.

HR-125

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 3:00:19 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/23/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Carbon Cashback can work at the state or national level, but ultimately, a national policy is ideal. This is because the national government can establish a “carbon border adjustment mechanism,” which is basically a tariff on imports of fossil fuel products. It serves to keep U.S. industries internationally competitive and to motivate our trading partners to reduce their carbon footprints.

Please support HCR124/HR125!

HR-125

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 5:16:47 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/23/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** this carbon tax Resolution.

HR-125

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 7:39:49 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/23/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Conner Higashino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HR125. It's abundantly clear that we need to take immediate action to reduce carbon emissions across the board. Implementing a national carbon tax would be an effective tax in incentivizing the effort to move away from fossil fuels towards cleaner sources of energy, transportation, and even city design. The latest UN report paints the picture very clearly. Our window for action is rapidly closing to avoid the worst effects of climate change. We as a global community need to take action. A national carbon fee is a great start.

Position: Strong Support for HCR124/HR125

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

Mahalo for hearing Resolutions HCR124 and HR125. I **strongly support** these resolutions because as the UN's recent warning: "The world is on thin ice." The signs and damages from climate change surround us. The need to take significant action now to reduce global emissions of greenhouse gases is undeniable. We need meaningful action on a global scale. A national carbon cashback (carbon fee and dividend) policy will address carbon emissions throughout our economy. In addition, if the US imposes a border carbon adjustment, the policy will incentivize all US trading partners to reduce their emissions. The policy provides the correct financial incentives for businesses and households to reduce their use of fossil fuels. Furthermore, the carbon cashback policy is progressive and protects and even benefits most low- and moderate-income households.

Carbon cashback has been proven successful in a number of jurisdictions ranging from British Columbia to Singapore to Sweden to the UK to Australia. The policy has the support of over 3,600 economists including twenty-eight Nobel Laureates and fifteen former chairs of the Council of Economic Advisers.

Less well known is this policy has a very broad and diverse set of supporters:

The premier carbon fee and dividend bill introduced in the last Congress, the [Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act](#), had more than 90 Democratic co-sponsors, including at least **42 members of the Progressive Caucus, 14 members of the Congressional Black Caucus, 13 members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and 29 members of the Congressional Asian American Caucus.** Those members realized that the causes of [economic and environmental justice are best served](#) by a powerfully effective climate policy (carbon pricing) combined with a progressive allocation of revenue (carbon dividend or cashback).

Senator Bernie Sanders wasn't speaking for oil companies when he [declared](#), "A carbon tax must be a central part of our strategy for dramatically reducing carbon pollution . . . a carbon tax is the most straight-forward and efficient strategy for quickly reducing greenhouse gas emissions." Nor were **two Jacobin magazine writers** when they published an essay, "[Why Socialists Should Back a Carbon Tax](#)." Nor was the [CEO of the sustainability advocacy group CERES](#) when she backed carbon pricing. Nor was the [California Environmental Justice Advisory Committee](#) when it supported a carbon fee.

The renowned climate scientist [James Hansen](#) says it would be "**the most effective and direct underlying force for a global climate solution.**" The **National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine** issued a major report in 2021 on [Accelerating Decarbonization of the U.S. Energy System](#) which declared, "**The advantages of an economy-wide price on carbon are that it would unlock innovation in every corner**

of the energy economy, send appropriate signals to myriad public and private decision-makers, and encourage a cost-effective route to net zero.”

The **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change**, representing the best experts from around the globe, [reported last year](#), “There are several advantages for environmental taxation including environmental effectiveness, economic efficiency, the ability to raise public revenue, and transparency (very high confidence). These gains can provide more resource-efficient production technologies and positively affect economic competitiveness. . . **Pricing of greenhouse gases, including carbon, is a crucial tool in any cost-effective climate change mitigation strategy, as it provides a mechanism for linking climate action to economic development.**”

The **Lancet Commission on Health and Climate Change**, representing some of the world’s leading public health authorities, [declared in 2015](#): “**The single most powerful strategic instrument to inoculate human health against the risks of climate change would be for governments to introduce strong and sustained carbon pricing, in ways pledged to strengthen over time until the problem is brought under control.** Like tobacco taxation, it would send powerful signals throughout the system, to producers and users, that the time has come to wean our economies off fossil fuels, starting with the most carbon intensive and damaging like coal.”

In sum, this policy reduces US emissions, protects the most and more vulnerable households, is revenue neutral (so requires no government funding), and with a border carbon adjustment protects US businesses.

As a parent, I would like to leave for my children a better, more livable planet. I see carbon pricing with the returning of revenues to residents as the most efficient, effective, and equitable path forward for a cleaner Hawaii and planet while also protecting the most vulnerable among us.

Please pass HCR124 and HR125 out of your committee.

Mahalo nui loa,

Paul Bernstein, PhD

Co-author of the two UHERO studies on Carbon Pricing in Hawaii

- https://energy.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/HawaiiCarbonPricingStudy_Final_Apr2021.pdf
- https://files.hawaii.gov/tax/stats/trc/docs2022/Appendix_A.pdf

March 22, 2023

STRONG SUPPORT FOR HCR124/HR125 URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ADOPT NATIONAL CARBON FEE AND DIVIDEND LEGISLATION

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and EEP Committee members,

I'm testifying in strong support of HCR124 and HR125, which URGES THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ADOPT NATIONAL CARBON FEE AND DIVIDEND LEGISLATION

Carbon pricing is an essential strategy in our climate change mitigation efforts. It is endorsed by thousands of economists, religious leaders, business groups, and government leaders. [1] Globally, over 40 governments have introduced carbon pricing [2], and we've observed decades-long impacts in some of them. [3] Countries like Canada and the EU bloc countries have meaningful carbon pricing. They have discussed the introduction of Carbon Border Adjustments to protect local economies from products imported from countries without carbon pricing.

Studies [4] have illustrated the efficacy of carbon pricing in reducing emissions. **When coupled with a dividend – carbon tax revenue returned to households – the policy is progressive and just.** It does not increase the cost of government, and benefits are distributed equitably to households.


There have been a few attempts at a national Carbon Fee and Dividend policy. They have proposed a gradually increasing price on carbon (starting low and escalating annually to an eventually meaningful price). This policy would allow consumers and businesses to adapt to the expected annual increases in goods and services that are fossil intensive.

Carbon Fee and Dividend will allow the U.S. to include the true social costs of carbon emissions into fossil fuels. This will trigger economy-wide changes in consumer and business behaviors that favor efficiency and clean and renewable solutions.

Climate change requires solutions on multiple fronts – emissions reduction, legacy carbon drawdown, and adaptation. A Carbon Fee and Dividend policy will contribute to an effective and socially just means to address emissions reductions. Importantly, it will complement most other policies that have been or must be enacted.

Please support HCR124 and HR125.

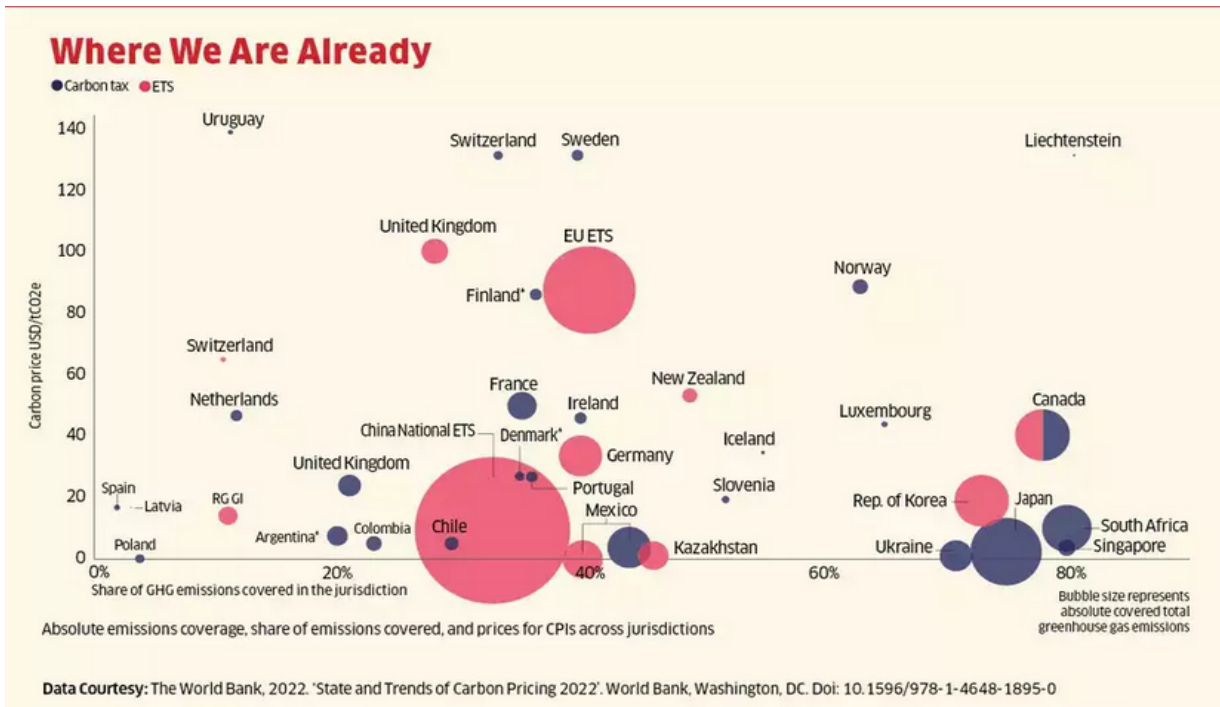
Respectfully,



Noel Morin
Climate, Sustainability, and Resilience Advocate
Hilo, Hawaii

[1] **Carbon pricing is popular.** Endorsements for this policy have been received from many sectors. citizensclimatelobbyhawaii.org/blog/carbon-cashback-lifting-the-shade

[2] Many countries have implemented (or are planning to implement) carbon pricing strategies.



Source: The Economic Times - February 2, 2023

[3] **Sweden** introduced a price on carbon in 1991 and has the highest priced currently at \$139/tCO₂. Its economy has grown by 60% since the introduction, and its emissions have decreased by 25%.

<https://ourworldindata.org/carbon-pricing-popular>

[4] **CCL Carbon Pricing studies.** <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/carbon-pricing-studies/>