



WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

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**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2753
RELATING TO BUILDING CODES**

SENATOR KARL RHOADS, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Hearing Date: 2/27/2024

Room Number: 016

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports the measure to facilitate the
3 transition from hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) refrigerants with high-global warming potentials
4 (GWPs) to the use of low-GWP alternatives, which would reduce the refrigerants' impact on
5 climate change. HFCs are powerful greenhouse gases and EPA has approved the use of lower
6 GWP alternatives. The proposed new section in Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 107
7 would prevent the state and county building codes from prohibiting or limiting the use of these
8 low-GWP refrigerant alternatives. In updating HRS Chapter 107, Hawaii would join over a
9 dozen states, including Washington, Oregon, California, and Arizona, who have adopted or are
10 proposing to adopt similar language to that proposed in this bill in their building code or building
11 construction/planning regulations. Failure to update HRS Chapter 107 could inhibit Hawaii's
12 ability to reduce refrigerant greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and hamper progress toward
13 Hawaii's GHG reduction goals.

14 **Offered Amendments:** None

15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**Building Decarbonization Task Force
Hawai'i Environmental Change Agents**

HawaiiChangeAgents@gmail.com
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February 21, 2024

SUPPORT FOR SB2753 – State Building Codes

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

The Building Decarbonization Task Force of the Hawai'i Environmental Change Agents supports SB2753, which “Clarifies that no state or county building code shall prohibit the use of a substitute refrigerant allowed by the Environmental Protection Agency if the applicable equipment is listed and installed in compliance with the latest safety standards.”

Hawai'i Environmental Change Agents (HECA) consists of ten task forces; one of which is the Building Decarbonization Task Force. This task force supports **SB2753** because it helps address high global warming gases, such as HFCs. These gases are a significant cause (estimated to be 10% and growing) of the climate crisis. We must take whatever steps we can to reduce the use of these gases in refrigeration and air conditioning. As the EPA begins to approve safe substitutes for existing HFCs, these replacements should be allowed throughout the country. This bill would clarify that no State or county building code would prohibit the use of a substitute refrigerant allowed by the EPA.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Please support SB2753.

Respectfully,
Building Decarbonization Task Force of HECA



To: The Senate Committee on Judiciary (JDC)
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Tuesday, February 27, 2024, 10am

In support of SB2753

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the JDC Committee,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org **supports SB2753** which clarifies that no state or county building code shall prohibit the use of a substitute refrigerant allowed by the Environmental Protection Agency if the applicable equipment is listed and installed in compliance with the latest safety standards.

Certain refrigerants, including hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), are potent greenhouse gases that can have an extreme effect on global warming. HFCs are greenhouse gases with global warming potentials that can be many thousands of times more potent than carbon dioxide. Phasing out these climate-wrecking pollutants as soon as possible is critical in our fight against climate breakdown.

Building codes need to be updated to avoid delaying the transition to hydrofluorocarbon refrigerant alternatives and comply with the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act and EPA rules in order to give manufacturers certainty to make the needed transition. By clarifying that no state or county building code shall prohibit the use of a substitute refrigerant allowed by the Environmental Protection Agency, this measure would help facilitate this transition.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

SB-2753

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 5:34:22 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keith Neal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support SB 2753

SB 2753 simply provides clarity to ensure Hawaii consumers and businesses enjoy uninterrupted access to new HVACR equipment with the latest, most advanced, and most climate-friendly technologies available.

Mahalo,

-Keith Neal



To: The Honorable Chair Karl Rhoads, the Honorable Vice Chair Mike Gabbard, and Members of the Committees on Judiciary.

From: Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: **Hearing SB2753 RELATING TO BUILDING CODES**

Hearing: Tuesday February 27, 2024, 10:00 a.m., room 016

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees on Judiciary!

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i seek to educate and engage the local community in climate change action, to help Hawai'i show the world the way back to a safe and stable climate.

Climate Protectors Hawai'i STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB2753!

Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) are chemicals commonly used in air conditioning, refrigeration, and insulating foam and as propellants. HFCs were designed to replace ozone depleting substances that were harming the planet's protective ozone layer. However, HFCs are now acting as greenhouse gases that can have very high global warming potentials that are **thousands of times more potent than carbon dioxide in contributing to climate change**. If HFCs continue to be

used, it is estimated that they could account **for up to twenty per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions by 2050!** In the battle against climate warming, **it is essential that we replace HFCs with refrigerants that don't have high global warming potentials as soon as possible!**

Building codes need to be updated to avoid delaying the transition to hydrofluorocarbon refrigerant alternatives and comply with the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act and EPA rules in order to give manufacturers certainty to make the needed transition.

This bill would clarify that no State or county building code would prohibit the use of a substitute refrigerant allowed by the EPA.

This will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Please pass this bill!

Mahalo for providing the opportunity to testify!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)