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STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
And
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 329

On the following measure:
S.B. 2997, S.D. 2, H.D.1, RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES

Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Michael Angelo, and I am the Executive Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (Department) Division of Consumer Advocacy. The Department offer comments on this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to create a process for electric utilities to develop and submit risk-based wildfire protection plans to the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for approval, and require public utilities to report wildfires potentially caused by or occurring in connection with their operations.

The tragedy and devastation of the wildfires that arose on Maui during the August 8, 2023 windstorm must be prevented from reoccurring. The Department strongly supports encouraging electric utilities to proactively manage their wildfire risk by requiring them to develop and regularly update their wildfire protection plans.

The Department highlights the importance of developing and actions to prevent wildfires along with mitigating the risks from other hazards like high winds and flooding, and public utilities other than electric utilities could also benefit from risk-based natural hazards protection plans. On November 21, 2023, the Commission issued Order No. 40396, opening a non-docketed proceeding Case No. 2023-04661, "Directing Public Utilities to Develop and File Reports Related to their Ongoing Efforts and Future Mitigation Plans to Address Natural Hazards". These reports are expected to be filed in a few months. The Department offers that this non-docketed proceeding provides an opportunity to develop actions needed to protect ratepayers on a statewide basis, which could include the electric utilities' wildfire mitigation plans. The reports required in Case No. 2023-04661 may cover the risk-based wildfire protection plans contemplated in this bill, but the Department appreciates this bill as a vehicle to publicly discuss risk-based natural hazards mitigations.

Should this bill progress, in parallel with Case No. 2023-04661, the Department recommends a few amendments to address its concerns with the language of the decision-making procedures in the proposed § 269-B and § 269-C for best practices and wildfire protection plans, which are unclear and ambiguous. The Department respectfully recommends that the amendments provided below be adopted and that the proposed changes more clearly articulate that the Commission's process to review and make decisions on whether to approve wildfire protections plans will include: (1) public workshops to obtain input on best practices in developing wildfire protection plans, and (2) a docketed proceeding for decision-making. Requiring decision-making during a docketed as opposed to a non-docketed proceeding provides the opportunity for the public to participate and assist the Commission in the decision-making phase. It also ensures that the general powers and duties conferred to the Consumer Advocate under Hawaii Revised Statutes § 269-51 and § 269-54 are maintained.

"§269-B Electric utility workshops. The public utilities commission may periodically convene workshops to help electric utilities develop and share information for the identification, adoption, and implementation of

best practices regarding wildfires, including but not limited to risk-based wildfire protection and risk-based wildfire mitigation procedures and standards. The best practices discussed in these workshops may be incorporated into the proposed wildfire protection plans and updates submitted for public utilities commission approval pursuant to section 269-C.

§269-C Wildfire protection plans. (a) Each electric utility shall have and operate in compliance with a risk-based wildfire protection plan, which shall be submitted to ~~filed with and evaluated by~~ the public utilities commission for approval. The risk-based wildfire protection plan shall be based on reasonable and prudent practices, which may be ~~identified through workshops and regulatory proceedings conducted by the public utilities commission pursuant to section 269-B, and determined by~~ public utilities commission standards adopted by decision or rule. The electric utility shall design the risk-based wildfire protection plan to protect public safety, reduce risk to utility customers, and promote resilience of the Hawaii electric system to wildfire damage.

* * * * *

(b) Each electric utility shall regularly submit updates to its risk-based wildfire protection plan for approval on a schedule determined by the public utilities commission.

* * * * *

(d) The public utilities commission, ~~in consultation with the department of land and natural resources and local emergency services agencies,~~ shall

evaluate each electric utility's risk-based wildfire protection plan and plan updates ~~through a public process~~ according to the public utilities commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure in Hawaii Administrative Rules Chapter 16-601. The public utilities commission shall allow the department of land and natural resources and local emergency services agencies to participate in proceedings evaluating risk-based wildfire protection plans.

(e) No more than ninety days after the last party filing, and no more than a total of one hundred eighty days after the initial application for approval of the submitted wildfire protection plan or update filing in the docketed proceeding ~~or non-docketed case related to the public utilities commission's evaluation of a risk-based wildfire protection plan or plan update from an electric utility,~~ the public utilities commission shall approve or approve with conditions or reject the plan or update ~~if~~ based on whether the public utilities commission finds that the plan or update is based on reasonable and prudent practices and designed to meet all applicable rules and standards adopted by the public utilities commission. The public utilities commission may, in approving the plan or update with conditions, direct the electric utility to make modifications to the plan or updates that the public utilities commission believes represent a reasonable balancing of mitigation costs with the resulting reduction of wildfire risk based on the evidentiary record in the proceeding ~~information provided by the electric utility and based on best practices.~~ The public utilities commission

shall issue a decision explaining its determinations and including findings of fact and conclusions of law in accord with Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 91 ~~any such directed modifications at the time it approves the plan.~~

(f) The electric utility shall track the costs that it actually incurs to develop, implement, and administer the risk-based wildfire protection plan. In the electric utility's risk-based wildfire protection plan update, the electric utility shall report on the costs as actually incurred for the most recent past period for which the information is available.

If the actual costs are less than the amounts that the commission determined were reasonable in its decision under subsection (e), the commission shall direct the electric utility to refund or credit the costs to ratepayers.

If the actual costs are equal to or greater than the amounts that the commission determined were reasonable in its decision under subsection (e), the commission shall not direct the electric utility to refund to ratepayers the amount the commission previously determined was reasonable but may disallow the recovery from ratepayers of any additional costs the commission finds unreasonable. ~~For purposes of evaluating additional costs, the following shall apply:~~

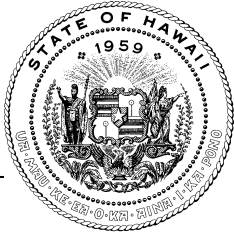
~~(1) Actual costs that are no more than fifteen per cent greater than the costs the commission previously~~

~~determined were reasonable shall be presumed prudent and authorized for recovery from ratepayers absent proof by clear and convincing evidence that the costs were unreasonable; and~~

~~—(2)—The electric utility shall have the burden of proving the reasonableness of actual costs that are more than fifteen per cent greater than the costs the commission previously determined were reasonable.”~~

The Department also emphasizes that it is important to develop plans and take actions to prevent wildfires together with mitigating the risks from other hazards like high winds and flooding. Regarding this version’s proposed amendments to HRS § 269-9 in the new Section 3 of the bill, the Department views them as a balanced update to this statute to increase the timeliness of accident reporting.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
**HOUSE COMMITTEES ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
AND
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329 and Videoconference

Providing Comments on
SB2997, SD2, HD1

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES.

Chairs Nakashima and Tarnas, Vice Chairs Sayama and Takayama, and members of the Committees, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on SB2997, SD2, HD1, that creates a process for electric utilities to develop and submit risk-based wildfire protection plans to the Public Utilities Commission for approval and requires public utilities to report wildfires potentially caused by or occurring in connection with their operations.

HSEO appreciates the need for utilities to maintain a risk-based wildfire protection plan, however HSEO prefers planning and mitigating against all-hazards. HSEO recently completed a FEMA Advance Assistance project that conducted a risk assessment for critical energy infrastructure on Oahu for all-hazards and developed mitigation measures. A second Advance Assistance project has been selected for a FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) planning grant to complete the same analysis for the rest of the state. HSEO also requests pairing language from HB2407, HD2 with specified language on securitization as a cost recovery mechanism for wildfire mitigation activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

TESTIMONY OF
LEODOLOFF R. ASUNCION, JR.
CHAIR, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
STATE OF HAWAII

TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE
and
JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

March 18, 2024
2:00 p.m.

Chairs Nakashima and Tarnas, Vice Chairs Sayama and Takayama, and Members of the Committees:

MEASURE: S.B. No. 2997, SD2 HD1
TITLE: RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES.

DESCRIPTION: Creates a process for electric utilities to develop and submit risk-based wildfire protection plans to the Public Utilities Commission for approval. Requires public utilities to report wildfires potentially caused by or occurring in connection with their operations. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

POSITION:

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

COMMENTS:

The Commission appreciates the intent of this measure to require electric utilities to develop and submit risk-based wildfire protection plans to the Commission for review and approval. The Commission understands the importance of reducing the likelihood and impact of wildfires across the State and is committed to supporting such efforts.

In its March 14, 2024 testimony before the Joint Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection and Water & Land, the Commission noted H.B. 2407, HD2 allows for effective development of wildfire protection plans and appropriate cost recovery mechanisms for electric utilities, and as such the Commission recommended the language from H.B. 2407, HD2 be incorporated into this measure. The Commission continues to support H.B. 2407, HD2 and appreciates the Joint Committee’s adopted amendments reflected in HD1 of this measure that more closely align with H.B. 2407, HD2, including:

1. Requiring electric utilities to operate in compliance with an approved risk-based wildfire protection plan;
2. Adding further specifications for the basis of and inputs to the mandatory risk-based wildfire protection plans; procedures for their evaluation, approval, and update; penalties for failure of an electric utility to comply with an approved plan; and
3. Authorizing the Commission to convene workshops to assist electric utilities in

developing and sharing information for the identification, adoption, and implementation of best practices regarding wildfires.

One notable omission in this measure is language related to the recovery of wildfire protection plan implementation costs through securitization. The Commission continues to support the approach provided in H.B. 2407, HD2 and recommends incorporating securitization language from H.B. 2407, HD2 into this measure.

Additionally, in contrast to H.B. 2407, HD2, the Commission observes that HD1 of this measure now includes language requiring public utilities to report wildfires potentially caused by or occurring in connection with their operations or service and requiring the Commission to investigate the causes of certain wildfires. The Commission is amenable to this language but suggests a small amendment to clarify that the Commission does not need to investigate all wildfires, only those potentially caused by a public utility.

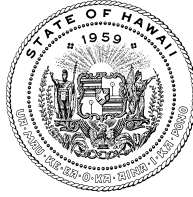
Page 13, lines 5 – 9:

- (2) Any wildfires that: ~~(A) May~~ may have been caused by a public utility and;
(~~BA~~) Destroyed a significant amount of public utility equipment; or
(~~CB~~) Resulted in the loss of life; and

The Commission further observes that this measure would require the Commission to approve or approve with conditions an electric utility's wildfire mitigation plan no more than 90 days after the last party filing and no more than 180 days after the initial filing in the docket or non-docketed case. In its previous testimony on wildfire protection plan bills S.B. 2091 and S.B. 3096, the Commission recommended striking the 180-day timeframe and maintaining the 90-day timeframe after the last party filing. The Commission continues to believe the 90-day timeframe after the last party filing would provide the Commission with the necessary flexibility to conduct a robust evaluation of electric utility wildfire protection plans, while ensuring that all parties act expeditiously.

Finally, this measure does not incorporate the language from H.B. 2407, HD2 that would allow the Commission to consult with federal, state, and local governmental entities and industry organizations in its review of wildfire protection plans, provided the Commission identify the nature of any consultation in its decision approving the plan. The Commission notes that support from other expert agencies, ideally as a dedicated Wildfire Safety Advisory Board ("Advisory Board") as was contemplated by S.B. 2842, would create a more robust and thorough review process. Therefore, the Commission recommends incorporating the language from H.B. 2407, HD2 regarding consultation with other expert entities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

**House Committees on Consumer Protection & Commerce and
Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs**

Monday, March 18, 2024

2:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 329 and Videoconference

Supporting the Intent

Senate Bill No. 2997, SD2, HD1, Relating to Public Utilities

Chairs Nakashima and Tarnas, Vice Chairs Sayama and Takayama, and Members of the House Committees on Consumer Protection & Commerce and Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs:

The Office of the Governor offers our testimony supporting the intent on S.B. No. 2997, SD2, HD1, Relating to Public Utilities, but requesting that this bill be combined with S.B. No. 2922, SD2, HD1.

The Maui wildfire resulted in unbearable loss of lives, homes, infrastructure, and businesses. This tragic event is a wake-up call that due to climate changes, the risk of catastrophic wildfires, along with other natural disasters in Hawaii has increased.

S.B. No. 2997, SD2, HD1, would require each electric utility to have a risk-based wildfire protection plan, which shall be filed and approved by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). While the Office of the Governor supports the intent of this measure, we would respectively ask that the committee consider combining this with the securitization language of S.B. No. 2922, SD2, HD1, so that there is a clear nexus and scope of what the utility may have financed as was initially outlined in H.B. No. 2407, HD2, Relating to Wildfire Risk Mitigation.

We need to ensure wildfire mitigation and prevention policies and plans are adopted by the State, but we need to also find reasonable ways to finance these improvements and investments. Through the securitization model that is proposed in H.B. No. 2407, HD2, resources will be available to address wildfire risk mitigation in a manner that should have a minimal impact on utility customers' electricity bills.

The Governor is keenly aware of our state's high electrical rates and the impact that it has on all of our residents. But, the wildfires were a stark and harsh signal to our state that we need to do more to protect against disasters like wildfires. The Office of the Governor supports H.B. No. 2407, HD2, to create a process for wildfire plan protection and mitigation that must be approved by the PUC. Once approved, the PUC would also then have the ability to review a

Testimony of Office of the Governor

S.B. No. 2997, SD2, HD1

March 18, 2024

Page 2

request for securitization financing. Utility rate securitization transactions have an extensive track record of success. Bonds securitized by rates receive AAA credit ratings from credit rating agencies and thus provide a means of securing capital at a lower interest rate than those currently available to utilities, in particular utilities without an investment grade credit rating.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION 1260 EMPOWERING THE PACIFIC

JOINT HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE and JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

HEARING DATE: Monday, March 18, 2024
TIME: 2:00 p.m.
PLACE: State Capitol
Conference Room 329

RE: **In Support** of Senate Bill 2997 SD2 HD1 Relating To Public Utilities

Aloha Honorable Chair(s) Nakashima and Tarnas, Vice Chair(s) Sayama and Takayama, and Members of the Joint-Committee;

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1260 (IBEW 1260) would like to respectfully offer the following testimony on Senate Bill 2997 SD2 HD1.

IBEW 1260 is comprised of approximately 3,000 members representing Hawaii's electric utility companies as well as government service contracts and media personnel throughout Hawaii, Guam, and Wake Island. Our members include a diverse local workforce of dedicated, highly skilled, and trained individuals working 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to generate, transmit, and distribute electricity throughout Hawai'i and to ensure the reliability and resiliency of this precious resource.

IBEW 1260 **supports** Senate Bill 2997 SD2 HD1 which creates a process for electric utilities to develop and submit risk-based wildfire protection plans to the Public Utilities Commission for approval and requires the Public Utilities Commission to report wildfires potentially caused by or occurring in connection with their operations.

The economic strength and viability of Hawai'i's electric utilities have a direct impact on our members and their families, and the infrastructure they provide are vital to our community. Having the tools necessary to effectively manage risk and implement policy with clear direction, expected outcomes, and reasonably recover associated costs is imperative to the utilities continued viability.

We understand that there are ongoing discussions with Hawaiian Electric on this measure and support these efforts.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.



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COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Jackson D. Sayama, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

Monday, March 18, 2024

2:00 PM

Conference Room 329

SB 2997, SD2, HD1 RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES.

SUPPORT & AMEND

Aloha Chairs Nakashima & Tarnas, Vice Chairs Sayama & Takayama, and Committees Members

The term “non-docketed case” must be removed from the bill. The wildfire, and its aftermath, are too important to ignore stakeholders’ interests, to sideline community input, and to secretly assess utility wildfire mitigation plans.

Life of the Land

- Intervenor, 60+ Public Utilities Commission regulatory proceedings
- Party, 7 Hawaii Supreme Court Decisions re Appeals of PUC Decisions
- Served on PUC’s Reliability Standards Working Group
- Member of HECO’s Resilience Working Group
- Intervenor, HECO’s Grid Hardening proceeding (docket no. 2022-0135)
- Intervenor, HECO’s Integrated Grid Planning
- Reviewed HECO’s Fire Management Plan
- Reviewed Southern California Edison 939-page Wildfire Mitigation Plan (2023)
- Reviewed Pacific Gas & Electric 1678-page Wildfire Mitigation Plan (2023)



Testimony Before the House Committees on Consumer Protection & Commerce and
Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

By David Bissell
President and Chief Executive Officer
Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative
4463 Pahe'e Street, Suite 1, Līhu'e, Hawai'i, 96766-2000

Monday, March 18, 2024; 2:00 pm
Conference Room #329 & Videoconference

Senate Bill No. 2997 SD2 HD1 - RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES

To the Honorable Mark Nakashima and David Tarnas, Chairs, Honorable Jackson D. Sayama and Gregg Takayama, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees:

Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC) is a not-for-profit utility providing electrical service to more than 34,000 commercial and residential members.

KIUC supports this measure.

KIUC agrees that it is important for utilities to develop and implement effective plans for wildfire risk mitigation. We also agree that the wildfire mitigation plans developed by electric utilities should be reviewed and approved by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

KIUC agrees with language in other bills being considered that allows for cost recovery of wildfire mitigation plan implementation. We encourage an amendment to this bill that would allow the PUC to authorize cost recovery for utilities, preferably via a discrete tariff rider versus a rate adjustment.

Mahalo for your consideration.



**Hawaiian
Electric**

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
AND
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**SB 2997, SD2, HD1
Relating to Public Utilities**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Jimmy D. Alberts
Senior Vice President & Chief Operations Officer
Hawaiian Electric

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Jimmy D. Alberts and I am testifying on behalf of Hawaiian Electric in **strong support with requested amendments to SB 2997, SD2, HD1 Relating to Public Utilities**. Please see requested amendments in the attached with talking points that provide additional detail on some of the more technical amendments we propose.

Hawaiian Electric understands the importance of having a robust wildfire mitigation strategy while providing safe, reliable power at a reasonable cost for our customers and communities. Nearly six months after the tragic Maui wildfires, Hawaiian Electric continues to press ahead with recovery efforts and identifying utility best practices and new technologies to prevent such a tragedy from ever happening again in our service territory. This bill is forward-looking and is about working to prevent

something terrible like this from ever happening again. This bill will give utilities the tools we need to make our grids safe and resilient.

The Maui wildfires have prompted us to revisit the assumptions and determinations of risk shaping our wildfire mitigation efforts. Hawaiian Electric intends to work closely with the community to address key issues such as whether a preemptive power shutoff program is appropriate for Hawai'i. We also have accelerated and intensified the implementation of our own Wildfire Mitigation Plan and have taken other immediate action steps, including implementing fast trip settings on circuits, re-inspecting all lines for vulnerabilities, and initiating the process for replacing poles, conductor and fuses in high-risk areas.

We are requesting your consideration of four sets of amendments that we believe will better protect against the risk of another catastrophic wildfire and minimize the burden on ratepayers. These are reflected in an attached black-line.

First, our amendments clarify that the Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”), in its decision on the wildfire mitigation plan, would determine the reasonable costs to develop, implement, and administer the plan. That is implied by section 269-C(f) in the current draft, which authorizes recovery of actual costs if they are within the amount the PUC determined in advance would be reasonable.

Second, our amendments modify section 269-D to integrate the Commission’s consideration of penalties with the existing Performance Based Regulation process, in which the Commission, working with stakeholders, develops penalties and incentives.

Third, our amendments seek to protect the jurisdiction of the Commission by adding limitations on the ability of private plaintiffs to sue electric utilities or the

Commission based on alleged inadequacies in plans. The provisions provide limited immunity to electric utilities, but only in all cases in the event that the utility did not act with willful misconduct, bad faith, or reckless disregard of its obligations. That language was previously discussed with the Attorney General. More broadly, even when this immunity applies, these provisions do not provide blanket immunity to electric utilities. Instead, these provisions narrowly bar arguments that would ask judges and juries to contradict the Commission's express judgments. As part of approving a plan, the Commission must decide *both* what measures are necessary for safety *and* what measures would be too costly to be reasonable. For example, the Commission might decide that a power shutoff in high wind conditions is needed to protect public safety. If a plaintiff could sue the utility for damages resulting from the power outage, the Commission's decision would be undermined. On the other hand, if a plan requires a utility to inspect certain poles every year, and the utility fails to do so, a plaintiff would not be barred from alleging the utility was negligent.

Fourth, recent amendments to SB 2997, SD2, HD1 have added to the list of requirements for wildfire protection plans set forth at § 269-C. The Commission has explained that this additional detail is intended to support expeditious development and review of plans. While we understand and appreciate that perspective, we are concerned that a few of the additions could potentially create ambiguity rather than clarity and recommend that certain amendments be considered. In attached talking points—that address these amendments specifically (not all of the amendments in this testimony)—we explain the basis behind these amendments.

In summary, SB 2997 SD2, HD1 inclusive of our proposed amendments, achieves three important objectives for the State: it creates a public process for adopting robust, cost-effective wildfire protection plans according to codified standards; it ensures that electric utilities have the resources necessary to implement those plans; and it prevents civil litigants from undermining the public utilities commission's ability to make decisions vital to preventing wildfires in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to strongly support the restoration of SB 2997's original language and kindly request the committee's consideration.

Please pass SB 2997, SD2, HD1 with amendments as proposed in the attached.

SB 2997 SD2, HD1 Wildfire Mitigation Plan

Proposed HD1 Amendments for CPC/JHA consideration

Recent amendments to SB 2997 SD2, HD1 have added to the list of requirements for wildfire protection plans set forth at § 269-C. The PUC has explained that this additional detail is intended to support expeditious development and review of plans. While we understand and appreciate that perspective, we are concerned that a few of the additions could potentially create ambiguity rather than clarity and recommend that certain amendments be considered, as summarized below.

1. § 269-C(a)(12) and (13) -- wildfire risks and drivers. (p. 5)

Current bill language with potential amendments bolded and marked in strikethrough and underline:

(12) Include a list that identifies, describes, and prioritizes ~~all~~ wildfire risks, and drivers for those risks, throughout the electric utility's service territory, including all relevant risk and risk mitigation information as may be required by guidance or rules adopted by the public utilities commission. ~~The list shall include but not be limited to the following:~~

~~—— (A) Risks and risk drivers associated with design, construction, operations, and maintenance of the electric utility's equipment and facilities; and~~

~~—— (B) Particular risks and risk drivers associated with topographic and climatological risk factors throughout the different parts of the electric utility's service territory;~~

(13) Describe how the plan accounts for the wildfire risks the electric utility identifieds under paragraph (12) ~~in the electric utility's risk assessment;~~

These additions come from California statutory requirements for wildfire mitigation plans. *See* Cal. Pub. Util. Code § 8386(c)(12)-(13). The California requirements reference the Safety Model Assessment Proceeding and Risk

Assessment Mitigation Phase filings, which came out of the risk-based decision-making framework developed by the CPUC pursuant to a rulemaking proceeding initiated in 2013. *See* R.13-11-006.

While we have no concern with requiring electric utilities to identify wildfire risks and drivers in the plan, and to describe how the plan accounts for those risks, we would propose to be less prescriptive at this time given that standards for risk-based decision-making have not previously been established by the PUC.

The potential amendments would preserve these plan requirements, but provide greater flexibility and discretion for the PUC to develop risk-based decision making guidelines and standards specific to Hawaii, as contemplated by language added to current § 269-C(h) (“The rules or orders [of the public utilities commission] may include but need not be limited to procedures and standards regarding data governance, risk-based decision making, vegetation management, public power safety shutoffs and restorations, pole materials, circuitry, and monitoring systems.”).

The proposed amendment to (13) would clarify that this requirement ties to the list of wildfire risks to be included in the plan under paragraph (12). As framed, there is potential ambiguity because (13) references “risks identified in the electric utility’s risk assessment,” but “risk assessment” is not a term used elsewhere in the bill. (The California statute does not have the same ambiguity because it specifically references the “wildfire risk identified in the electrical corporation’s Risk Assessment Mitigation Phase filing.” *See* Cal. Pub. Util. Code § 8386(c)(11).)

2. § 269-C(a)(14) -- description of utility actions (p. 5)

Current bill language with potential amendment bolded and marked in strikethrough: (p. 5)

~~(14) Describe the actions that the electric utility will take to ensure its system will achieve the highest level of safety, reliability, and resiliency, and to ensure that its system is prepared for a wildfire, including hardening and modernizing its infrastructure with improved engineering, system design, standards, equipment, and facilities, including but not limited to undergrounding lines, insulation of distribution wires, and pole replacement;~~

This language also comes from California statutory requirements. See Cal. Pub. Util. Code § 8386(c)(14). We would propose to delete this as a standalone requirement because the spirit is encompassed by numerous other plan-related requirements set forth in § 269-C and the letter of this requirement could be perceived as inconsistent with paragraph (4) affirming that wildfire mitigation efforts must “reflect[] a reasonable balancing of mitigation costs, continuity of reliable service and reduction of wildfire risk.” (§ 269-C(e) similarly affirms that the PUC may direct electrical utilities to make modifications or updates to the plan “that the commission believes represent a reasonable balancing of mitigation costs with the resulting reduction of wildfire risk based on the information provided by the electric utility and based on best practices.”)

Alternatively, we would propose to add “reasonable” or “reasonably” to this language to mitigate the potential for perceived inconsistency (e.g., “Describe the reasonable actions that the electric utility will take,” or similar). We also note that the California statute uses the phrase “*such as* undergrounding, insulating of distribution wires, and replacing poles” rather than “including but not limited to undergrounding . . .”

3. § 269-C(a)(20)(B) -- process for improvement (p. 6)

Current bill language with potential amendments bolded and marked in strikethrough and underline:

(20) Describe the processes and procedures that the electric utility will use to do all of the following:

(A) Monitor and audit the implementation of the plan;

(B) **Monitor the effectiveness of ~~Identify any deficiencies in the plan and~~ of the plan's implementation and identify areas for improvement ~~correct these deficiencies;~~ and**

(C) Monitor and audit the effectiveness of electrical line and equipment inspections, including inspections performed by contractors, carried out under the

plan and other applicable statutes and rules of the public utilities commission;

While this requirement tracks a California statutory requirement (*see* Cal. Pub. Util. Code § 8386(c)(22)), we would propose to amend this language to avoid the implication that having a process for continuous improvement and incorporation of lessons learned is indicative of “deficiencies” in the wildfire protection plans that would be developed by the electric utilities and approved by the PUC under the bill.

4. § 269-C(a)(15) -- adequately sized and trained workforce (p. 5)

Current bill language with potential amendments bolded and marked in strikethrough and underline:

(15) ~~Demonstrate~~ Include a showing that the electric utility has an adequately sized and trained workforce to promptly restore service after a wildfire, taking into account employees of other utilities pursuant to mutual aid agreements and employees of entities that have entered into contracts with the electric utility;

The California statute requires that wildfire mitigation plans include “a showing that the utility has an adequately sized and trained workforce to promptly restore service after a major event . . .” Cal. Pub. Util. Code § 8386(c)(16). Amending the requirement to be “include a showing” would be more consistent with that framing, and would avoid potential ambiguity regarding the term “demonstrate.”

5. § 269-C(a)(21) -- data governance (p. 6)

Current bill language with potential amendments bolded and marked in underline:

(21) Demonstrate elements of data governance, including enterprise systems, as may be required by guidance or rules adopted by the public utilities commission;

The proposed amendment would clarify that the requirement to address data governance issues in wildfire protection plans would be based on any rules or guidance that the PUC develops in this area, as contemplated by language added to § 269-C(h) (“The rules or orders [of the public utilities commission] may include but need not be limited to procedures and standards regarding data governance, risk-based decision making, vegetation management, public power safety shutoffs and restorations, pole materials, circuitry, and monitoring systems.”).

No amendment is necessary if the requirement is intended to be more general at this time.

THE SENATE
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE,
2024
STATE OF HAWAII

S.B. NO. 2997
S.D. 2

H.D. 1
PROPOSED
H.D. 2

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the risk of catastrophic wildfires has increased, making it imperative that electric utilities develop, implement, and administer effective plans for wildfire risk mitigation. Electric utilities should develop, implement, and administer wildfire protection plans, and, through a public process, the public utilities commission should review and approve such plans.

The legislature also finds that a resilience working group, convened throughout 2019 and 2020, sought to: (1) identify and prioritize resilience threat scenarios and potential grid impacts; (2) identify key customer and infrastructure sector capabilities and needs following a severe event and loss of power; (3) identify gaps and priorities in grid and customer capabilities following a severe event and loss of power; (4) provide recommendations and inputs for investor-owned utility

grid planning to address resilience needs; and (5) recommend additional grid and customer actions to close gaps and capabilities following severe events. The resilience working group identified wildfires as one of five types of severe events of utmost importance to consider for achieving a resilient grid and provided resilience options for utilities to consider.

The purpose of this Act is to:

- (1) Create a process whereby electric utilities develop and submit effective risk-based wildfire protection plans to the public utilities commission for approval and the commission evaluates those plans and either approves them or does so with modifications; and
- (2) Require public utilities to report wildfires caused by or occurring in connection with their operations.

SECTION 2. Chapter 269, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"PART . WILDFIRE PROTECTION AND MITIGATION

§269-A Definitions. As used in this part:

"Commission" means the public utilities commission.

"Electric utility" means a public utility that is engaged in the production, transmission, or distribution of electricity.

"Wildfire protection plan" means the risk-based wildfire protection plan mandated by section 269-C(a) and approved by the commission.

§269-B Electric utility workshops. The commission may periodically convene workshops to help electric utilities

develop and share information for the identification, adoption, and implementation of best practices regarding wildfires, including but not limited to risk-based wildfire protection and risk-based wildfire mitigation procedures and standards.

§269-C Wildfire protection plans. (a) Each electric utility shall have and operate in compliance with a risk-based wildfire protection plan, which shall be filed with and evaluated by the commission. The risk-based wildfire protection plan shall be based on reasonable and prudent practices, which may be identified through workshops convened by the commission pursuant to section 269-B, regulatory proceedings conducted by the commission, and commission standards adopted by rule or order. The electric utility shall design the risk-based wildfire protection plan to protect public safety, reduce risk to electric utility customers, and promote resilience of the Hawaii electric system to wildfire damage. Each electric utility's wildfire protection plan shall, at a minimum:

(1) Account for the responsibilities of persons responsible for executing the plan;

(2) Describe the objectives of the plan;

(3) Identify areas that are subject to a heightened risk of wildfire and are:

(A) Within the right of way or legal control or ownership of the electric utility; and

(B) Outside the right of way or legal control or ownership of the electric utility but within a

reasonable distance, as determined by the
commission, of the electric utility's generation
or transmission assets;

(4) Identify a means for mitigating wildfire risk that reflects a reasonable balancing of mitigation costs continuity of reliable service and reduction of wildfire risk;

(5) Identify preventive actions and programs that the electric utility shall carry out to minimize the risk of electric utility facilities causing wildfire;

(6) Identify the metrics the electric utility plans to use to evaluate the plan's performance and the assumptions that underlie the use of those metrics;

(7) Describe how the application of previously identified metrics to previous plan performances has informed the plan;

(8) After seeking information from state and local entities, identify a protocol for the deenergizing of power lines and adjusting of power system operations to mitigate wildfires, promote the safety of the public and first responders, and preserve health and communication infrastructure;

(9) Describe appropriate and feasible procedures for notifying a customer who may be impacted by the deenergizing of electrical lines. The procedures shall consider the need to notify, as a priority, critical first responders, health care facilities, operators of wastewater and water delivery infrastructure, and operators of telecommunications infrastructure;

(10) Describe the procedures, standards, and time frames that the electric utility shall use to inspect electric utility infrastructure in areas that the electric utility identifies under paragraph (3), including whether those procedures, standards, and time frames are already set forth in the electric utility's existing plans or protocols and in coordination with any relevant entities;

(11) Describe the procedures, standards, and time frames that the electric utility will use to carry out vegetation management in areas that the electric utility identifies under

paragraph (3), including whether those procedures, standards, and time frames are already set forth in the electric utility's existing plans or protocols and in coordination with any relevant entities;

(12) Include a list that identifies, describes, and prioritizes ~~all~~ wildfire risks, and drivers for those risks, throughout the electric utility's service territory. ~~The list shall include but not, including all relevant risk and risk mitigation information as may be limited to~~ required by guidance or rules adopted by the following: public utilities commission;

~~(A) Risks and risk drivers associated with design, construction, operations, and maintenance of the electric utility's equipment and facilities; and~~

~~(B) Particular risks and risk drivers associated with topographic and climatological risk factors throughout the different parts of the electric utility's service territory;~~

(13) Describe how the plan accounts for the wildfire ~~risk identified in the electric utility's risk assessment;~~ identified under paragraph 12;

~~(14) Describe the actions risks the electric utility will take to ensure its system will achieve the highest level of safety, reliability, and resiliency, and to ensure that its system is prepared for a wildfire, including hardening and modernizing its infrastructure with improved engineering, system design, standards, equipment, and facilities, including but not limited to undergrounding lines, insulation of distribution wires, and pole replacement; identifies under paragraph (12);~~

~~(15) Demonstrate~~ 14) Include a showing that the electric utility has an adequately sized and trained workforce to promptly restore service after a wildfire, taking into account employees of other utilities pursuant to mutual aid agreements and employees of entities that have entered into contracts with the electric utility;

~~16~~ 15) Identify the estimated development, implementation, and administration costs for the plan;

(1716) Identify the timelines, as applicable, for development, implementation, and administration of any aspects of the plan;

(1817) Describe how the plan is consistent with the electric utility's other hazard mitigation and grid hardening plans, including plans to prepare for, and to restore service after, a wildfire, including workforce mobilization and repositioning equipment and employees;

(1918) Identify community outreach and public awareness efforts that the electric utility will use before, during, and after a wildfire;

(2019) Describe the processes and procedures the electric utility will use to do all of the following:

- (A) Monitor and audit the implementation of the plan;
- (B) ~~Identify any deficiencies in~~ Monitor the effectiveness of the plan ~~or~~ and the plan's implementation and ~~correct those deficiencies;~~ identify areas for improvement, and
- (C) Monitor and audit the effectiveness of electrical line and equipment inspections, including inspections performed by contractors, carried out under the plan and other applicable statutes and rules of the commission;

(2120) Demonstrate elements of data governance, including enterprise systems, as may be required by guidance or rules adopted by the public utilities commission; and

(2221) Any modifications to paragraphs (1) to (21), or other information as required by the commission.

(b) Each electric utility shall regularly update its risk-based wildfire protection plan on a schedule determined by the commission.

(c) To develop the risk-based wildfire protection plan, the electric utility may consult with and consider information from federal, state, local, and other expert entities.

(d) The commission, in consultation with the department of land and natural resources, Hawaii emergency management agency, and local emergency services agencies, shall evaluate each electric utility's risk-based wildfire protection plan and plan updates through a public process.

(e) No more than ninety days after the last party filing, and no more than a total of one hundred eighty days after the initial filing in the docket or non-docketed case related to the commission's evaluation of a risk-based wildfire protection plan or plan update from an electric utility, the commission shall approve or approve with conditions the plan or update if the commission finds that the plan or update is based on reasonable and prudent practices and designed to meet all applicable rules and standards adopted by the commission. The commission may, in approving the plan or update with conditions, direct the electric utility to make modifications to the plan or updates that the commission believes represent a reasonable balancing of mitigation costs with the resulting reduction of wildfire risk based on the information provided by the electric utility and based on best practices. The commission shall issue a decision explaining any such directed modifications at the time it

approves the plan. Such decision shall include a determination of the reasonable costs to develop, implement and administer the plan. The commission shall establish a mechanism to allow timely and prompt recovery of such costs in rates, which shall be incremental to the rates the utility is otherwise authorized to charge.

(f) The electric utility shall track the costs that it actually incurs to develop, implement, and administer the risk-based wildfire protection plan. In the electric utility's risk-based wildfire protection plan update, the electric utility shall report on the costs as actually incurred for the most recent past period for which the information is available.

If the actual costs are less than the amounts that the commission determined were reasonable in its decision under subsection (e), the commission shall direct the electric utility to refund or credit the costs to ratepayers.

If the actual costs are equal to or greater than the amounts that the commission determined were reasonable in its decision under subsection (e), the commission shall not direct the electric utility to refund to ratepayers the amount the commission previously determined was reasonable but may disallow the recovery from ratepayers of any additional costs the commission finds unreasonable.

(g) ~~The commission's approval~~ So long as such electric utility has not acted in a manner constitutes willful misconduct, bad faith, or reckless disregard of a risk-based its obligations, in each case, in compliance with any applicable

wildfire protection plan ~~does not by itself establish a defense to any enforcement action~~, no electric utility shall be civilly liable for violation the death of a or injury to persons, or property damage, as a result of:

(1) Any act taken in accordance with a plan or updated plan approved by the ~~commission rule or order, or relieve an electric utility from proactively managing wildfire risk, including~~ under this chapter; or

(2) Any failure to take an action proposed by ~~monitoring emerging practices~~ an electric utility in a plan or updated plan and technologies. ~~Electrici~~ thereafter removed from the plan by modification of the commission.

(h) There shall be no liability on the part of, and no cause of action of any nature shall arise against, the public utilities ~~are expected to continuously improve and take reasonable actions outside of approved plans~~ commission or its agents and employees, the State, the public utilities commission commissioners, or the commissioners' representatives for the death of or injury to ~~mitigate wildfire risk.~~ persons, or property damage, for any action taken by such in the performance of their powers and duties under this chapter.

~~(h)~~ (i) The commission shall, as appropriate, adopt rules or issue orders for the implementation of this section. The rules or orders may include but need not be limited to

procedures and standards regarding data governance, risk-based decision-making, vegetation management, public power safety shutoffs and restorations, pole materials, circuitry, and monitoring systems.

§269-D Penalties. (a) In addition to any other penalties provided by law, a failure by an electric utility to comply with an approved plan or part of an approved plan shall be subject to a civil penalty, as determined by the commission. Imposition of penalties pursuant to this section shall otherwise be in accordance with section 269-28 and all applicable administrative rules. All moneys collected under this section shall be deposited into the public utilities commission special fund.". The PUC shall utilize Performance Based Regulation to develop financial penalties and incentives tied to compliance with and performance under an approved plan.

(b) Any determination by the commission that the electric utility materially failed to comply with an approved plan or part of an approved plan, and any imposition of a civil penalty, will be inadmissible in any lawsuit or other action against the electric utility seeking compensation for the alleged death of or injury to persons, or property damage. In any action seeking to hold an electric utility civilly liable for the death of or injury to persons, or property damage, no inference of liability may be drawn solely based on a failure

by the electric utility to adhere to the requirements of an approved plan.

SECTION 3. Section 269-9, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"§269-9 Report accidents. (a) Every public utility shall report to the public utilities commission all accidents and wildfires potentially caused by or occurring in connection with its operations and service, and the commission shall investigate the causes of [~~any~~]:

(1) Any accident [~~which results~~] that resulted in the loss of life[;]; and

(2) Any wildfires that:

(A) May have been caused by a public utility;

(B) Destroyed a significant amount of public utility equipment; or

(C) Resulted in the loss of life; and

may investigate any other accidents which in its opinion require investigation.

(b) The public utility's reporting of an accident or wildfire under this section shall not be admissible evidence in any judicial, administrative, or other governmental proceeding for purposes of establishing that the wildfire was caused by the public utility."

SECTION 4. In codifying the new sections added by section 2 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute

appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating the new sections in this Act.

SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.

Report Title:

PUC; Wildfires; Electric Utilities; Risk-based Wildfire Protection Plans; Mitigation; Wildfire Reporting

Description:

Creates a process for electric utilities to develop and submit risk-based wildfire protection plans to the Public Utilities Commission for approval. Requires public utilities to report wildfires potentially caused by or occurring in connection with their operations. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEES ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE AND JUDICIARY &
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Monday, March 18, 2024 — 2:00 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports the intent of SB 2997 SD2 HD1, Relating to Public Utilities.

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food, renewable energy, clean transportation choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

Ulupono supports the intent of SB 2997 SD2 HD1 and offers comments. This bill creates a process for electric utilities to develop and submit risk-based wildfire protection plans to the Public Utilities Commission for approval and requires public utilities to report wildfires potentially caused by or occurring in connection with their operations.

Hawai'i's unique communities and ecosystems are increasingly threatened by the devastating impacts of wildfires. In recent years, we have witnessed a rise in the frequency and intensity of wildfires, exacerbated by climate change, land and water management practices, and urban encroachment into fire-prone areas. The culmination of these forces resulted in the devastating and heartbreaking destruction seen on Maui last year.

Ulupono supports the explicit requirement that the utility wildfire protection planning process be open to community and stakeholder engagement. We consider community engagement a crucial component of the decision-making process, particularly when it comes to investments that support community health and safety.

To further enhance the decision-making process, Ulupono recommends that greater visibility and optionality be presented by developing a set of investment and price-based scenarios for the PUC to consider. Ulupono also recommends that the bill require the utility, when developing its wildfire protection plan, to develop a series of sensitivities at a low, base, and high set of investment and cost scenarios. Providing pricing scenarios will enable deeper discussion and improve decision-making discussions between the regulator, consumer advocate, stakeholders, community, and utilities.

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



Undisputed are the importance and urgency of preparing for increased risks from wildfires and ensuring that loss and damage caused by wildfires are addressed. Developing utility wildfire protection plans is a sound policy to address future wildfire risks across our state. We support the PUC's review and approval of said plans as it creates a transparent public process.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

**TESTIMONY OF EVAN OUE ON BEHALF OF THE HAWAII
ASSOCIATION FOR JUSTICE (HAJ) WITH COMMENTS ON
SB 2997 SD2 HD1**

Date: Monday, March 18, 2024

Time: 2:00 p.m.

My name is Evan Oue and thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on behalf of the Hawaii Association for Justice (HAJ) with **COMMENTS** on SB 2997 SD2 HD1 - RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES. The measure seeks to establish a Hawaii Wildfire Fire Relief Fund to provide compensation for property damage resulting from catastrophic wildfires in the State.

HAJ appreciates the previous committee's amendment to remove the proposed Section 269 for liability immunity on Pages 7-8 of the original version of the measure. The previous version of SB 2997 sought to immunizes electric utilities, public utilities other than electric utilities, the State, or private landowners from being *civilly liable for the death of or injury* to persons or property damage.

HAJ has always held the position that broad immunity is bad public policy, and we are not aware of any other state that has provided such broad immunity of this type. In this instance, the previous liability provision would have prevented future claims for catastrophic death or injury if a utility did not adhere to the wildfire protection plan. This immunity would have applied even to disasters that are caused by the sort of negligence that led to the recent destruction of so many lives and livelihoods on Maui.

Accordingly, if this measure proceeds, we respectfully ask that the liability immunity provision remains out of the measure. Thank you very much for allowing me to testify with comments. We look forward to working with other stakeholders on this legislation. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or desire additional information.



MAUI
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VOICE OF BUSINESS

LATE

**HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE and JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 329
Monday, March 18, 2024 AT 2:00 P.M.**

To The Honorable Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
The Honorable Jackson D. Sayama, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
To The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair
The Honorable Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

COMMENTS ON SB2997 SD2 HD1 RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES

The Maui Chamber of Commerce would like to **COMMENT on SB2997 SD2 HD1.**

The Chamber agrees it is essential that the electric utilities develop, monitor, and update their wildfire protection plans and activities, as we encourage businesses to do in their disaster/emergency planning. Electric utilities should develop these plans, and the public utilities commission, through a public process, should review and approve these plans.

We are concerned about the potential cost to consumers during this challenging time and when all costs are already increasing. Each of these incremental costs are what creates the widening gap between minimum wage and a true living wage.

Mahalo for the opportunity to **COMMENT on SB2997 SD2 HD1.**

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.

LATE

SB-2997-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 2:02:08 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/18/2024 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|------------------|--|--------------------|------------------------|
| David Z. Arakawa | Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers, and utility companies. LURF’s mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational, and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii’s significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** SB 2997, SD2, HD1, which creates a process for electric utilities to develop and submit risk-based wildfire protection plans to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for approval. Requires public utilities to report wildfires potentially caused by or occurring in connection with their operations. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

LURF respectfully **requests an amendment** that would also provide liability protections for the counties and private landowners that comply with the risk-based wildfire protection plan approved by the PUC.

LURF’s Position. LURF members include large landowners, whose operations include agricultural, residential, commercial, industrial, renewable energy, and resort uses. Wildfires have had and will continue to have devastating effects on the people and property that LURF members deeply care about. LURF members strongly support the creation and implementation of effective risk-based wildfire protection plans approved by the PUC, after input by the State, counties, landowners, and the public **and liability protections.**

For the reasons set forth above, LURF is in **strong support of SB 2997, SD2, HD1,** and respectfully requests this Committee’s **favorable consideration of the proposed amendment** to this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding this matter.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
AND
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

SB2922 SD2 HD1

Relating to Public Utilities

Monday, March 18, 2024

2:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by **your name**

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

My name is **your name** and I am testifying in support of SB2922 SD2 HD1, Relating to Public Utilities. This bill would provide utilities with another option to finance their projects at a lower cost, in particular, when current traditional financing might be unavailable or very costly, which ultimately impacts the customer.

SB2922 SD2 HD1 will provide lower cost financing options for a utility. It will also increase access to cost-effective financing for grid safety, resilience and reliability for affected utilities. Securitization has been adopted by other states and has proven to be an optimal option for utilities that have experienced major weather events to use it as a financing tool. By creating this financing option – utilities can use this mechanism to finance important wildfire, resilience and sustainability investments.

Please pass SB2922 SD2 HD1 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
AND
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**SB2997 SD2,HD1
Relating to Public Utilities**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by Lorrie Iwanaga

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Lorrie Iwanaga and I am testifying in support of SB2997 SD2 HD1, Relating to Public Utilities.

SB2997 SD2 HD1 proposes utility standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the wildfire risk mitigation plans by the Public Utilities Commission. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to continue its investments in a safe, reliable and affordable grid. Due to unprecedented weather events, we need to prepare now for any future events that could devastate our state's island chain, whether by wildfire or other natural disaster.

Please pass SB2997 SD2 HD1 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
AND
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**SB2997 SD2,HD1
Relating to Public Utilities**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by Enrique Che

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Enrique Che and I am testifying in support of SB2997 SD2 HD1, Relating to Public Utilities.

SB2997 SD2 HD1 proposes utility standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the wildfire risk mitigation plans by the Public Utilities Commission. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to continue its investments in a safe, reliable and affordable grid. Due to unprecedented weather events, we need to prepare now for any future events that could devastate our state's island chain, whether by wildfire or other natural disaster.

Please pass SB2997 SD2 HD1 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
AND
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**SB2997 SD2,HD1
Relating to Public Utilities**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Lynne Unemori and I am testifying in support of SB2997 SD2 HD1, Relating to Public Utilities.

SB2997 SD2 HD1 proposes utility standards for wildfire mitigation plans and a regular review of the wildfire risk mitigation plans by the Public Utilities Commission. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive financing cost, which will allow utilities to continue to make investments in a safe, reliable and affordable grid at a lower cost. Electric utility customers directly benefit from the savings of lower financing costs as well as from the actual grid improvements.

Please pass SB2997 SD2 HD1 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
AND
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**SB2997 SD2,HD1
Relating to Public Utilities**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by Earlynne F. Maile

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Earlynne F. Maile and I am testifying in support of SB2997 SD2 HD1, Relating to Public Utilities.

SB2997 SD2 HD1 proposes utility standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the wildfire risk mitigation plans by the Public Utilities Commission. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to continue its investments in a safe, reliable and affordable grid. Due to unprecedented weather events, we need to prepare now for any future events that could devastate our state's island chain, whether by wildfire or other natural disaster.

Please pass SB2997 SD2 HD1 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
AND
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**SB2997 SD2,HD1
Relating to Public Utilities**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by Sharon Suzuki

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Sharon Suzuki and I am testifying in support of SB2997 SD2 HD1, Relating to Public Utilities.

SB2997 SD2 HD1 proposes utility standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the wildfire risk mitigation plans by the Public Utilities Commission. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to continue its investments in a safe, reliable and affordable grid. Due to unprecedented weather events, we need to prepare now for any future events that could devastate our state's island chain, whether by wildfire or other natural disaster.

Please pass SB2997 SD2 HD1 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
AND
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**SB2997 SD2,HD1
Relating to Public Utilities**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by Silas Oliveira de Toledo

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Silas Oliveira de Toledo and I am testifying in support of SB2997 SD2 HD1, Relating to Public Utilities.

SB2997 SD2 HD1 proposes utility standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the wildfire risk mitigation plans by the Public Utilities Commission. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to continue its investments in a safe, reliable and affordable grid. Due to unprecedented weather events, we need to prepare now for any future events that could devastate our state's island chain, whether by wildfire or other natural disaster.

Please pass SB2997 SD2 HD1 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
AND
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**SB2997 SD2,HD1
Relating to Public Utilities**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by Jamie Lee

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Jamie Lee and I am testifying in support of SB2997 SD2 HD1, Relating to Public Utilities.

SB2997 SD2 HD1 proposes utility standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the wildfire risk mitigation plans by the Public Utilities Commission. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to continue its investments in a safe, reliable and affordable grid. Due to unprecedented weather events, we need to prepare now for any future events that could devastate our state's island chain, whether by wildfire or other natural disaster.

Please pass SB2997 SD2 HD1 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
AND
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**SB2997 SD2,HD1
Relating to Public Utilities**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by Phillip Gerwien

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Phillip Gerwien and I am testifying in support of SB2997 SD2 HD1, Relating to Public Utilities.

SB2997 SD2 HD1 proposes utility standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the wildfire risk mitigation plans by the Public Utilities Commission. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to continue its investments in a safe, reliable and affordable grid. Due to unprecedented weather events, we need to prepare now for any future events that could devastate our state's island chain, whether by wildfire or other natural disaster.

Please pass SB2997 SD2 HD1 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
AND
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**SB2997 SD2,HD1
Relating to Public Utilities**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by Peter Okunami

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Peter Okunami and I am testifying in support of SB2997 SD2 HD1, Relating to Public Utilities.

SB2997 SD2 HD1 proposes utility standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the wildfire risk mitigation plans by the Public Utilities Commission. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to continue its investments in a safe, reliable and affordable grid. Due to unprecedented weather events, we need to prepare now for any future events that could devastate our state's island chain, whether by wildfire or other natural disaster.

Please pass SB2997 SD2 HD1 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
AND
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**SB2997 SD2,HD1
Relating to Public Utilities**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by Carrie Iwamoto

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Carrie Iwamoto and I am testifying in support of SB2997 SD2 HD1, Relating to Public Utilities.

SB2997 SD2 HD1 proposes utility standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the wildfire risk mitigation plans by the Public Utilities Commission. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to continue its investments in a safe, reliable and affordable grid. Due to unprecedented weather events, we need to prepare now for any future events that could devastate our state's island chain, whether by wildfire or other natural disaster.

Please pass SB2997 SD2 HD1 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
AND
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**SB2997 SD2,HD1
Relating to Public Utilities**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by Philip Mow

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Philip Mow and I am testifying in support of SB2997 SD2 HD1, Relating to Public Utilities.

SB2997 SD2 HD1 proposes utility standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the wildfire risk mitigation plans by the Public Utilities Commission. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to continue its investments in a safe, reliable and affordable grid. Due to unprecedented weather events, we need to prepare now for any future events that could devastate our state's island chain, whether by wildfire or other natural disaster.

Please pass SB2997 SD2 HD1 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

SB-2997-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 6:02:39 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/18/2024 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Chris Reynolds | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am testifying in support of SB2997 SD2 HD1, Relating to Public Utilities.

SB2997 SD2 HD1 proposes utility standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the wildfire risk mitigation plans by the Public Utilities Commission. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to continue its investments in a safe, reliable and affordable grid. Due to unprecedented weather events, we need to prepare now for any future events that could devastate our state's island chain, whether by wildfire or other natural disaster.

Please pass SB2997 SD2 HD1 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
AND
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**SB2997 SD2,HD1
Relating to Public Utilities**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by Gayle Ohashi

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Gayle Ohashi and I am testifying in support of SB2997 SD2 HD1, Relating to Public Utilities.

SB2997 SD2 HD1 proposes utility standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the wildfire risk mitigation plans by the Public Utilities Commission. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to continue its investments in a safe, reliable and affordable grid. Due to unprecedented weather events, we need to prepare now for any future events that could devastate our state's island chain, whether by wildfire or other natural disaster.

Please pass SB2997 SD2 HD1 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
AND
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**SB2997 SD2,HD1
Relating to Public Utilities**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by Michele Higa

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Michele Higa and I am testifying in support of SB2997 SD2 HD1, Relating to Public Utilities.

SB2997 SD2 HD1 proposes utility standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the wildfire risk mitigation plans by the Public Utilities Commission. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to continue its investments in a safe, reliable and affordable grid. Due to unprecedented weather events, we need to prepare now for any future events that could devastate our state's island chain, whether by wildfire or other natural disaster.

Please pass SB2997 SD2 HD1 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
AND
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**SB2997 SD2,HD1
Relating to Public Utilities**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by Karen Yim

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Karen Yim and I am testifying in support of SB2997 SD2 HD1, Relating to Public Utilities.

SB2997 SD2 HD1 proposes utility standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the wildfire risk mitigation plans by the Public Utilities Commission. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to continue its investments in a safe, reliable and affordable grid. Due to unprecedented weather events, we need to prepare now for any future events that could devastate our state's island chain, whether by wildfire or other natural disaster.

Please pass SB2997 SD2 HD1 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

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AND
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**SB2997 SD2,HD1
Relating to Public Utilities**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by Jimmy Yim

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Jimmy Yim and I am testifying in support of SB2997 SD2 HD1, Relating to Public Utilities.

SB2997 SD2 HD1 proposes utility standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the wildfire risk mitigation plans by the Public Utilities Commission. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to continue its investments in a safe, reliable and affordable grid. Due to unprecedented weather events, we need to prepare now for any future events that could devastate our state's island chain, whether by wildfire or other natural disaster.

Please pass SB2997 SD2 HD1 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

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**SB2997 SD2,HD1
Relating to Public Utilities**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by Susan Arinaga Li

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Susan Arinaga Li and I am testifying in support of SB2997 SD2 HD1, Relating to Public Utilities.

SB2997 SD2 HD1 proposes utility standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the wildfire risk mitigation plans by the Public Utilities Commission. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and will allow utilities to make investments to continue their provision of safe, reliable and affordable service. Due to unprecedented weather events, we need to prepare now for any future events that could devastate our state's island chain, whether by wildfire or other natural disaster.

Please pass SB2997 SD2 HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
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**SB2997 SD2,HD1
Relating to Public Utilities**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by Alan Higa

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Alan Higa and I am testifying in support of SB2997 SD2 HD1, Relating to Public Utilities.

SB2997 SD2 HD1 proposes utility standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the wildfire risk mitigation plans by the Public Utilities Commission. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to continue its investments in a safe, reliable and affordable grid. Due to unprecedented weather events, we need to prepare now for any future events that could devastate our state's island chain, whether by wildfire or other natural disaster.

Please pass SB2997 SD2 HD1 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
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AND
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**SB2997 SD2,HD1
Relating to Public Utilities**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by Robert Young

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Robert Young and I am testifying in support of SB2997 SD2 HD1, Relating to Public Utilities.

SB2997 SD2 HD1 proposes utility standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the wildfire risk mitigation plans by the Public Utilities Commission. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to continue its investments in a safe, reliable and affordable grid. Due to unprecedented weather events, we need to prepare now for any future events that could devastate our state's island chain, whether by wildfire or other natural disaster.

Please pass SB2997 SD2 HD1 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

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CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
AND
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**SB2997 SD2,HD1
Relating to Public Utilities**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by Kerry Kanakaole

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Kerry Kanakaole and I am testifying in support of SB2997SD2 HD1, Relating to Public Utilities.

SB2997 SD2 HD1 proposes utility standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the wildfire risk mitigation plans by the Public Utilities Commission. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to continue its investments in a safe, reliable and affordable grid. Due to unprecedented weather events, we need to prepare now for any future events that could devastate our state's island chain, whether by wildfire or other natural disaster.

Please pass SB2997 SD2 HD1 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
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AND
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**SB2997 SD2 HD1
Relating to Public Utilities**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by Lyanne Hiromoto

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Lyanne Hiromoto, and I am testifying in support of SB2997 SD2 HD1, Relating to Public Utilities.

SB2997 SD2 HD1 proposes utility standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the wildfire risk mitigation plans by the Public Utilities Commission. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to continue its investments in a safe, reliable and affordable grid. Due to unprecedented weather events, we need to prepare now for any future events that could devastate our state's island chain, whether by wildfire or other natural disaster.

Please pass SB2997 SD2 HD1 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

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AND
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**SB2997 SD2,HD1
Relating to Public Utilities**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by Gary Hanaoka

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Gary Hanaoka and I am testifying in support of SB2997 SD2 HD1, Relating to Public Utilities.

SB2997 SD2 HD1 proposes utility standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the wildfire risk mitigation plans by the Public Utilities Commission. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to continue its investments in a safe, reliable and affordable grid. Due to unprecedented weather events, we need to prepare now for any future events that could devastate our state's island chain, whether by wildfire or other natural disaster.

Please pass SB2997 SD2 HD1 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

SB-2997-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 1:00:29 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/18/2024 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Juliane Inouye | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Support

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
AND
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**SB2997 SD2,HD1
Relating to Public Utilities**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by Keith Kobuke

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Keith Kobuke and I am testifying in support of SB2997 SD2 HD1, Relating to Public Utilities.

SB2997 SD2 HD1 proposes utility standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the wildfire risk mitigation plans by the Public Utilities Commission. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to continue its investments in a safe, reliable and affordable grid. Due to unprecedented weather events, we need to prepare now for any future events that could devastate our state's island chain, whether by wildfire or other natural disaster.

Please pass SB2997 SD2 HD1 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

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AND
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**SB2997 SD2,HD1
Relating to Public Utilities**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by Alden Ishii

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Alden Ishii and I am testifying in support of SB2997 SD2 HD1, Relating to Public Utilities.

SB2997 SD2 HD1 proposes utility standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the wildfire risk mitigation plans by the Public Utilities Commission. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to continue its investments in a safe, reliable and affordable grid. Due to unprecedented weather events, we need to prepare now for any future events that could devastate our state's island chain, whether by wildfire or other natural disaster.

Please pass SB2997 SD2 HD1 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

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AND
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**SB2997 SD2,HD1
Relating to Public Utilities**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by Lorie Nagata

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Lorie Nagata and I am testifying in support of SB2997 SD2 HD1, Relating to Public Utilities.

SB2997 SD2 HD1 proposes utility standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the wildfire risk mitigation plans by the Public Utilities Commission. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to continue its investments in a safe, reliable and affordable grid. Due to unprecedented weather events, we need to prepare now for any future events that could devastate our state's island chain, whether by wildfire or other natural disaster.

Please pass SB2997 SD2 HD1 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

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AND
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**SB2997 SD2,HD1
Relating to Public Utilities**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by Mark Suehiro

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Mark Suehiro and I am testifying in support of SB2997 SD2 HD1, Relating to Public Utilities.

SB2997 SD2 HD1 proposes utility standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the wildfire risk mitigation plans by the Public Utilities Commission. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to continue its investments in a safe, reliable and affordable grid. Due to unprecedented weather events, we need to prepare now for any future events that could devastate our state's island chain, whether by wildfire or other natural disaster.

Please pass SB2997 SD2 HD1 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

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AND
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**SB2997 SD2,HD1
Relating to Public Utilities**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by Lyle J. Matsunaga

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Lyle Matsunaga and I am testifying in support of SB2997 SD2 HD1, Relating to Public Utilities.

SB2997 SD2 HD1 proposes utility standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the wildfire risk mitigation plans by the Public Utilities Commission. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to continue its investments in a safe, reliable and affordable grid. Due to unprecedented weather events, we need to prepare now for any future events that could devastate our state's island chain, whether by wildfire or other natural disaster.

Please pass SB2997 SD2 HD1 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

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AND
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**SB2997 SD2,HD1
Relating to Public Utilities**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by Michelle Chang

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Michelle Chang and I am testifying in support of SB2997 SD2 HD1, Relating to Public Utilities.

SB2997 SD2 HD1 proposes utility standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the wildfire risk mitigation plans by the Public Utilities Commission. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to continue its investments in a safe, reliable and affordable grid. Due to unprecedented weather events, we need to prepare now for any future events that could devastate our state's island chain, whether by wildfire or other natural disaster.

Please pass SB2997 SD2 HD1 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

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AND
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**SB2997 SD2,HD1
Relating to Public Utilities**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by Ken Aramaki

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Ken Aramaki and I am testifying in support of SB2997 SD2 HD1, Relating to Public Utilities.

SB2997 SD2 HD1 proposes utility standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the wildfire risk mitigation plans by the Public Utilities Commission. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to continue its investments in a safe, reliable and affordable grid. Due to unprecedented weather events, we need to prepare now for any future events that could devastate our state's island chain, whether by wildfire or other natural disaster.

Please pass SB2997 SD2 HD1 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

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**SB2997 SD2,HD1
Relating to Public Utilities**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by Teri Theuriet

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Teri Theuriet and I am testifying in support of SB2997 SD2 HD1, Relating to Public Utilities.

SB2997 SD2 HD1 proposes utility standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the wildfire risk mitigation plans by the Public Utilities Commission. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to continue its investments in a safe, reliable and affordable grid. Due to unprecedented weather events, we need to prepare now for any future events that could devastate our state's island chain, whether by wildfire or other natural disaster.

Please pass SB2997 SD2 HD1 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

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**SB2997 SD2, HD1
Relating to Public Utilities**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by Karen Hirota

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Karen Hirota and I am testifying in support of SB2997 SD2 HD1, Relating to Public Utilities.

SB2997 SD2 HD1 proposes utility standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the wildfire risk mitigation plans by the Public Utilities Commission. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to continue its investments in a safe, reliable and affordable grid. Due to unprecedented weather events, we need to prepare now for any future events that could devastate our state's island chain, whether by wildfire or other natural disaster.

Please pass SB2997 SD2 HD1 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

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**SB2997 SD2,HD1
Relating to Public Utilities**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by Richard T. Eber

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Richard Eber and I am testifying in support of SB2997 SD2 HD1, Relating to Public Utilities.

SB2997 SD2 HD1 proposes utility standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the wildfire risk mitigation plans by the Public Utilities Commission. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to continue its investments in a safe, reliable and affordable grid. Due to unprecedented weather events, we need to prepare now for any future events that could devastate our state's island chain, whether by wildfire or other natural disaster.

Please pass SB2997 SD2 HD1 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

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**SB2997 SD2,HD1
Relating to Public Utilities**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by Lori Yafuso

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Lori Yafuso and I am testifying in support of SB2997 SD2 HD1, Relating to Public Utilities.

SB2997 SD2 HD1 proposes utility standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the wildfire risk mitigation plans by the Public Utilities Commission. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to continue its investments in a safe, reliable and affordable grid. Due to unprecedented weather events, we need to prepare now for any future events that could devastate our state's island chain, whether by wildfire or other natural disaster.

Please pass SB2997 SD2 HD1 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

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**SB2997 SD2,HD1
Relating to Public Utilities**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by Patrick Sullivan

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Patrick Sullivan and I am testifying in support of SB2997 SD2 HD1, Relating to Public Utilities.

SB2997 SD2 HD1 proposes utility standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the wildfire risk mitigation plans by the Public Utilities Commission. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to continue its investments in a safe, reliable and affordable grid. Due to unprecedented weather events, we need to prepare now for any future events that could devastate our state's island chain, whether by wildfire or other natural disaster.

Please pass SB2997 SD2 HD1 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

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**SB2997 SD2,HD1
Relating to Public Utilities**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by Everett A. Lacro

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Everett Lacro and I am testifying in support of SB2997 SD2 HD1, Relating to Public Utilities.

SB2997 SD2 HD1 proposes utility standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the wildfire risk mitigation plans by the Public Utilities Commission. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to continue its investments in a safe, reliable and affordable grid. Due to unprecedented weather events, we need to prepare now for any future events that could devastate our state's island chain, whether by wildfire or other natural disaster.

Please pass SB2997 SD2 HD1 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

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CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
AND
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**SB2997 SD2,HD1
Relating to Public Utilities**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by Timothy Lee

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Timothy Lee and I am testifying in support of SB2997 SD2 HD1, Relating to Public Utilities.

SB2997 SD2 HD1 proposes utility standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the wildfire risk mitigation plans by the Public Utilities Commission. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to continue its investments in a safe, reliable and affordable grid. Due to unprecedented weather events, we need to prepare now for any future events that could devastate our state's island chain, whether by wildfire or other natural disaster.

Please pass SB2997 SD2 HD1 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

Summary +

Outline

Headings you add to the document will appear here.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
AND
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**SB2997 SD2,HD1
Relating to Public Utilities**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by **Queenie M. Chee**

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

My name is **Queenie M. Chee** and I am testifying in support of SB2997 SD2 HD1, Relating to Public Utilities.

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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
AND
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**SB2997 SD2,HD1
Relating to Public Utilities**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by Chris P. Schlueter

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Chris Schlueter and I am testifying in support of SB2997 SD2 HD1, Relating to Public Utilities.

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JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**SB2997 SD2,HD1
Relating to Public Utilities**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by Karen Kuis-Zelko

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Karen Kuis-Zelko and I am testifying in support of SB2997 SD2 HD1, Relating to Public Utilities.

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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
AND
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**SB2997 SD2,HD1
Relating to Public Utilities**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by Michael T Iwahashi

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
AND
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

LATE

**SB2997 SD2,HD1
Relating to Public Utilities**

Monday, March 18, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by Patsy Nanbu

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

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Please pass SB2997 SD2 HD1 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

SB-2997-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 6:54:03 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/18/2024 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| David Vela | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON

Consumer protection & commerce

and

judiciary & hawaiian affairs

LATE

SB2997 SD2,HD1

Relating to Public Utilities

Monday, March 18, 2024

2:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Submitted by David Vela

Dear Chair Nakashima, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committees,

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