

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

February 9, 2024

9:30 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 229 and Videoconference

With Comments

Senate Bill No. 2997, Relating to Public Utilities

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

The Office of the Governor offers the following comments on S.B. No. 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

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 would require electric utilities to design and operate in compliance with a risk-based wildfire protection plan that is approved by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). While the Office of the Governor supports the intent of this measure, we have concerns with provisions of the bill that provide a shield against further liabilities. Instead, we would respectively ask that the Legislature considers the wildfire risk mitigation model as outlined in S.B. No. 3096, 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 S.B. No. 3096, 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 S.B. No. 3096 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 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

Testimony of Office of the Governor
S.B. No. 2997
February 9, 2024
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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.



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JOSH GREEN, M.D.
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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Friday, February 9, 2024
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 229

On the following measure:
S.B. 2997, RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES

Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

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: (1) allow the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) to convene community outreach workshops to aid electric utilities in the development and implementation of best practices regarding wildfires; (2) require electric utilities to design and operate in compliance with a risk-based wildfire protection plan approved by the Commission; (3) shield electric utilities from civil liability for acts taken in accordance with a risk-based wildfire protection plan and failing to act in accordance with an item in the draft plan but removed by Commission; and (4) shield the State, the Commission, and its agents from liability for actions taken in the performance of their duties with respect to risk-based wildfire protection plans.

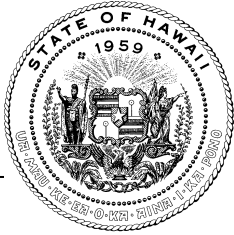
The tragedy and devastation of the wildfires that arose on Maui during the August 8, 2023 windstorm must be prevented from reoccurring. The Department strongly supports encouraging electric utilities to proactively manage their wildfire risk by requiring that they develop and regularly update their wildfire protection plans. However, the Department notes that this bill would be bolstered by providing more balanced and comprehensive considerations and protections for mitigating the financial impact on ratepayers.

Some examples of those protections are provided in SB 3096 and include, but are not limited to, not establishing an assumption of prudence simply because the electric utility has an approved wildfire protection plan in place, taking into account equity by requiring that the surcharge for the wildfire protection fee be non-bypassable and including language requiring that the impacts of financing the wildfire protection costs be minimized. These types of protections are crucial for ratepayers who may also be subjected to substantial recovery and restoration costs in addition to costs to undertake preventative actions to mitigate the risks from wildfire or other types of threats.

As such, the Department expresses its strong preference for SB 3096. Currently, that bill is scheduled for hearing before the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs later today. The Department notes that SB 3096 together with the amendments proposed by the Department would provide greater protections for ratepayers.

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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Friday, February 9, 2024
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229 and Videoconference

Providing Comments on
SB 2997

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES.

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on SB 2997 that allows the Public Utilities Commission to convene community outreach workshops to aid electric utilities in the development and implementation of best practices regarding wildfires, requires electric utilities to design and operate in compliance with a risk-based wildfire protection plan approved by the Public Utilities Commission, shields electric utilities from civil liability for acts taken in accordance with a risk-based wildfire protection plan and failing to act in accordance with an item in the draft plan but removed by the Public Utilities Commission, and shields the State, Public Utilities Commission, and its agents from liability for actions taken in the performance of their duties with respect to risk-based wildfire protection plans.

HSEO appreciates the need for a measure that outlines a process for wildfire protection planning, the approval and implementation of plans, with provisions for how costs associated with planning and implementation can be recovered. 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 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. While the objectives of the plans identified in SB 2997 go farther in analysis and mitigation actions for fire risk than HSEO's grants given resource constraints, HSEO supports a holistic approach which takes all-hazards into account to better support comprehensive solutions. HSEO also prefers a cost recovery mechanism that includes securitization as it can offer better overall outcomes for ratepayers such as found in HB 2407 and SB 3096.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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

TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

February 9, 2024
9:30 a.m.

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee:

MEASURE: S.B. No. 2997

TITLE: RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES.

DESCRIPTION: Allows the Public Utilities Commission to convene community outreach workshops to aid electric utilities in the development and implementation of best practices regarding wildfires. Requires electric utilities to design and operate in compliance with a risk-based wildfire protection plan approved by the Public Utilities Commission. Shields electric utilities from civil liability for acts taken in accordance with a risk-based wildfire protection plan and failing to act in accordance with an item in the draft plan but removed by the Public Utilities Commission. Shields the State, Public Utilities Commission, and its agents from liability for actions taken in the performance of their duties with respect to risk-based wildfire protection plans.

POSITION:

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

COMMENTS:

The Commission appreciates the intent of this measure to require that electric utilities operate in accordance with a wildfire protection plan and to enable community participation in the development of the plan. The Commission understands the importance of reducing the likelihood and impact of wildfires across the State and is committed to supporting such efforts.

The Commission observes that other bills, including S.B. 3096 (Administration bill), also request that the Commission require and approve electric utility wildfire risk mitigation or protection plans and recommends that the Legislature move S.B. 3096 forward rather

than the present bill. On February 6, the Commission testified in support of H.B. 2407 (companion to S.B. 3096) before the House Committees on Water & Land and Energy & Environmental Protection. The Commission finds that the approach provided in S.B. 3096, including the Commission's proposed amendments to companion measure H.B. 2407, would allow for effective development of risk-based wildfire protection and appropriate cost recovery mechanisms for utilities. We present our proposed amendments in the attached SD1, and provide further detail below.

1. Liability and penalties

The Commission observes that this measure would grant immunity to an electric utility for any civil liability related to death or injury of a person, or property damage, caused by the electric utility's failure to implement wildfire protection plan requirements. The Commission believes that there should be appropriate review of decisions and actions of electric utilities and recommends removing the Liability section as an amendment to this measure. Further, the Commission believes that the discretion to impose penalties for failing to comply with a wildfire protection plan is an appropriate enforcement mechanism that is aligned with current statute, and as such recommends the measure be amended to include the section on §269-D Penalties from S.B. 3096.

2. Cost recovery mechanisms and securitization

The Commission observes that this measure includes provisions that specify the proposed process for recovering actual costs incurred to develop, implement, and administer a risk-based wildfire protection plan, and would require the Commission to determine the amount deemed reasonable and prudent for the electric utility to recover through rates. If actual costs exceed the Commission's determined amount by no more than 15%, the costs would be considered reasonable, and the electric utility would be able to seek cost recovery through rates. If actual costs exceed the Commission's determined amount by 15% or more, the burden of proving the reasonableness of actual costs lies with the electric utility and the Commission may disallow recovery through rates. If actual costs are less than deemed reasonable, they would be refunded to customers. This provision provides appropriate clarity on a reasonable variance for incurred recoverable costs.

The Commission further notes that this measure does not contain any language related to securitization and could be made more comprehensive by including such language. Some of the securitization language and provisions from S.B. 2922 and S.B. 3096 would be particularly beneficial, including:

- Cost recovery: wildfire protection. The Commission appreciates the clarity and specificity of recoverable costs in S.B. 3096 that are more limited than those proposed in S.B. 2922, in that this would very clearly tie recoverable costs to those associated with prospective wildfire protection plans. In any adopted legislation, utilities should be able to recover prudent costs associated with wildfire protection costs, as described in S.B. 3096. The time period of recovery of such cost should be evaluated in a Commission proceeding, including evaluating the benefit, if any, of modifying the period of recovery of such costs from what would otherwise be incurred through traditional rate making. Items securitized (including potential offsets), securitization term and ratepayer benefits should be analyzed, including evaluating the impact on customers which will be responsible for such charges. An appropriate review process should be in place to achieve the lowest cost issuance. The Commission also believes that the discretion to impose penalties for failing to comply with a wildfire protection plan is an appropriate enforcement mechanism that is aligned with current statute.
- Cost recovery: professional fees and other categories. The Commission observes that costs associated with professional fees, consultant fees, and other costs that a utility has paid or has a legal obligation to pay could be very high. It is possible, pending the results of external expert investigations, that these costs are prudently incurred in service of maintaining electric system reliability and the Commission may decide that these costs, in full or in part, should be recoverable via securitization from ratepayers. In any case, and particularly when considering the broader applicability of securitization contemplated in S.B. 2922, it is absolutely critical to include provisions that establish thresholds that the Commission find that recoverable costs are just and reasonable, are in the public interest, and minimize ratepayer impacts. It is essential that the Commission retain the ability to assess the impact of different cost categories on ratepayers and utilities to determine a path forward that best serves the public interest, particularly as it relates to meeting statutory requirements and maintaining reliable and affordable electric service.

- Property rights and security interests. The Commission believes that transfer or assignments of such property rights or security interests could be beneficial in certain circumstances. Under S.B. 2922, the utility can also request additional financing orders from time to time, which could be beneficial.
- Securitization eligibility. At this time, because eligible costs are appropriately specific to wildfire protections plans and catastrophic wildfire-associated costs, the Commission believes that eligibility for securitization should be limited to electric utilities, and therefore recommends removing “departments” from eligible entities in S.B. 3096.
- Decision-making timeline. S.B. 3096 requires the Commission to issue an initial financing order within 90 days of the last filing in the applicable docket. The Commission believes this timeline protects due process and recognizes the important role of timely filings and input from stakeholders to ensure that the Commission can issue a decision in a timely manner, recognizing the unique and irrevocable nature of such financing orders.

As mentioned above, the Commission provides an attached SD1 considering the useful provisions in S.B. 2922 including how the securitization language integrates with the wildfire protection planning requirements in this bill and provides additional clarity and efficiency aligned with the intent of the measure.

3. Workshops

The Commission observes that as wildfire risk has increased in a warming climate, many US states are starting to adopt best practices for wildfire mitigation/protection plans, which are widely available and have been largely based on California’s laws and regulations. These laws and regulations include AB 1054 and AB 111, known together as the 2019 California Wildfire Legislation, as well as various Cal Fire and California Public Utilities Commission regulations and proceedings involving, for example, power line fire prevention field guides, fire-threat maps, risk-based decision-making methodologies and framework, and a wildfire mitigation plan maturity model. These serve as a model for Hawaii and can potentially be adapted to suit the State’s unique geography, culture, and overall landscape through public workshops with community input, hosted by either utilities or the Commission.

4. Wildfire protection plan requirements

To ensure expeditious development and review of wildfire protection plans, the Commission recommended in its February 6 testimony on H.B. 2407 the inclusion of additional requirements in electric utility wildfire protection plans:

1. Responsible persons;
2. Plan objectives;
3. Metrics and underlying assumptions for performance evaluation;
4. Customer and critical facilities notification procedures in the event of deenergization;
5. Assessment and prioritization of risks and risk drivers associated with electric utility equipment as well as topographical and climatological risk factors, and how the plan accounts for these risks;
6. Safety, reliability, and resiliency measures;
7. Workforce capacity for post-wildfire restoration;
8. Plan implementation timeline;
9. Consistency of the plan with other natural hazard plans;
10. Process and procedures for monitoring, auditing, and correcting any deficiencies in implementing the plan;
11. Data governance; and
12. Any modifications to the above or other information the Commission may require.

The Commission's recommended amendments to wildfire protection plan requirements are provided in the attached SD1.

In summary, the Commission notes:

- An electric utility should not be statutorily shielded from liability if they fail to implement any requirements in a wildfire protection plan;
- The discretion to assess penalties provides appropriate enforcement opportunities;
- Costs that may be recovered via securitization include costs associated with prospective wildfire protection plans among other items;
- The Commission should have the discretion to determine whether recoverable costs include professional, consulting, and other similar costs given the totality of the situation;
- Items securitized (including potential offsets), securitization term and ratepayer benefits should be analyzed, including evaluating the impact on customers which will be responsible for such charges. An appropriate review process should be in place to achieve the lowest cost issuance;
- Securitization opportunities related to wildfires should be limited to electric utilities;

- Increased detail around transferability of property rights and security interests would be beneficial;
- The Commission is amenable to convening public workshops with community input to aid in the development of risk-based wildfire protection plans; and
- Additional detail as to what should be included in a wildfire protection plan will allow for expeditious review.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Attachment : SD1 to SB2997

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WILDFIRE RISK MITIGATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that as the risk of
2 catastrophic wildfires in the State increases, it is imperative
3 that electric utilities develop and implement effective plans
4 for wildfire risk mitigation. Electric utilities should develop
5 wildfire mitigation plans, and the public utilities commission,
6 through a public process, should review and approve these plans
7 and the related costs of implementation.

8 The legislature further finds that securitization may be
9 the most efficient, least-cost way to finance wildfire risk
10 mitigation costs and expenses. Utility rate securitization
11 transactions have an extensive track record of success. Bonds
12 securitized by rates receive AAA credit ratings from credit
13 rating agencies and thus provide a means of securing capital at
14 a lower interest rate than those currently available to
15 utilities, in particular utilities without an investment grade
16 credit rating.

17 The purpose of this Act is to ~~require electric utilities to~~
18 ~~design and operate in compliance with a risk-based wildfire~~

1 ~~protection plan approved by the public utilities commission.~~
2 create a process whereby electric utilities develop and submit
3 effective wildfire risk protection plans to the public utilities
4 commission for approval; the public utilities commission
5 evaluates those plans and either approves them or does so with
6 modifications; the electric utilities are able to timely recover
7 the prudently incurred costs and expenses of developing,
8 implementing, and administrating those plans; and those costs
9 and expenses are not borne disproportionately by any particular
10 ratepayer or county.

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

14 **"PART . WILDFIRE PROTECTION AND MITIGATION**

15 **§269-A Definitions.** As used in this part:

16 "Ancillary agreement" means a bond insurance policy, letter
17 of credit, reserve account, surety bond, swap arrangement,
18 hedging arrangement, liquidity or credit support arrangement, or
19 other similar agreement or arrangement entered into in
20 connection with the issuance of bonds that is designed to
21 promote the credit quality and marketability of the bonds or to
22 mitigate the risk of an increase in interest rates.

23 "Bond" means any bond, note, or other evidence of
24 indebtedness that is issued by the electric utility under a
25 financing order, the proceeds of which are used directly or
26 indirectly to recover, finance, or refinance financing costs of

1 any wildfire protection costs, and that are secured by or
2 payable from wildfire protection property.

3 "Catastrophic wildfire" means any wildfire in the State
4 that damaged or destroyed more than five hundred dwellings or
5 commercial buildings.

6 "Department" means any state department or agency.

7 "Electric utility" means a public utility, as defined in
8 section 269-1, that is engaged in the production, transmission,
9 or distribution of electricity.

10 "Financing costs" means the costs to issue, service, repay,
11 or refinance bonds, whether incurred or paid upon issuance of
12 the bonds or over the life of the bonds, if they are approved
13 for recovery by the public utilities commission in a financing
14 order. "Financing costs" may include any of the following:

- 15 (1) Principal, interest, and redemption premiums that are
16 payable on bonds;
- 17 (2) A payment required under an ancillary agreement;
- 18 (3) An amount required to fund or replenish reserve
19 accounts or other accounts established under an
20 indenture, ancillary agreement, or other financing
21 document related to the bonds;
- 22 (4) Taxes, franchise fees, or license fees imposed on the
23 wildfire protection plan fee;
- 24 (5) Costs related to issuing and servicing bonds or the
25 application for a financing order, including, without

1 limitation, servicing fees and expenses, trustee fees
2 and expenses, legal fees and expenses, accounting
3 fees, administrative fees, underwriting and placement
4 fees, financial advisory fees, original issue
5 discount, capitalized interest, rating agency fees,
6 and any other related costs that are approved for
7 recovery in the financing order; and

8 (6) Other costs as specifically authorized by a financing
9 order.

10 "Financing order" means an order of the public utilities
11 commission under this part that has become final as provided by
12 law, and that authorizes the issuance of bonds and the
13 imposition, adjustment from time to time, and collection of
14 wildfire protection fees.

15 "Wildfire protection costs" means any capital costs and
16 operation and maintenance expenses related to the development,
17 implementation, and administration of a wildfire protection plan
18 prepared pursuant to section 269-C(a) but shall not include any
19 penalties levied against an electric utility pursuant to section
20 269-D. Wildfire protection costs may also include any of the
21 following:

- 1 (1) Catastrophic wildfire costs or expenses that the
2 Commission has determined were prudently incurred;
3 (2) Federal and state taxes associated with recovery of
4 the amounts pursuant to paragraph (1); or
5 (3) Financing costs.

6 "Wildfire protection fee" means the nonbypassable fees and
7 charges authorized by section 269-G and in a financing order
8 authorized under this part to be imposed on and collected from
9 all existing and future customers of an electric utility or any
10 successor.

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

14 "Wildfire protection property" means the property right
15 created pursuant to this part, including, without limitation,
16 the right, title, and interest of the electric utility or its
17 transferee:

18 (1) In and to the wildfire protection fee established
19 pursuant to a financing order, including all rights to
20 obtain adjustments to the wildfire protection fee in
21 accordance with section 269-G and the financing order;

22 (2) To be paid in the amount that is determined in a
23 financing order to be the amount that the public utility

1 or its transferee is lawfully entitled to receive
2 pursuant to this part and the proceeds thereof, and in
3 and to all revenues, collections, claims, payments,
4 moneys, or proceeds of, or arising from, the wildfire
5 protection fee that is the subject of a financing order.

6 **§269-B Electric utility workshops.** The public utilities
7 commission may periodically convene community outreach workshops
8 to help electric utilities identify, adopt, and implement best
9 practices regarding wildfires, including but not limited to
10 risk-based wildfire protection and risk-based wildfire
11 mitigation procedures and standards.

12 **§269-C Wildfire protection plans.** (a) Each electric
13 utility shall have and operate in compliance with a risk-based
14 wildfire protection plan, which shall be filed with and
15 evaluated and approved by the public utilities commission. The
16 risk-based wildfire protection plan shall be based on reasonable
17 and prudent practices, which may be identified through workshops
18 and regulatory proceedings conducted by the public utilities
19 commission pursuant to section 269-B, and on commission
20 standards adopted by decision or rule ~~or order~~. The electric
21 utility shall design the risk-based wildfire protection plan to
22 protect public safety, reduce risk to utility customers, and

1 promote resilience of the Hawaii electric system to wildfire
2 damage.

3 (b) Each electric utility shall, ~~on an annual basis,~~
4 regularly update the risk-based wildfire protection plan on a
5 schedule determined by the public utilities commission. The
6 risk-based wildfire protection plan shall, at a minimum:

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

9 (2) Describe the objectives of the plan;

10 (3) ~~(1)~~ Identify areas that are subject to a
11 heightened risk of wildfire and are:

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

15 (B) Outside the right of way or legal
16 control or ownership of the electric
17 utility but within a reasonable
18 distance, as determined by the public
19 utilities commission, of the electric
20 utility's generation or transmission
21 assets;

22 (4) ~~(2)~~ Identify a means for mitigating wildfire
23 risk that reflects a reasonable balancing of
24 mitigation costs, continuity of reliable

- 1 service and ~~with the resulting~~ reduction of
2 wildfire risk;
- 3 (5) ~~(3)~~ Identify preventive actions and programs
4 that the electric utility shall ~~will~~ carry
5 out to minimize the risk of utility
6 facilities causing a wildfire;
- 7 (6) Identify the metrics the electric utility
8 plans to use to evaluate the plan's
9 performance and the assumptions that
10 underlie the use of those metrics;
- 11 (7) Describe how the application of previously
12 identified metrics to previous plan
13 performances has informed the plan;
- 14 (8) ~~(4)~~ After seeking information from state and
15 local entities, identify a protocol for the
16 deenergizing of power lines and adjusting of
17 power system operations to mitigate
18 wildfires, promote the safety of the public
19 and first responders, and preserve health
20 and communication infrastructure;
- 21 (9) Describe appropriate and feasible procedures
22 for notifying a customer who may be impacted
23 by the deenergizing of electrical lines. The
24 procedures shall consider the need to

1 notify, as a priority, critical first
2 responders, health care facilities,
3 operators of wastewater and water delivery
4 infrastructure and operators of
5 telecommunications infrastructure.

6 (10) ~~(5)~~ Describe the procedures, standards, and
7 time frames that the electric utility shall
8 use to inspect utility infrastructure in
9 areas that the electric utility identifies
10 under paragraph ~~(1)~~(3), including whether
11 those procedures, standards, and time frames
12 are already set forth in the electric
13 utility's existing plans or protocols and in
14 coordination with any relevant entities;

15 (11) ~~(6)~~ Describe the procedures, standards, and
16 time frames that the electric utility will
17 use to carry out vegetation management in
18 areas that the electric utility identifies
19 under paragraph ~~(1)~~(3), including whether
20 those procedures, standards, and time frames
21 are already set forth in the electric
22 utility's existing plans or protocols and in
23 coordination with any relevant entities;

24 (12) Include a list that identifies, describes,

1 and prioritizes all wildfire risks, and
2 drivers for those risks, throughout the
3 electric utility's service territory. The
4 list shall include, but not be limited to,
5 both of the following:

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

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

15 (13) Describe how the plan accounts for the
16 wildfire risk identified in the electric
17 utility's risk assessment;

18 (14) Describe the actions the electric utility
19 will take to ensure its system will achieve
20 the highest level of safety, reliability,
21 and resiliency, and to ensure that its
22 system is prepared for a wildfire, including
23 hardening and modernizing its infrastructure
24 with improved engineering, system design,

1 standards, equipment, and facilities,
2 including but not limited to, undergrounding
3 lines, insulation of distribution wires, and
4 pole replacement;

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

12 (16) ~~(7)~~ Identify the estimated development,
13 implementation, and administration costs for
14 the risk-based wildfire protection plan;~~and~~

15 (17) Describe how the plan is consistent with the
16 electric utility's other hazard mitigation
17 and grid hardening plans, including plans to
18 prepare for, and to restore service after, a
19 wildfire, including workforce mobilization
20 and prepositioning equipment and employees;

21 (18) ~~(8)~~ Identify community outreach and public
22 awareness efforts that the electric utility
23 will use before, during, and after a
24 wildfire~~season~~; and

- 1 (19) ~~(9)~~ Identify the timelines, as applicable,
2 for development, implementation, and
3 administration of any aspects of the risk-
4 based wildfire protection plan;
- 5 (20) Describe the processes and procedures the
6 electric utility will use to do all of the
7 following:
- 8 (A) Monitor and audit the
9 implementation of the plan;
- 10 (B) Identify any deficiencies in the
11 plan or the plan's implementation and
12 correct those deficiencies; and
- 13 (C) Monitor and audit the
14 effectiveness of electrical line and
15 equipment inspections, including
16 inspections performed by contractors,
17 carried out under the plan and other
18 applicable statutes and commission
19 rules;
- 20 (21) Demonstrate elements of data governance,
21 including enterprise systems; and
- 22 (22) Any modifications to the above, or other
23 information as required by the commission.

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

4 ~~(e)~~ (d) The commission, in consultation with the
5 department of land and natural resources and local emergency
6 services agencies, shall evaluate each electric utility's risk-
7 based wildfire protection plan and plan updates through a public
8 process.

9 ~~(d)~~ (e) No more than ninety days after the last party
10 filing, and no more than a total of one hundred eighty days
11 after receiving a risk-based wildfire protection plan or plan
12 update from an electric utility the initial filing in the docket
13 or non-docketed case related to the public utilities
14 commission's evaluation of a risk-based wildfire protection plan
15 or plan update from an electric utility, the public utilities
16 commission shall approve or approve with conditions the plan or
17 update if the commission finds that the plan or update is based
18 on reasonable and prudent practices and designed to meet all
19 applicable rules and standards adopted or established by rule or
20 order by the commission. The commission may, in approving the
21 plan or update with conditions, direct the electric utility to
22 make modifications to the plan or updates that the commission
23 determines represent a reasonable balancing of mitigation costs
24 with the resulting reduction of wildfire risk based on the
25 information provided by the electric utility and based on best
26 practices. The public utilities commission shall issue a
27 decision explaining any modifications at the time the risk-based

1 wildfire protection plan or update is approved. ~~In evaluating a~~
2 ~~risk-based wildfire protection plan, the commission may consult~~
3 ~~with and consider information from federal, state, and local~~
4 ~~governmental entities and industry organizations; provided that~~
5 ~~the commission shall identify the nature of any consultation in~~
6 ~~the decision.~~

7 ~~(c) In the decision under subsection (d), the public~~
8 ~~utilities commission:~~

9 ~~(1) Shall determine the reasonable costs to develop,~~
10 ~~implement, and administer the risk-based wildfire protection~~
11 ~~plan;~~

12 ~~(2) Shall authorize the electric utility to recover these~~
13 ~~costs in rates;~~

14 ~~(3) Shall establish a method to allow timely recovery of~~
15 ~~the costs authorized for recovery;~~

16 ~~(4) Shall assess these costs on a statewide basis based on~~
17 ~~the development, implementation, and administration costs~~
18 ~~for the risk-based wildfire protection plan; and~~

19 ~~(5) Shall not assess the costs based on the utility service~~
20 ~~territory that is particularly affected by any aspect of~~
21 ~~the risk-based wildfire protection plan.~~

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

1 actual costs are less than the amounts the public utilities
2 commission determined were reasonable in its decision under
3 subsection ~~(d)~~(e), the commission shall direct the electric
4 utility to refund or credit the costs to ratepayers. If the
5 actual costs are equal to or greater than the amounts the
6 commission determined were reasonable in its decision under
7 subsection ~~(d)~~(e), then the commission shall not direct the
8 electric utility to refund to ratepayers the amount the
9 commission previously determined was reasonable, but may
10 disallow the recovery from ratepayers of any additional costs
11 the commission finds unreasonable. For purposes of evaluating
12 additional costs, the following shall apply:

13 (1) Actual costs that are no more than fifteen per cent
14 greater than the costs the commission previously
15 determined were reasonable shall be presumed prudent
16 and authorized for recovery from ratepayers absent
17 proof by clear and convincing evidence that the
18 costs were unreasonable; and

19 (2) The electric utility shall have the burden of
20 proving the reasonableness of actual costs that are
21 more than fifteen per cent greater than the costs
22 the commission previously determined were
23 reasonable.

24 (g) The public utilities commission's approval of a risk-
25 based wildfire protection plan does not by itself establish a
26 defense to any enforcement action for violation of a public
27 utilities commission decision, order, or rule, or relieve an

1 electric utility from proactively managing wildfire risk,
2 including by monitoring emerging practices and technologies.
3 Electric utilities are expected to continuously improve and take
4 reasonable actions outside of approved plans to mitigate
5 wildfire risk.

6 ~~(g)~~ (h) The commission may adopt rules for the
7 implementation of this section. The rules may include but need
8 not be limited to procedures and standards regarding data
9 governance, risk-based decision making, vegetation management,
10 public power safety shutoffs and restorations, pole materials,
11 circuitry, and monitoring systems.

12 ~~**§269- Liability.**~~ (a) ~~No electric utility shall be civilly~~
13 ~~liable for the death of or injury to persons, or property~~
14 ~~damage, as a result of or in connection with any the followings~~
15 ~~acts or omissions:~~

16 ~~(1) Any act taken in accordance with a risk-based wildfire~~
17 ~~protection plan or update approved by the commission under this~~
18 ~~part; or~~

19 ~~(2) Any failure to take an action proposed by an electric~~
20 ~~utility in a plan or update and subsequently removed from the~~
21 ~~plan by modification of the commission.~~

22 ~~(b) In any action seeking to hold an electric utility civilly~~
23 ~~liable for the death of or injury to persons, or property~~
24 ~~damage, no inference of liability shall be drawn solely based on~~
25 ~~a failure by the electric utility to adhere to the requirements~~
26 ~~of an approved risk-based wildfire protection plan.~~

1 ~~(c) There shall be no liability on the part of, and no cause of~~
2 ~~action of any nature shall arise against, the State, public~~
3 ~~utilities commission or the commission's agents and employees,~~
4 ~~commissioners, or commissioners' representatives for the death~~
5 ~~of or injury to persons, or property damage, for any action~~
6 ~~taken by them in the performance of their powers and duties~~
7 ~~under this part.~~

8 §269-D Penalties. In addition to any other penalties
9 provided by law, a failure by an electric utility to comply with
10 an approved plan or part of an approved plan shall be subject to
11 a civil penalty, as determined by the public utilities
12 commission. Imposition of penalties pursuant to this section
13 shall otherwise be in accordance with section 269-28 and all
14 applicable administrative rules. All moneys collected under
15 this section shall be deposited into the public utilities
16 commission special fund.

17
18 §269-E Applications to issue bonds and authorize wildfire

19 protection fees. (a) An electric utility may apply to the
20 public utilities commission for one or more financing orders to
21 issue bonds to recover any wildfire protection costs, each of
22 which authorizes the following:

23 (1) The imposition, charging, and collection of a wildfire
24 protection fee, to become effective upon the issuance
25 of the bonds, and an adjustment of any such wildfire

1 protection fee in accordance with an adjustment
2 mechanism under this part in amounts sufficient to pay
3 the principal of and interest on bonds and all related
4 financing costs on a timely basis; and

5 (2) The creation of wildfire protection property under the
6 financing order.;

7 (b) The application shall include all of the following:

8 (1) The principal amount of the bonds proposed to
9 be issued;

10 (2) An estimate of the date each series of bonds is
11 expected to be issued;

12 (3) The expected term, not to exceed thirty years, during
13 which term the wildfire protection fee associated with
14 the issuance of each series of bonds is expected to be
15 imposed and collected;

16 (4) An estimate of the financing costs associated with the
17 issuance of each series of bonds;

18 (5) An estimate of the amount of the wildfire protection
19 fee revenues necessary to pay principal and interest
20 on the bonds and related financing costs as set forth
21 in the application and the calculation for that
22 estimate;

23 (6) A proposed methodology for allocating the wildfire
24 protection fee among customer classes within the

1 electric utility;

2 (7) A description of a proposed formulaic adjustment
3 mechanism for the adjustment of the wildfire
4 protection fee to correct for any overcollection or
5 undercollection of the wildfire protection fee, and to
6 otherwise ensure the timely payment of principal and
7 interest on the bonds and related financing costs; and
8 (8) Any other information required by the public utilities
9 commission.

10 (c) The public utilities commission shall issue an
11 approval or denial of any application for a financing order
12 filed pursuant to this section within ninety days of the last
13 filing in the applicable docket.

14 (d) In exercising its duties under this section, the
15 public utilities commission shall consider:

16 (1) Whether the wildfire protection costs to be
17 financed by any bonds to be issued are just
18 and reasonable;

19 (2) Whether such costs are consistent with the public
20 interest;

21 (3) Whether the terms and conditions of any bonds to
22 be issued are just and reasonable;

1 (4) Whether the immediate ratepayer bill impact of
2 any financing order is minimized to the furthest
3 extent practicable; and

4 (5) Any other factors that the public utilities
5 commission deems reasonable and in the public
6 interest.

7 **§269-F Wildfire protection plan financing order.** (a) A
8 financing order shall remain in effect until the bonds issued
9 under the financing order and all financing costs related to the
10 bonds have been paid in full or defeased by their terms. A
11 financing order shall remain in effect and unabated
12 notwithstanding the bankruptcy, reorganization, or insolvency of
13 the electric utility or the commencement of any judicial or
14 nonjudicial proceeding on the financing order.

15 (b) Once a financing order has become final as provided by
16 law, the financing order shall become irrevocable. The public
17 utilities commission may not directly or indirectly, except as
18 provided in the adjustment mechanism approved in the financing
19 order, reduce, impair, postpone, rescind, alter, or terminate
20 the wildfire protection plan fee authorized in the financing
21 order or impair the wildfire protection property or the
22 collection of the wildfire protection plan fee so long as any
23 bonds are outstanding or any financing costs remain unpaid.

1 (c) Under a final financing order, the electric utility
2 shall retain sole discretion to cause bonds to be issued,
3 including the right to defer or postpone such issuance,
4 assignment, sale, or transfer.

5 (d) The electric utility may sell and assign all or
6 portions of its interest in wildfire protection property to one
7 or more financing entities that make that wildfire protection
8 property the basis for issuance of bonds, to the extent approved
9 in a financing order. The electric utility may pledge wildfire
10 protection property as collateral, directly or indirectly, for
11 bonds to the extent approved in the pertinent financing orders
12 providing for a security interest in the wildfire protection
13 property, in the manner set forth in section 269-H. In
14 addition, wildfire protection property may be sold or assigned
15 by either of the following:

16 (1) The electric utility or a trustee for the holders of
17 bonds or the holders of an ancillary agreement in connection
18 with the exercise of remedies upon a default; or

19 (2) Any person acquiring the wildfire protection property
20 after a sale or assignment pursuant to this chapter.

21 **§269-G Wildfire protection fee.** (a) The public utilities
22 commission may create, pursuant to a financing order approved
23 pursuant to section 269-F, a nonbypassable surcharge for an
24 electric utility, referred to as a wildfire protection fee,

1 which shall be applied to the repayment of bonds and related
2 financing costs as described in this part. The wildfire
3 protection fee may be a usage-based surcharge, a flat user fee,
4 or a charge based upon customer revenues as determined by the
5 public utilities commission for each customer class in any
6 financing order.

7 (b) As long as any bonds are outstanding and any financing
8 costs have not been paid in full, any wildfire protection fee
9 authorized under a financing order shall be
10 nonbypassable. Subject to any exceptions provided in a
11 financing order, a wildfire protection fee shall be paid by all
12 existing and future customers of an electric utility or any
13 successors.

14 (c) The wildfire protection plan fee shall be collected by
15 an electric utility or its successors, in accordance with
16 section 269-G(a), in full through a surcharge, fee, or charge
17 that is separate and apart from the electric utility's rates.

18 (d) An electric utility may exercise the same rights and
19 remedies under its tariff and applicable law and regulation
20 based on a customer's nonpayment of the wildfire protection plan
21 fee as it could for a customer's failure to pay any other charge
22 payable to that public utility.

23 **§ 269-H Security interests in wildfire protection**
24 **property; financing statements.** (a) A security interest in

1 wildfire protection property is valid, enforceable against the
2 pledgor and third parties, subject to the rights of any third
3 parties holding security interests in the wildfire protection
4 property perfected in the manner described in this section, and
5 attaches when all of the following have taken place:

6 (1) The commission has issued a financing order
7 authorizing the wildfire protection fee included in
8 the wildfire protection property;

9 (2) Value has been given by the pledgees of the wildfire
10 protection property; and

11 (3) The pledgor has signed a security agreement covering
12 the wildfire protection property.

13 (b) A valid and enforceable security interest in wildfire
14 protection property is perfected when it has attached and when a
15 financing statement has been filed naming the pledgor of the
16 wildfire protection property as "debtor" and identifying the
17 wildfire protection property. Any description of the wildfire
18 protection property shall be sufficient if it refers to the
19 financing order creating the wildfire protection property. A
20 copy of the financing statement shall be filed with the
21 commission by the public utility that is the pledgor or
22 transferor of the wildfire protection property, and the
23 commission may require the public utility to make other filings
24 with respect to the security interest in accordance with

1 procedures it may establish; provided that the filings shall not
2 affect the perfection of the security interest.

3 (c) A perfected security interest in wildfire protection
4 property shall be a continuously perfected security interest in
5 all wildfire protection property revenues and proceeds arising
6 with respect thereto, whether or not the revenues or proceeds
7 have accrued. Conflicting security interests shall rank
8 according to priority in time of perfection. Wildfire
9 protection property shall constitute property for all purposes,
10 including for contracts securing bonds, whether or not the
11 wildfire protection property revenues and proceeds have
12 accrued.

13 (d) Subject to the terms of the security agreement
14 covering the wildfire protection property and the rights of any
15 third parties holding security interests in the wildfire
16 protection property perfected in the manner described in this
17 section, the validity and relative priority of a security
18 interest created under this section shall not be defeated or
19 adversely affected by the commingling of revenues arising with
20 respect to the wildfire protection property with other funds of
21 the public utility that is the pledgor or transferor of the
22 wildfire protection property, or by any security interest in a
23 deposit account of that public utility perfected under article 9
24 of chapter 490, into which the revenues are deposited. Subject

1 to the terms of the security agreement, upon compliance with the
2 requirements of section 490:9-312(b) (1), the pledgees of the
3 wildfire protection property shall have a perfected security
4 interest in all cash and deposit accounts of the electrical
5 corporation in which wildfire protection property revenues have
6 been commingled with other funds; provided that the perfected
7 security interest shall be limited to an amount not greater than
8 the amount of the wildfire protection property revenues received
9 by the public utility within twelve months before (1) any
10 default under the security agreement, or (2) the institution of
11 insolvency proceedings by or against the public utility, less
12 payments from the revenues to the pledgees during that twelve-
13 month period.

14 (e) If default occurs under the security agreement
15 covering the wildfire protection property, the pledgees of the
16 wildfire protection property, subject to the terms of the
17 security agreement, shall have all rights and remedies of a
18 secured party upon default under article 9 of chapter 490, and
19 shall be entitled to foreclose or otherwise enforce their
20 security interest in the wildfire protection property, subject
21 to the rights of any third parties holding prior security
22 interests in the wildfire protection property perfected in the
23 manner provided in this section. In addition, the commission
24 may require in the financing order creating the wildfire

1 protection property that, in the event of default by the
2 electrical corporation in payment of wildfire protection
3 property revenues, the commission and any successor thereto,
4 upon the application by the pledgees or transferees, including
5 transferees under section 269-I of the wildfire protection
6 property, and without limiting any other remedies available to
7 the pledgees or transferees by reason of the default, shall
8 order the sequestration and payment to the pledgees or
9 transferees of wildfire protection property revenues. Any order
10 shall remain in full force and effect notwithstanding any
11 bankruptcy, reorganization, or other insolvency proceedings with
12 respect to the debtor, pledgor, or transferor of the wildfire
13 protection property. Any surplus in excess of amounts necessary
14 to pay principal, premiums, if any, interest, costs, and
15 arrearages on the bonds, and associated financing costs arising
16 under the security agreement, shall be remitted to the debtor or
17 to the pledgor or transferor.

18 (f) Sections 490:9-204 and 490:9-205 shall apply to a
19 pledge of wildfire protection property by the public utility, an
20 affiliate of the public utility, or a financing entity.

21 (g) This section sets forth the terms by which a
22 consensual security interest shall be created and perfected in
23 the wildfire protection property. Unless otherwise ordered by
24 the commission with respect to any series of bonds on or prior

1 to the issuance of the series, there shall exist a statutory
2 lien as provided in this subsection. Upon the effective date of
3 the financing order, there shall exist a first priority lien on
4 all wildfire protection property then existing or thereafter
5 arising pursuant to the terms of the financing order. This lien
6 shall arise by operation of this section automatically without
7 any action on the part of the public utility, any affiliate
8 thereof, the financing entity, or any other person. This lien
9 shall secure all obligations, then existing or subsequently
10 arising, to the holders of the bonds issued pursuant to the
11 financing order, the trustee or representative for the holders,
12 and any other entity specified in the financing order. The
13 persons for whose benefit this lien is established shall, upon
14 the occurrence of any defaults specified in the financing order,
15 have all rights and remedies of a secured party upon default
16 under article 9 of chapter 490, and are entitled to foreclose or
17 otherwise enforce this statutory lien in the wildfire protection
18 property. This lien shall attach to the wildfire protection
19 property regardless of who owns, or is subsequently determined
20 to own, the wildfire protection property, including the public
21 utility, any affiliate thereof, the financing entity, or any
22 other person. This lien shall be valid, perfected, and
23 enforceable against the owner of the wildfire protection
24 property and all third parties upon the effectiveness of the

1 financing order without any further public notice; provided that
2 any person may file a financing statement in accordance with
3 this section. Financing statements so filed may be "protective
4 filings" and shall not be evidence of the ownership of the
5 wildfire protection property.

6 A perfected statutory lien in wildfire protection property is a
7 continuously perfected lien in all wildfire protection property
8 revenues and proceeds, whether or not the revenues or proceeds
9 have accrued.

10 Conflicting liens shall rank according to priority in time of
11 perfection. Wildfire protection property shall constitute
12 property for all purposes, including for contracts securing
13 bonds, whether or not the wildfire protection property revenues
14 and proceeds have accrued.

15 In addition, the commission may require, in the financing order
16 creating the wildfire protection property, that, in the event of
17 default by the public utility in the payment of wildfire
18 protection property revenues, the commission and any successor
19 thereto, upon the application by the beneficiaries of the
20 statutory lien, and without limiting any other remedies
21 available to the beneficiaries by reason of the default, shall
22 order the sequestration and payment to the beneficiaries of
23 wildfire protection property revenues. Any order shall remain
24 in full force and effect notwithstanding any bankruptcy,

1 reorganization, or other insolvency proceedings with respect to
2 the debtor. Any surplus in excess of amounts necessary to pay
3 principal, premiums, if any, interest, costs, and arrearages on
4 the bonds, and other costs arising in connection with the
5 documents governing the bonds, shall be remitted to the debtor.

6 **§ 269-I Transfers of wildfire protection**

7 **property.** (a) A transfer of wildfire protection property by
8 the public utility to an affiliate or to a financing entity, or
9 by an affiliate of the public utility or a financing entity to
10 another financing entity, which the parties in the governing
11 documentation have expressly stated to be a sale or other
12 absolute transfer, in a transaction approved in a financing
13 order, shall be treated as an absolute transfer of all of the
14 transferor's right, title, and interest, as in a true sale, and
15 not as a pledge or other financing, of the wildfire protection
16 property, other than for federal and state income and franchise
17 tax purposes.

18 (b) The characterization of the sale, assignment, or
19 transfer as an absolute transfer and true sale and the
20 corresponding characterization of the property interest of the
21 purchaser shall not be affected or impaired by, among other
22 things, the occurrence of any of the following:

23 (1) Commingling of wildfire protection fee revenues
24 with other amounts;

- 1 (2) The retention by the seller of either of the
2 following:
- 3 (A) A partial or residual interest, including an
4 equity interest, in the electric utility or
5 the wildfire protection property, whether
6 direct or indirect, subordinate or
7 otherwise; or
- 8 (B) The right to recover costs associated with
9 taxes, franchise fees, or license fees
10 imposed on the collection of wildfire
11 protection fee;
- 12 (3) Any recourse that the purchaser may have against
13 the seller;
- 14 (4) Any indemnification rights, obligations, or
15 repurchase rights made or provided by the seller;
- 16 (5) The obligation of the seller to collect wildfire
17 protection fee on behalf of an assignee;
- 18 (6) The treatment of the sale, assignment, or
19 transfer for tax, financial reporting, or other
20 purpose; or
- 21 (7) Any true-up adjustment of the wildfire protection
22 fee as provided in the financing order.

1 (c) A transfer of wildfire protection property shall be
2 deemed perfected against third persons when both of the
3 following occur:

4 (1) The commission issues the financing order
5 authorizing the wildfire protection fee included
6 in the wildfire protection property; and

7 (2) An assignment of the wildfire protection property
8 in writing has been executed and delivered to the
9 transferee.

10 (d) As between bona fide assignees of the same right for
11 value without notice, the assignee first filing a financing
12 statement in accordance with part 5 of article 9 of chapter 490,
13 naming the assignor of the wildfire protection property as
14 debtor and identifying the wildfire protection property shall
15 have priority. Any description of the wildfire protection
16 property shall be sufficient if it refers to the financing order
17 creating the wildfire protection property. A copy of the
18 financing statement shall be filed by the assignee with the
19 commission, and the commission may require the assignor or the
20 assignee to make other filings with respect to the transfer in
21 accordance with procedures it may establish, but these filings
22 shall not affect the perfection of the transfer.

23 **§269-J Successor requirements; default.** (a) Any
24 successor to an electric utility that has received a financing

1 order shall be bound by the requirements of this part. The
2 successor of the electric utility shall perform and satisfy all
3 obligations of the electric utility under the financing order,
4 in the same manner and to the same extent as the electric
5 utility, including the obligation to collect and pay the
6 wildfire protection plan fee to any financing party as required
7 by a financing order.

8 (b) The public utilities commission may require in a
9 financing order that, if a default by the electric utility in
10 remittance of the wildfire protection plan fee collected arising
11 with respect to wildfire protection property occurs, the public
12 utilities commission, without limiting any other remedies
13 available to any financing party by reason of the default, shall
14 order the sequestration and payment to the beneficiaries of the
15 wildfire protection plan fee collected arising with respect to
16 the wildfire protection plan property. Any order shall remain
17 in full force and effect notwithstanding any bankruptcy,
18 reorganization, or other insolvency proceedings with respect to
19 the electric utility.

20 **§269-K Treatment of bonds, fees, and property.**

21 (a) Neither financing orders nor bonds issued under this part
22 shall constitute a debt or liability of the State or of any
23 political subdivision thereof, nor shall they constitute a
24 pledge of the full faith and credit of the State or any of its

1 political subdivisions, but are payable solely from the funds
2 provided therefor under this part. All bonds shall contain on
3 the face thereof a statement to the following effect: "Neither
4 the full faith and credit nor the taxing power of the State of
5 Hawaii is pledged to the payment of the principal of, or
6 interest on, this bond."

7 (b) The issuance of bonds under this part shall not
8 directly, indirectly, or contingently obligate the State or any
9 political subdivision thereof to levy or pledge any form of
10 taxation or to make any appropriation for their payment.

11 **§269-L Severability.** If any provision of this part is
12 held to be invalid or is superseded, replaced, repealed, or
13 expires for any reason:

14 1) That occurrence shall not affect any action allowed
15 under this part that is taken prior to that occurrence
16 by the public utilities commission, an electric
17 utility, a bondholder, or any financing party, and any
18 such action shall remain in full force and effect; and

19 2) The validity and enforceability of the rest of this
20 part shall remain unaffected."

21
22 SECTION 3. Chapter 269-17, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
23 amended to read as follows:

24 **§269-17 Issuance of securities.** A public utility
25 corporation may, on securing the prior approval of the public
26 utilities commission, and not otherwise, except as provided in

1 section 269-E, issue stocks and stock certificates, bonds,
2 notes, and other evidences of indebtedness, payable at periods
3 of more than twelve months after the date thereof, for the
4 following purposes and no other, namely: for the acquisition of
5 property or for the construction, completion, extension, or
6 improvement of or addition to its facilities or service, or for
7 the discharge or lawful refunding of its obligations or for the
8 reimbursement of moneys actually expended from income or from
9 any other moneys in its treasury not secured by or obtained from
10 the issue of its stocks or stock certificates, or bonds, notes,
11 or other evidences of indebtedness, for any of the aforesaid
12 purposes except maintenance of service, replacements, and
13 substitutions not constituting capital expenditure in cases
14 where the corporation has kept its accounts for such
15 expenditures in such manner as to enable the commission to
16 ascertain the amount of moneys so expended and the purposes for
17 which the expenditures were made, and the sources of the funds
18 in its treasury applied to the expenditures. As used herein,
19 "property" and "facilities", mean property and facilities used
20 in all operations of a public utility corporation whether or not
21 included in its public utility operations or rate base. A
22 public utility corporation may not issue securities to acquire
23 property or to construct, complete, extend or improve or add to
24 its facilities or service if the commission determines that the

1 proposed purpose will have a material adverse effect on its
2 public utility operations.

3 All stock and every stock certificate, and every bond,
4 note, or other evidence of indebtedness of a public utility
5 corporation not payable within twelve months, issued without an
6 order of the commission authorizing the same, then in effect,
7 shall be void."

8 SECTION 4. Each electric utility shall file its first
9 risk-based wildfire protection plan with the public utilities
10 commission required under section 269-B, Hawaii Revised
11 Statutes, established by section 2 of this Act, no later than
12 December 31, 2024.

13 SECTION 5. Notwithstanding the provisions of Act 262,
14 Session Laws of Hawaii 2023, the legislature authorizes the
15 issuance of special purpose revenue bonds for wildfire risk
16 migration purposes that requires an allocation of the annual
17 state ceiling under section 39B-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for
18 the period July 1, 2024, through December 31, 2028.

19 SECTION 6. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
20 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
21 begun before its effective date.

22 SECTION 7. In codifying the new part added to chapter 269,
23 Hawaii Revised Statutes, by section 2 of this Act, the revisor
24 of statutes shall substitute appropriate section numbers for the

1 letters used in designating and referring to the new sections in
2 this Act.

3 SECTION 8. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION ~~3~~ 9. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

6

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR



Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority

An Agency of the State of Hawaii

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
CHAIR

GWEN S YAMAMOTO LAU
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Testimony of
Gwen Yamamoto Lau**
Executive Director
Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
February 9, 2024, 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229
in consideration of
SENATE BILL NO. 2997
RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill No.2997, relating to public utilities. The Hawai'i Green Infrastructure Authority (HGIA) offers comments on this bill which allows the Public Utilities Commission to convene community outreach workshops on wildfires, requires electric utilities to design and operate wildfire protection plans, and defines civil liability for certain agents in carrying out duties related to these plans.

HGIA promotes resilient energy systems through the adaptation of rooftop PV+storage in low- and moderate-income communities. Community-based organizations in Leeward Oahu have expressed interest in HGIA's solar financing programs as a means to decrease stress on electric transmission lines, reduce the threat of wildfires, and promote grid modernization. Additionally, the devastating Lahaina wildfires in August 2023 caused an egregious loss of life and financially impacted Maui residents. HGIA offered deferrals to 32 residential borrowers and 10 commercial borrowers for their loans, and individually contacted Maui borrowers to discuss repayment concerns and insurance. HGIA's on-bill financing program requires close collaboration with electric utilities for successful program implementation. While our response allowed for the safeguarding of our borrowers in difficult times, we agree that an affective, comprehensive, and community-informed plan is necessary to protect borrowers after wildfires.

This bill mandates the identification of means for mitigating wildfire risk, while identifying best practices for electric system response to wildfire and outreach during wildfire seasons. HGIA sees the facilitation of outreach workshops and the creation of a response plan as a powerful tool to help HGIA, as an energy lender, more clearly understand and effectively serve the financial needs of our LMI borrowers in response to wildfires.

HGIA defers to the appropriate authorities with jurisdiction over the bill's matters concerning wildfire protection plan administration costs and civil liability.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and provide comments on Senate Bill No. 2997.



**Hawaiian
Electric**

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE & CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

Friday, February 9, 2024

9:30 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 229

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

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jimmy D. Alberts and I am testifying on behalf of Hawaiian Electric in **strong support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.**

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, like SB 3344, also on this agenda, 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 Hawaii. 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.

SB 2997 would require electric utilities to develop and annually update comprehensive risk-based wildfire protection plans. The Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) would review and approve these plans and have the power to modify plans—for various reasons including whether it determines additional safety measures are warranted, or whether it determines certain measures would be too costly placing unreasonable burden on ratepayers. The bill would also direct the Commission to develop an efficient method for prompt recovery by an electric utility of costs spent developing, implementing, and administering a wildfire protection plan—to ensure that utilities have the necessary funds to implement plans as soon as they are approved. SB 2997 would also protect the jurisdiction of the Commission to make these important determinations, by preventing juries and courts from second-guessing the Commission’s decisions on what wildfire protection measures should and should not be undertaken.

Two provisions in this bill that we would like to highlight include, first, it creates a specific process for the commission to quickly determine whether wildfire protection plan costs are reasonable and allow utilities to collect those costs in rates. Second, the act creates limitations on the ability of private plaintiffs to sue electric utilities or the Commission based on alleged inadequacies in plans. 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. Or the commission might decide that undergrounding lines in a particular area was too costly compared to the risk reduction. If a plaintiff could sue the utility for damages resulting from the power outage, or resulting from a fire caused by utility facilities in the area the commission decided shouldn't be undergrounded, the commission's jurisdiction would be undermined.

SB 2997 is an important mechanism to protect Hawaii's future. As the risk of catastrophic wildfires in Hawaii increases, it is important for utilities to develop and implement plans that will mitigate wildfire risks with regulatory oversight and cost recovery. SB 2997 effectuates those goals through a rigorous, detailed, and reliable process. It recognizes that the Commission has proper oversight—through a public process—to decide what details should and shouldn't be included in a given plan.

In summary, SB 2997 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 Commission's ability to make decisions vital to preventing wildfires in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

Please pass SB 2997.



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION 1260 EMPOWERING THE PACIFIC

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

HEARING DATE: Friday, February 9, 2024
TIME: 9:30 a.m.
PLACE: State Capitol
Conference Room 229

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

Aloha Honorable Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee;

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

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 which allows the public utilities commission to convene community outreach workshops to aid electric utilities in the development and implementation of best practices regarding wildfires.

The economic strength and viability of Hawai'i's electric utilities have a direct impact on our members and their families. Recent reports indicate that over 40% of Hawai'i's residents are ALICE and living paycheck to paycheck. IBEW1260 has enjoyed decades of partnering with the utilities to provide its members with rewarding careers and quality of life.

Electric utilities 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important matter, we look forward to working with you on this and other important matters going forward.



P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, Hawai`i 96837-0158
Phone: 927-0709 henry.lifeoftheland@gmail.com

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 9, 2024

TIME: 9:30 AM

PLACE: Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

SB 2997 RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES.

COMMENTS

Life of the Land is Hawai`i's own energy, environmental and community action group advocating for the people and `aina for 54 years. Our mission is to preserve and protect the life of the land through sound energy and land use policies and to promote open government through research, education, advocacy and, when necessary, litigation.

Life of the Land has been in more than 60 Hawai`i Public Utilities Commission contested case proceedings over the past half century, been a party in several transmission line proceedings, served on the PUC's Reliability Standards Working Group, serves on HECO's Resilience Working Group, delved heavily into fire risks, mitigation, and adaptation, and reviewed and filed with the PUC the 2023 wildlife management plans filed by California utilities Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), Southern California Edison, and Pacific Corporation.

Mandated PUC Proceedings

The Public Utilities Commission was created in 1913. At that time the PUC was charged with investigation all deaths associated with utilities regardless of whether the utility was responsible for the death. That legal provision is now codified as HRS §269-9 "***the commission shall investigate the causes of any accident which results in loss of life, and may investigate any other accidents which in its opinion require investigation.***" For perhaps the first time in its history, the PUC has delayed this mandate, asserting that there is no legal deadline for when the investigation must be opened.

De-Energization / Public Safety Power Shutoff

There have been several Red Flag days issued by the National Weather Service since the Maui fires. De-energization can decrease fire risk but significantly makes life more difficult for vulnerable communities.

The California Public Utilities Commission has a web page devoted to Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS), the California phrase for de-energization.¹

“With the continuing threat of wildfire, the electric investor-owned utilities (IOUs) **may proactively cut power to electrical lines as a measure of last resort** if the utility reasonably believes that there is an imminent and significant risk that strong winds may topple power lines or cause major vegetation-related issues leading to increased risk of wildfires. This effort is called a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS). While PSPS events may reduce the risk of utility-associated wildfires, PSPS events can leave communities and essential facilities without power, which brings its own risks and hardships, especially for vulnerable communities and individuals.

¹ <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/psps/>

Community Engagement

There needs to be far greater emphasis placed on meaningful, two-way, dialogue with all communities, and especially vulnerable communities that also have a high-fire-risk.

The bill mentions communities only twice.

“The public utilities commission MAY periodically convene COMMUNITY outreach workshops... The risk-based wildfire protection plan SHALL< at a minimum... Identify the COMMUNITY outreach and public awareness efforts that the electric utility will use before, during, and after a wildfire season.”

These reports might be filed in a non-docket that the PUC opened in November. The public cannot intervene. The PUC specified that utilities may rely on community consultation conducted before the Maui fires occurred.

HECO requested PUC permission for a five-year, \$190,000,000 program to harden the grid to withstand extreme weather events with an emphasis on hurricanes. Following the Maui fires, HECO redesigned their approach by putting fire prevention at the top of the list. Life of the Land was the only group permitted to file written Information Requests on this new direction.

PUC Approval

The bill suggests that the plan should be developed within six months. That might be appropriate for annual updates, but it is super-critical that the initial plan is well vetted by wildfire experts, governmental agencies, and all community stakeholders.

Timely Recovery of Costs

Hurricane Iniki struck in 1992. The PUC determined the amount of ratepayer funds that the Kauai Electric Division of **Citizens Utilities Corporation** was entitled to recover in 1996. The delay was used to determine the total amount of offsetting funds such as insurance claims, what installations were replacements versus additions, among other things.

Ratepayer Funds

The bill states that all utility customers across the state should cover MECO's fire related costs. An alternative is all ratepayers of investment owned utility excluding those who pay very high rates, ie, Moloka'i and Lanai.

Liability

The liability shield should be removed from the bill. If the legislature wants to allow certain corporations to be shielded from liability, the laws on liability should be altered and not the chapter on public utilities commission regulation.

Mahalo

Henry Curtis
Executive Director



Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce

1321 Kino'ole Street
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
Phone: (808) 935-7178
Fax: (808) 961-4435
E-mail: admin@hicc.biz
www.hicc.biz

February 7, 2024

Testimony before the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

RE: SB 2997 Relating to Public Utilities

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce (HICC) **supports** SB 2997 which will allow the Public Utilities Commission to convene community outreach workshops to aid electric utilities in the development and implementation of best practices regarding wildfires.

Founded in 1898, HICC has been a part of our island's business community for 125 years. Our organization is comprised of over 300 member businesses and professionals from a variety of industries including non-profit organizations from Hawai'i Island.

SB 2997 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 and allow cost recovery by the utility for wildfire safety expenses. 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 climatical 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.

Sincerely,

Miles Yoshioka, Executive Officer
Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce

Senate Bill 2997 – Relating to Public Utilities

TESTIMONY

Hawai'i State Senate

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Friday, February 9, 2024

9:30 a.m.

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2997. With over three decades of experience on the islands, AES Hawai'i is the next generation energy company that is supporting the State of Hawai'i. AES Hawai'i shares the state's vision for a 100% renewable energy future and is working to accelerate that transition with clean energy products that can collectively produce more than 300 MW of solar, solar plus storage, hydro and wind energy. We are committed to doing more by expanding and diversifying the state's renewable energy portfolio to help build a greener, more sustainable future for all of Hawai'i.

The purpose of SB 2997 is to require electric utilities to design and operate in compliance with a risk-based wildfire protection plan, approved by the public utilities commission. Following the Maui Wildfires that resulted in tragic losses of life, personal injuries and property damage, AES Hawai'i fully appreciates and supports the **intent** of this measure, as stated. This type of planning will support the future stability of the investor and electric utility and provide it with a guide in implementing wildfire risk mitigation. Hawai'i needs a stable utility to meet the ambitious renewable energy goals embedded in our state energy policy.

We look forward to following the progress of these discussions through the legislative session.

Mahalo for your consideration.



Sandra Larsen

President

AES Hawai'i



February 5, 2024

RE: SB 2997: Relating to Public Utilities

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

Founded in 1968, the Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce works to enhance the quality of life for our community through a strong, sustainable economy on Hawai'i Island. With 470 member businesses and organizations, our mission is to provide leadership and advocacy for a successful business environment in West Hawai'i.

The Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce **supports** SB 2997: Relating to Public Utilities.

This bill allows the Public Utilities Commission to convene community outreach workshops to aid electric utilities in the development and implementation of best practices regarding wildfires. It will establish a regular review of the wildfire risk mitigation plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery by the utility for wildfire safety expenses. The idea is to improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to continue their investments in a safe, reliable, and affordable manner.

Due to unprecedented climatic 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.

We ask you to vote in favor of SB 2997: Relating to Public Utilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Wendy J. Laros'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Wendy J. Laros, President and CEO
Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce

SB-2997

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 3:28:53 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/9/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqui Hoover	Testifying for Hawaii Leeward Planning Conference	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii Leeward Planning Conference (HLPC) stands in staunch support of SB2997 relating to public utilities and establishing utility standards for wildfire mitigation plans.

Incorporated in 1974, as a private, member-based 501(c)3 when forward looking business people saw the need for an organization to work with government to promote sound planning decisions for West Hawaii, HLPC is committed to working with government agencies and private sector entities to assist in making decisions, and to alert and inform its members and public on issues relating to Hawaii Island/Hawaii County and their interests. HLPC initiatives include and are not limited to, agriculture; land use; infrastructure including energy, transportation, and water; housing; natural resources; workforce and economic development. In the intervening years, in recognition of changes to socioeconomics, communities, communications, technology, and policy making, HLPC has maintained its original name while broadening its scope to all of Hawai'i Island.

Establishment of a regular review process of wildfire mitigation plans by the Public Utilities Commission and providing the utility the opportunity to recover costs related to wildfire safety expenses are critical measures to ensure public safety and grid stability, reliability, and affordability.

Mahalo for this opportunity to speak in support of SB2997 for which we humbly seek your support and approval.

Jacqui Hoover, President and COO

Hawaii Leeward Planning Conference



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE & CONSUMER PROTECTION
Friday, February 9, 2024 — 9:30 a.m.

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

Dear Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

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, which allows the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to convene community outreach workshops to aid electric utilities in the development and implementation of best practices regarding wildfires; requires electric utilities to design and operate in compliance with a risk-based wildfire protection plan approved by the Public Utilities Commission; shields electric utilities from civil liability for acts taken in accordance with a risk-based wildfire protection plan and failing to act in accordance with an item in the draft plan but removed by the Public Utilities Commission; and, shields the State, Public Utilities Commission, and its agents from liability for actions taken in the performance of their duties with respect to risk-based wildfire protection plans.

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 this bill's requirement that the utility wildfire protection planning process be one that is open to community and stakeholder engagement. Ulupono considers 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 decide upon. Ulupono recommends the bill require the utility, when developing

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



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 would enable deeper discussion and improve decision-making discussions between the regulator, consumer advocate, stakeholders, community, and utilities.

Undisputed are the importance 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

**THE SENATE
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024
Friday, February 9, 2024, 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 229 State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street
Hearing on SB 2997**

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

**Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee on
Commerce and Consumer Protection:**

My name is Mike Kaleikini and on behalf of PGV, we are testifying in **support** of **SB 2997**,
Relating to Public Utilities.

SB 2997 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 and allow cost recovery by the utility for wildfire safety expenses. 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 climatical 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 SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support.

Respectfully,



Michael L. Kaleikini
Senior Director, Hawaii Affairs
Puna Geothermal Venture – Ormat

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by
Ruedi Tobler, General Manager
Kalaeloa Partners L.P.

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ruedi Tobler and I am the General Manager of the Kalaeloa Partners L.P. power generation facility and I am pleased to testify in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

In Hawaii, we are proud to own and operate the Kalaeloa Partners L.P. power generation facility, which for over 30 years has provided baseload capacity and energy to Hawaiian Electric for almost 20% of Oahu's electrical energy needs.

SB 2997 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 and allow cost recovery by the utility for wildfire safety expenses. 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 climatical 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.

Kalaeloa values its longstanding relationship with Hawaiian Electric and is committed to the efforts of Hawaiian Electric and other critical stakeholders in Hawaii, including the State and County governments, to ensure the continued provision of safe and reliable energy to the people

of Hawaii. Kalaelo therefore supports SB2997 and respectfully recommends your favorable consideration of this legislation.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share our support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. T. Gler". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Eric Wright on behalf of Par Hawaii

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Eric Wright, on behalf of Par Hawaii and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

SB 2997 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 and allow cost recovery by the utility for wildfire safety expenses. 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 climatical 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 SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share our support.



Testimony Before the Senate Committee on
Commerce and Consumer Protection

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

Friday, February 9, 2024; 9:30 am
Conference Room #229 & Videoconference

Senate Bill No. 2997 - RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES

To the Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole Chair, Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

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 offers comments on this measure.

KIUC supports the provisions of this bill calling for electric utility workshops and the development of wildfire protection plans. KIUC also supports the recovery of costs associated with the development, implementation and administration of the wildfire protection plan specifically through a surcharge or "rider" to customer electric rates.

KIUC believes recovery of allowable costs related to wildfire protection plans should be specific to the service territory covered by the wildfire protection plan, and limited to the customers of the electric utility covered by the plan. In other words, we do not believe members of KIUC should be assessed costs associated with wildfire protection plans covering HECO service areas, and vice versa.

In light of this, KIUC suggests the following amendment to §269 (e):

(e) In the decision under subsection (d), the public utilities commission:

(1) Shall determine the reasonable costs to develop, implement, and administer the risk-based wildfire protection plan;

(2) Shall authorize the electric utility to recover these costs [~~in rates~~] through a surcharge or "rider" to customer electric rates;

(3) Shall establish a method to allow timely recovery of the costs authorized for recovery;

(4) Shall assess these costs [on a statewide basis] separately for each electric utility based on the development, implementation, and administration costs for the risk-based wildfire protection plan specific to the utility's service territory. [~~and~~

~~(5) Shall not assess the costs based on the utility service territory that is particularly affected by any aspect of the risk-based wildfire protection plan.]~~

Mahalo for your consideration.

LATE

LATE



MAUI
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 229
Friday, February 9, 2024 AT 9:30 A.M.**

To The Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
The Honorable Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair
Members of the committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

COMMENTS ON SB2997 RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES

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

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.

We understand that the utility wants to further engage the public in the design and planning effort. However, there are issues with relying on public input to mitigate risk. Public input sessions only involve a very small segment of the total population, and the public should not be considered experts in the field of electric utility disaster/emergency planning. Ultimately, the utility companies are experts in this area and have access to other needed experts who could help them come up with a plan. Further, just because the PUC accepts the plan, things change, and it is up to the utility company to monitor and maintain their plan under changing conditions. The public does not have a say in how frequently a plan is monitored, acted upon during any given time period, how the items are prioritized/reprioritized in changing conditions, and the amount of funding being put forth to ensure the safety of the community. We feel this bill is a big stretch that will end up costing the public considerably more in the long run if the plans are not well implemented, updated, and adhered to in a timely fashion.

The Chamber urges that any PUC, utility, or state liability not be waived unless timelines are adhered to and regular monitoring occurs that plan actions are being taken. As currently proposed, this bill grants a lot of leeway to a utility and makes the public foot the bill if a catastrophic wildfire occurs. This is not done in other industries.

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**.

Sincerely,

Pamela Jumpas

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.



Pamela Tumpap
President

MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

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.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Alden Ishii

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Alden Ishii and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

I am a retired employee of Hawaiian Electric and was employed there for over 31 years. Having worked for the company in middle management (Engineering, Power Plant, and Safety). I am proud to have been a part of the very few remaining local companies in the State, led by local management, run by leadership from Hawaii.

The company has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Lyle J. Matsunaga

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lyle J. Matsunaga and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

I am a retired employee of Hawaiian Electric and Maui Electric and was employed there for over 19 years. Having worked for the companies as a Director, Finance and as Manager, Accounting, I am proud to have been a part of the very few remaining local companies in the State, led by local management, run by leadership from Hawaii.

The companies have provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The companies continue to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Christopher Reynolds

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christopher Reynolds and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

I am a retired employee of Hawaiian Electric and was employed there for over 24 years. Having worked for the company as the Operational Technology Director, I am proud to have been a part of the very few remaining local companies in the State, led by local management, run by leadership from Hawaii.

The company has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Noreen Takeshita

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Noreen Takeshita and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Sharon Suzuki

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sharon Suzuki and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

I am a retired employee of Hawaiian Electric and was employed there for over 28 years. Having worked for the company in various positions, most recently as President, Maui County and Hawaii Island Utilities, I am proud to have been a part of the very few remaining local companies in the State, led by local management, run by leadership from Hawaii.

The company has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, like mine, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

Linda Tait **TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE**
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Linda Tait

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Linda Tait and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

As a retired employee of Hawaiian Electric, employed there for over 30 years, I am proud to have been a part of the very few remaining local companies in the State, led by local management, run by leadership from Hawaii.

The company has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Greg Demko

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Greg Demko and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Jamie Lee

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jamie Lee and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

I am a retired employee of Hawaiian Electric and was employed there for over 29 years. Having worked for the company as an accountant, I am proud to have been a part of the very few remaining local companies in the State, led by local management, run by leadership from Hawaii.

The company has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Karen Hirota

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Karen Hirota and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

I am a retired employee of Hawaiian Electric and was employed there for over 20 years. Having worked for the company as an executive assistant, I am proud to have been a part of the very few remaining local companies in the State, led by local management, run by leadership from Hawaii.

The company has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Kelsey Ito

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kelsey Ito and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Kevin Kuo

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kevin Kuo and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Kristin Nakamura

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kristin Nakamura and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Lyanne Hiromoto

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lyanne Hiromoto and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

I am a retired employee of Hawaiian Electric and was employed there for over 32 years. Having worked for the company, I am proud to have been a part of the very few remaining local companies in the State, led by local management, run by leadership from Hawaii.

The company has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Earlynne F. Maile

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Earlynne Maile and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

I am a retired employee of Hawaiian Electric and was employed there for over 35 years. Having worked for the company primarily as an Engineer, Project Manager and Planner, I am very proud to have been a part of the very few remaining local companies in the State, led by local management, and run by leadership from Hawai`i.

The company has provided career opportunities for myself and others who grew up here in the islands. I went to college on the mainland and wanted to come back to Hawai`i to live and raise my family. Hawaiian Electric made that possible. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by **Aloha Fontes**

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Aloha Fontes and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Faith Duenas

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Faith Duenas and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Michelle Orian-Lau

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Michelle Orian-Lau and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Donica Kaneshiro

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Donica Kaneshiro and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Tammy Takitani

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Tammy Takitani and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Debbie Watson-Correa

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Debbie Watson-Correa and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. My family has benefitted from employment at Hawaiian Electric and Hawaii Electric Light as my great-grandfather, father and I have all been blessed to work for a company that serves this state that we love. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Robert Young

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Robert Young and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

I am a retired employee of Hawaiian Electric and was employed there for over 42 years. Having worked for the company as a(n) electrical engineer, I am proud to have been a part of the very few remaining local companies in the State.

The company has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

SB-2997

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 1:14:42 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/9/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Kurohara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is David Kurohara and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

SB 2997 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 and allow cost recovery by the utility for wildfire safety expenses. 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 climatical 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 SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share our support.

SB-2997

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:11:29 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/9/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacklyn Spencer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Jacklyn D. Spencer

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jacklyn Spencer and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

I am a retired employee of Hawaiian Electric and was employed there for over 25 years. Having worked for the company as a Clerk Dispatcher, I am proud to have been a part of the very few remaining local companies in the State, led by local management, run by leadership from Hawaii.

The company has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Caryn Fukunaga

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Caryn Fukunaga and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Enrique Che

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Enrique Che and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

I am a retired employee of Hawaiian Electric and was employed there for over 32 years. Having worked for the company as an engineer, I am proud to have been a part of the very few remaining local companies in the State, led by local management, run by leadership from Hawaii.

The company has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Dawn Wong

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dawn Wong and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities for many families that grew up in the State, and for some, many generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Thurston Wong

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Thurston Wong and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities for many families that grew up in the State, and for some, many generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Iris Eala

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Iris Eala and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

I am a retired employee of Hawaiian Electric and was employed there for over 29 years. Having worked for the company in various positions and departments over the years, I am proud to have been a part of the very few remaining local companies in the State, led by local management, run by leadership from Hawai`i.

The company has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation with an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawai`i safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Darren Yamamoto

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Darren Yamamoto and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

I am a retired employee of Hawaiian Electric and was employed there for over 34 years. Having worked for the company as a lineman and in administration, I am proud to have been a part of the very few remaining local companies in the State, led by local management, run by leadership from Hawaii.

The company has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Leslie Kwock

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Leslie Kwock and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawai'i safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Lorie Nagata

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lorie Nagata and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

I am a retired employee of Hawaiian Electric and was employed there for over 36 years. Having worked for the company in its finance and accounting area, I am proud to have been a part of the very few remaining local companies in the State, led by local management, run by leadership from Hawaii.

The company has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Patsy Nanbu

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Patsy Nanbu and I am testifying **in support** of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

I am a retired employee of Hawaiian Electric and was employed there for over 35 years. Having worked for the company in the accounting and regulatory areas, I am proud to have been a part of the very few remaining local companies in the State, led by local management, run by leadership from Hawaii. As I experienced while working at the company for over 3 decades, Hawaiian Electric has and continues to be deeply committed to serving local families and businesses, providing jobs and giving back to the communities.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Everett A. Lacro

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Everett Lacro and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

I am a retired employee of Hawaiian Electric and was employed there for 26 years. I am proud to have been a part of the very few remaining local companies in the State, led by local management, run by leadership from Hawaii.

The company has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lynne Unemori and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities. I am a retired employee of Hawaiian Electric, where I worked for more than 31 years.

SB 2997 proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans, including regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This will allow utilities to make critical investments to improve the safety and reliability of the electric grid while increasing access to financing at lower costs. Electric utility customers directly benefit from the savings of lower financing costs as well as from the actual grid improvements.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my support for SB 2997.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Jodi Borges

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jodi Borges and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Joanna Markle

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Joanna Markle and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ken Ho and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric is generationally known and a foundational Hawaii company. It employs locals and has provided thousands of career opportunities for families who grew up here in the islands. The company continues to provide many opportunities for local families to live and work and remain in Hawaii.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Yvonne Phillipson

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Yvonne Phillipson and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Wendy Takara

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Wendy Takara and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Laura Rogers

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Laura Rogers and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Timothy Lee

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Timothy Lee and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

I am a retired employee of Hawaiian Electric and was employed there for over eight years. I am also a retired employee of Verizon Hawaii with 24 years of service. Having worked for the company as a regulatory analyst, I am proud to have been a part of the very few remaining local companies in the State, led by local management, run by leadership from Hawaii. Having also retired from Verizon Hawaii, I can share that the experience with the Carlyle Group to acquire Verizon Hawaii was not a positive one.

The company has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

This bill will also help prevent venture capital companies from taking aim at acquiring Hawaiian Electric as a distressed price, break the company apart, then resell the piece parts to make profit.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Jason Anzai

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jason Anzai and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Darren Ishimura

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Darren Ishimura and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawai'i safe and affordable for our families.

Hawaiian Electric is deeply rooted in Hawai'i's communities. Therefore, it is in the public's interest for Hawaiian Electric to be able to raise the capital needed to invest in critical infrastructure. SB 2997 will support Hawaiian Electric's ability to dutifully serve electric customers on the islands of O'ahu, Hawai'i, Maui, Moloka'i, and Lānai. Also, as one of Hawai'i's largest employers, Hawaiian Electric provides career opportunities for families who grew up here and continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands. Hawaiian Electric must remain financially viable for it to continue to do so.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Sharri Thornton

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sharri Thornton, on behalf of Hawaiian Electric and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

SB 2997 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 and allow cost recovery by the utility for wildfire safety expenses. 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 climatical 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 SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share our support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Phillip Gerwien

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Phillip Gerwien and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

SB-2997

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 6:53:21 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/9/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samantha Spake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for your review and consideration on passing this bill.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Kandice Kubojiri

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kandice Kubojiri and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Ross Tanimoto

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ross Tanimoto and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Candice Lucas

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Candice Lucas and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland. I can attest to this because my daughter lives in Washington state in a beautiful home where it is much more affordable to live.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Michelle Koyanagi

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Michelle Koyanagi and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

I am a retired employee of Hawaiian Electric and was employed there for over 17 years. Having worked for the company as an accountant, I am proud to have been a part of the very few remaining local companies in the State, led by local management, run by leadership from Hawaii.

The company has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Natalie Timbal

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Natalie Timbal, and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Teri Theuriet

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Teri Theuriet and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

I was born and raised in Kāneʻohe and believe passage of SB 2997 is in the best interest of everyone in Hawaiʻi because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Chris Villanueva

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Chris Villanueva and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Christopher Schlueter

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christopher Schlueter, I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

I am a current employee of Hawaiian Electric, residing in Hilo. Since 2019, I have been proud to work for a company that tirelessly serves the needs of the Big Island community. I have witnessed the company and its employees bravely rise to meet challenges in the face of natural disasters including tropical storms, earthquakes, lava flows and wild fires.

SB 2997 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 and allow cost recovery by the utility for wildfire safety expenses. 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 climatical 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 SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share our support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Lorrie Iwanaga

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lorrie Iwanaga and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

I am a retired employee of Hawaiian Electric and was employed there for over 32 years. Having worked for the company as an executive assistant, I am proud to have been a part of the very few remaining local companies in the State, led by local management, run by leadership from Hawaii.

The company has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Karen Kuis-Zelko

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Karen Kuis-Zelko, and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

SB 2997 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 and allow cost recovery by the utility for wildfire safety expenses. 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 climatical 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 SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share our support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Joanne Williamson

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Joanne Williamson, and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. The bill will enact standards for responsibility, as well as a timeline. This mandates that this be the new normal for the state, and, although this is only for wildfire response at this time, it will set a template for future action to address the requirements for response to other natural disasters. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

SB-2997

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 7:38:32 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/9/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
scott cramer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony before the SENATE

committee on COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM

State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Scott Cramer

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Scott Cramer and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost

recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Karin Kimura

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Karin Kimura, a long-time resident on O‘ahu, and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland, helping to reduce “brain drain” in Hawai‘i.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support for this bill.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Jason Cosma

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jason Cosma and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Stacey Ueda

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Stacey Ueda and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Kristen Okinaka

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kristen Okinaka and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Howard Kelly

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Howard Kelly and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Carlos Perez

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Carlos Perez and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Kristie Calicdan

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kristie Calicdan and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Kenneth Chan

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kenneth Chan and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Mark Shimabukuro

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mark Shimabukuro and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Christine Jade Fe Benito

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christine Jade Fe Benito and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Lori Yafuso

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lori Yafuso and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

I am a retired employee of Hawaiian Electric and was employed there for over 22 years. Having worked for the company as a(n) IT Program Manager, I am proud to have been a part of the very few remaining local companies in the State, led by local management, run by leadership from Hawaii.

The company has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Stacey Ishihara

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Stacey Ishihara and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric is a local company comprised of employees that live in Hawaii and are members of our communities. They have been a part of Hawaii for over 130 years. Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities, supported many community events and sponsored many activities for the schools in Hawaii. Most importantly, the company provides our younger generation with an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland. Having locally owned companies, like Hawaiian Electric, allows the people of Hawaii the opportunity to work with companies that understand the islands and are more willing to collaborate with them, because they are a part of them – the residents of Hawaii.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
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SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Michael Ishihara

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Michael Ishihara and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric is a local company comprised of employees that live in Hawaii and are members of our communities. They have been a part of Hawaii for over 130 years. Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities, supported many community events and sponsored many activities for the schools in Hawaii. Most importantly, the company provides our younger generation with an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland. Having locally owned companies, like Hawaiian Electric, allows the people of Hawaii the opportunity to work with companies that understand the islands and are more willing to collaborate with them, because they are a part of them – the residents of Hawaii.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by William Chang

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is William Chang and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Kerry Kanakaole

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kerry Kanakaole and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

I am a retired employee of Hawaiian Electric and was employed there for over 29 years. Having worked for the company as a(n) apprentice Lineman, Lineman, Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent of C&M, I am proud to have been a part of the very few remaining local companies in the State, led by local management, run by leadership from Hawaii.

The company has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

SB-2997

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:02:48 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/9/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiffany Menor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill to set standards and process for wildfire mitigation plans PUC and establish cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This will help create a safer, more resilient grid, reduced wildfire risk and protect the citizens and wildlife of Hawaii.

Thank you,

Tiffany Menor

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Alvin Kurisu

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Alvin Kurisu and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

Please pass SB 2997 and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Lon Okada

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lon Okada and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

I retired from Hawaiian Electric Industries and was employed there for over 37 years, including six years at Hawaiian Electric. Having worked for the company in the finance area, I am proud to have been a part of the very few remaining local companies in the State, led by local management, run by leadership from Hawaii.

The company has provided career opportunities for many who grew up here in the islands and continues to provide our younger generation with an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by **Michael T Iwahashi**

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Michael T Iwahashi and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

I am a retired employee of Hawaiian Electric and was employed there for over 33 years. Having worked for the company as a Lineman / Troubleshooter / Foreman. / Asst Superintendent, I am proud to have been a part of the very few remaining local companies in the State, led by local management, run by leadership from Hawaii.

The company has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

I support SB 2997 because the bill proposes standards for wildfire mitigation plans. This bill will establish a regular review of the plans by the Public Utilities Commission and allow cost recovery for wildfire safety expenses. This bill will also improve access to capital at a more competitive rate and allow utilities to make investments to keep Hawaii safe and affordable for our families.

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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Joyce Chang

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Joyce Chang and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

I am a retired employee of Hawaiian Electric and was employed there for over 15 years. Having worked for the company as a Sr. Financial Administrator, I am proud to have been a part of the very few remaining local companies in the State, led by local management, run by leadership from Hawaii.

The company has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

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SB 2997

Relating to Public Utilities

February 9, 2024 at 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229

Submitted by Michelle Zambetti

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Michelle Zambetti and I am testifying in support of SB 2997, Relating to Public Utilities.

Hawaiian Electric has provided career opportunities for our families who grew up here in the islands, and for some, a family legacy of generations. The company continues to provide our younger generation an opportunity to live and work in the islands, rather than having to move to the mainland.

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