



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF PLANNING
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
INTERIM DIRECTOR

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846
Fax: (808) 587-2824
Web: <https://planning.hawaii.gov/>

Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Interim Director
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS
and
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Thursday, March 28, 2024
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224
and Videoconference

in consideration of
SCR 138 / SR 119
**REQUESTING THE HAWAII CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION
AND ADAPTION COMMISSION TO DEVELOP VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED
REDUCTION STRATEGIES AND MAKE RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS.**

Chairs Lee and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Inouye and Richards, and Members of the Senate Committees on Transportation and Culture and the Arts and Agriculture and Environment.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) offers **comments** on SCR 138 and SR 119, which request the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission to develop strategies to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT), recommend a VMT reduction target and benchmarks, and identify State and County agencies to collaborate with in implementing strategies, policies, and programs to reduce VMT.

Transit-oriented development (TOD) plays a significant role in VMT reduction. The creation of compact, walkable, mixed-use communities with quality public transit and a host of mobility options enables residents to conduct their daily activities without reliance on individual vehicular trips.

OPSD welcomes focused strategies and investments in TOD and quality transit service and looks forward to continued collaboration between the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission and the Hawai'i Interagency Council for Transit-Oriented Development in accomplishing shared goals related to statewide VMT and greenhouse gas emissions reduction.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION
COMMISSION
POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
Leah Laramee
Coordinator, Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission**

Co-Chairs:
Chair, DLNR
Director, OPSD

Commissioners:
Chair, Senate AEN
Chair, Senate WTL
Chair, House EEP
Chair, House WAL
Chairperson, HTA
Chairperson, DOA
CEO, OHA
Chairperson, DHHL
Director, DBEDT
Director, DOT
Director, DOH
Chairperson, DOE
Director, C+C DPP
Director, Maui DP
Director, Hawai'i DP
Director, Kaua'i DP
The Adjutant General
Manager, CZM

**Before the Senate Committees on
TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS
And
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Thursday March 28, 2024
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 224**

**In support of
Senate Concurrent Resolution 138 / Senate Resolution 119
REQUESTING THE HAWAII CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTION
COMMISSION TO DEVELOP VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED REDUCTION
STRATEGIES AND MAKE RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS**

SCR 138/SR119 requests the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption Commission to develop vehicle miles traveled (VMT) reduction strategies and make related recommendations **The Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) supports this bill provided and provides the following comments.**

The Commission is a multi-jurisdictional effort between 20 different State and county departments, and Legislative committees. The Commission believes that supporting VMT reduction is a key component of reaching our mandated 2045 carbon emission goals. The transportation sector is the largest source of climate pollution in the state, and alternative modes of transportation will help us reduce transportation emissions.

Rapid decarbonization of our transportation sector requires more than just switching to electric cars. Expanded access to multimodal options like e-bikes and electric mopeds is critical to an equitable and clean transportation future. The Commission produced the report "Investing in Transportation Choices" in 2022 which provides many recommendations for reducing VMT through providing safe, sustainable, affordable, and reliable mobility.¹ The Commission has also identified nearly \$1,000,000,000 in unfunded transportation projects that would support VMT reduction in it's Grants-to-Project Bridge.² The Commission respectfully recommends that these

¹ <https://climate.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Investing-in-Transportation-Choices-V6.pdf>

² <https://climate.hawaii.gov/grants-to-projects-bridge/>

projects are prioritized and that the recommendations identified are implemented. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

Citizens' Climate Lobby Hawaii
hi.ccl.lobby@gmail.com
cclhawaii.org



March 28, 2024

SUPPORT FOR SCR 138 and SR 119 – REQUESTING THE HAWAII CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTION COMMISSION TO DEVELOP VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED REDUCTION STRATEGIES AND MAKE RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS.

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Lee, Vice Chairs Richards and Inouye, and Members of the Committees AEN and TCA.

Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) Hawaii supports SCR 138 and SR 119, which directs the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission to develop strategies aimed at reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in the state and making recommendations to decrease ground transportation emissions associated with VMT.

CCL Hawaii comprises over 1000 members across Hawaii. We advocate for effective, efficient, and fair climate legislation. We support SCR 138 and SR 119. As an island state we are heavily reliant on fossil fuels for transportation. Hawaii is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including sea level rise, severe weather events, disrupting our economy and well being. Reducing VMT aligns with Hawai'i's broader goals of achieving energy independence, promoting sustainability, and fostering economic resilience.

Reducing VMT will not only help to lower carbon emissions but offers many additional benefits. By promoting alternative transportation options such as public transit, biking, walking, and carpooling, we can mitigate traffic congestion, improve air quality, enhance public health while creating more livable and vibrant communities. In recognition of the interconnection of transportation, climate change, and public health, we recommend the promotion of walk-able neighborhoods and mixed affordable residential/commercial housing zones.

CCL Hawaii looks forward to a Hawai'i Climate Change Commission report that promotes safe, sustainable, affordable, reliable mobility advancing healthy ways of living.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Please support SCR138 and SR119.

Respectfully,
Citizens' Climate Lobby Hawai'i

Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy organization focused on national policies to address climate change solutions. CCL Hawaii's 1000+ members are part of a 180,000+ global organization. For more information, visit citizensclimatelobby.org.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION &
CULTURE & THE ARTS
Thursday, March 28, 2024 — 3:00 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports SCR 138, Requesting the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission to Develop Vehicle Miles Traveled Reduction Strategies and Make Related Recommendations.

Dear Chair Gabbard, Chair Lee, and Members of the Committees:

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

Ulupono supports SCR 138, which requests the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission to develop vehicle miles traveled (VMT) reduction strategies and make related recommendations. Reducing VMT is necessary for our state to meet our climate net neutral goals by 2045 as we cannot meet these goals through electrification alone.¹ Existing important work can help kickstart efforts, including the Commission's Investing in Transportation Choices recommendations,² its new Priority Climate Action Plan,³ the forthcoming Comprehensive Climate Action Plan,⁴ and the Hawai'i State Energy Office's Hawai'i Pathways to Decarbonization.⁵

The benefits of this resolution's report include ensuring actionable strategies for meeting the VMT reduction outlined in the Hawai'i Pathways to Decarbonization Report and articulating specific state agency commitments for action, particularly for those involved in land use, development, and transportation, or those who own significant land resources. The report can also highlight the additional co-benefits of VMT reductions, such as reduced cost of living, health benefits, improved land use, etc. Additionally, VMT-reducing strategies such as better active transportation networks can meet other community and legislative goals, such as how

¹ <https://climate.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Investing-in-Transportation-Choices-V6.pdf>

² <https://climate.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Investing-in-Transportation-Choices-V6.pdf>

³ <https://climate.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Hawaii-PCAP-FINAL-March-1-2024-1-3.pdf>

⁴ <https://climate.hawaii.gov/hi-mitigation/> when released in 2024

⁵ <https://energy.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Act-238-HSEO-Decarbonization-FinalReport-2023.pdf>

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



they help provide emergency access options for communities at a lower cost than traditional new road capacity without creating additional vehicle demand.

We do recommend clarifying item (1) to state “Develop vehicle miles traveled reduction strategies” rather than just VMT strategies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

SCR-138

Submitted on: 3/23/2024 2:28:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/28/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline S. Ambrose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Yes to:- REQUESTING THE HAWAII CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTION COMMISSION TO DEVELOP VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED REDUCTION STRATEGIES AND MAKE RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS.