

**SR-12**

Submitted on: 3/25/2024 8:59:39 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Bernstein	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Kim, Vice Chair Richards and Kidani and Members of the Committees:

I'm writing in strong **opposition** to Senate Concurrent Resolution 20 and Senate Resolution 12. Computing scope three greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions is a monumental undertaking for which the European Union is spending great amounts of money trying to measure and is having great difficulty in doing so. It makes sense for the European Union to do this work because they can implement trade policy, such as tariffs, that makes use of this information. Hawaii, however, as a state cannot take any such action without violating the US constitution's commerce clause. Therefore, even if Hawaii were to compute scope three emissions, there is nothing meaningful the state could do with these data.

Having UHERO be part of a team to compute the US's scope three emissions does make sense in an effort to inform international trade policy and to address the European Union's and Canada's upcoming border carbon adjustment measures. But an effort to measure these emissions should be funded by the Federal Government or a group of states rather than solely by Hawai'i tax payers.

For these reasons, I urge your committees to oppose and defer these resolutions.

Respectfully,

Paul Bernstein



## TESTIMONY FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

COMMITTEE REFERRAL: AEN/HRE

MARCH 27, 2024

**SCR 20/SR 12, REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII ECONOMIC RESEARCH ORGANIZATION TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON SCOPE ONE, TWO, AND THREE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.**

**POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

The Democratic Party of Hawaii **supports and suggests amendments** for SCR 20/SR 12, which requests the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization to conduct a study on scope one, two, and three greenhouse gas emissions.

According to a report produced by the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, global sea levels could rise more than three feet by 2100, with more recent projections showing this occurring as early as 2060. In turn, over the next 30 to 70 years, approximately 6,500 structures and 19,800 people statewide will be exposed to chronic flooding. Additionally, an estimated \$19 billion in economic loss would result from chronic flooding of land and structures located in exposure areas. Finally, approximately 38 miles of coastal roads and 550 cultural sites would be chronically flooded, on top of the 13 miles of beaches that have already been lost on Kaua'i, O'ahu, and Maui to erosion fronting shoreline armoring.

As we work to reduce carbon emissions and stave off the worst consequences of climate change, we must begin preparing for the adverse

impact of sea level rise on our shores. We are now quantifying the speed at which we must act. We cannot continue to develop the 25,800-acre statewide sea level rise exposure area—one-third of which is designated for urban use—without risking massive structural damage and, potentially, great loss of life.

Last year, we witnessed the impact of the climate emergency on our shores. On August 8, 2023, wildfires swept across Maui and killed at least 100 people, making it one of the nation's deadliest natural disasters. The spread of the fires has been attributed to climate change conditions, such as unusually dry landscapes and the confluence of a strong high-pressure system to the north and Hurricane Dora to the south. The wildfires destroyed over 2,200 structures, including numerous residential buildings, historic landmarks, and school facilities. In September 2023, a report from the United States Department of Commerce estimated the total economic damage of the wildfires to be roughly \$5.5 billion. Investing in renewable energy generation could not be more urgent, given the growing threat of climate-induced catastrophes to our island home.

Therefore, **our state should take steps to accelerate our transition to a clean energy economy and continue our fight against climate change, including by incorporating an analysis of scope one, two, and three greenhouse gas emissions into our carbon emissions reports.** As this resolution notes, scope one greenhouse gas emissions encompass direct emissions from sources owned or controlled by the reporting entity; scope two greenhouse gas emissions encompass indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, heat, or steam consumed by a reporting entity; and scope three greenhouse gas emissions encompass indirect emissions along the value chain, such as emissions produced by travel and consumer activity. Understanding the breakdown of direct versus indirect carbon emissions in Hawai'i is critical to developing public policy plans that fully encompass the state's carbon footprint—particularly regarding our islands' visitor industry—in a manner that empowers public and private sector entities to collaborate on clean economy goals.

That said, we understand that the University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization may not have the capacity to perform the study in question. **Accordingly, we urge your committee to amend this resolution to simply request that the Hawai'i Department of Health includes scope one, two, and three greenhouse gas emissions in its**

**annual “Hawai’i Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report” and clarify that DOH is further requested to consult with experts at the University of Hawai’i as needed to incorporate scope one, two, and three emissions into its annual report.** This would ensure that direct and indirect (or “induced”) carbon emissions are included in our state’s greenhouse gas emissions inventory, providing policymakers and the public with more detailed information about greenhouse gas emissions that can be used to develop a more circular, regenerative, and clean energy-based economy.

Mahalo nui loa,

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**SR-12**

Submitted on: 3/26/2024 1:54:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shana Merrifield	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the resolution requesting the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization to conduct a study on scope 1, 2, and 3 greenhouse gas emissions. As the state of Hawai'i has not conducted state-wide greenhouse gas emissions reporting since 2019, this resolution represents a critical step towards identifying high-emitting sectors to inform climate change mitigation plans that align with the state's net-zero goals.

Climate change poses an existential threat to our islands, with rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and biodiversity loss already affecting our communities. To effectively combat this crisis, it is critical to measure both our direct and indirect carbon emissions across the entire value chain.

By measuring scope 1, 2, and 3 greenhouse gas emissions, we gain invaluable insights into the various sectors and activities contributing to our carbon emissions. This data is essential for developing targeted mitigation strategies that address the root causes of climate change while promoting sustainable practices across public and private sectors.

Furthermore, a comprehensive understanding of scope 1-3 emissions is crucial for achieving our net-zero goals. As we strive to transition to a clean energy economy, it is imperative that we identify and prioritize the most significant sources of emissions, particularly from industry, transportation, and consumer behavior.

Integrating scope 1-3 emissions into a greenhouse gas study will allow policymakers, businesses, and individuals to make informed decisions in order to reduce their emissions. By providing transparency and accountability, we can foster a culture of sustainability and work to protect the environment.

I urge the Senate to support this resolution and recognize the importance of measuring scope 1-3 greenhouse gas emissions in our efforts to combat climate change. By doing so, we can take meaningful steps towards achieving our net-zero goals and securing a brighter future for Hawai'i. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.