

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



State of Hawai'i  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**DEAN M. MATSUKAWA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD**  
**CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2025**  
**1:01 p.m.**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**SENATE BILL NO. 1015**  
**RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION**

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on measure SB 1015 which requires self-service stations to put Public Utilities Commission-approved labels on gas dispensing equipment to advise consumers on the effects of fossil fuel consumption to human health and environment. The Department of Agriculture supports this measure's intent and provides additional comments.

Public education on the possible effects of fossil fuels use on the environment is important. However, labels on a self-service gas pump are only one small way to effectively reach the public. A joint effort with combined marketing and media exposure will dramatically bring awareness levels to much higher levels in the public. The effectiveness of the labels on the pumps may be diminished by the many necessary and legally required labels and signs already in use. There are requirements for clear association of fuel grades, ethanol additives, safety warnings of fire and explosion due to static electricity, distracted use of the pump due to cell phone use, minimum age requirements of the user for dispensing the fuel, marketing and advertising of the fuels



and other products available in the store, brand names, offers for car washes and many more.

The additional label may be dwarfed and lost in an array of other mandatory notices and advisories. It may be a diminished awareness that is received and considering the short period of time people spend in the fueling process, may not be as effective as other public information campaigns. Our Measurement Standards Branch inspectors test gas meters for accuracy and look for all the required legal labels and stickers. They also add a sticker or seal to each grade of fuel with the fuel testing approval and date. This sticker tells the consumer that the pump has been tested as accurate on that date. We wouldn't want all the other important safety and legal information to be diminished by adding another label, although it is an important message of environmental protection.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
465 S. KING STREET, #103  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

LEODOLOFF R. ASUNCION, JR.  
CHAIR

NAOMI U. KUWAYE  
COMMISSIONER

COLIN A. YOST  
COMMISSIONER

Telephone: (808) 586-2020  
Facsimile: (808) 586-2066

Website: [puc.hawaii.gov](http://puc.hawaii.gov)  
E-mail: [puc@hawaii.gov](mailto:puc@hawaii.gov)

## Testimony of the Public Utilities Commission

To the  
Senate Committee on  
Agriculture and Environment

February 7, 2025  
1:01 p.m.

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee:

**Measure:** S.B. No. 1015  
**Title:** RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.

### Position:

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

### Comments:

The Commission appreciates the intent of this measure to inform users of self-service gas pump dispensing equipment of the human health and climate impacts of fossil fuel combustion.

The Commission notes that other agencies have more relevant expertise on the human health and environmental impacts associated with burning gasoline, diesel, and ethanol, and therefore may be better suited to carry out the duties established in this measure.

However, should the Legislature continue with the measure as currently proposed, the Commission observes that additional information on implementing such a program would be helpful, such as identifying the agency with jurisdiction over retail service stations, clarity on a timeframe in which written or printed warning labels need to be attached to a self-service gas pump dispensing equipment, and any enforcement mechanisms.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**SB-1015**

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 12:12:23 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
RICHARD COHEN	Testifying for State Of Hawaii Dept. of Agriculture	Comments	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Written testimony submitted.

I am available on Zoom to answer questions from the committee.

## Testimony in support of bill SB1015

From: *Gröna Mobilister (The Swedish Association for Green Mobility)*

To: *Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment (AEN)*

Hearing: Friday, February 7, 2025, 1.01 PM

Dear Senators,

We urge you to pass SB1015.

This testimony contains a statement from Gröna Mobilister (The Swedish Association for Green Mobility).

The testimony also contains a call for climate and health labels on gas pumps from 18 leading authorities in climate, health, psychology, communication and policymaking. Signatories include lead authors for the IPCC, advisors to the WHO and Californian lawmakers who paved the way for the electric car revolution.

Some results are also listed from recent evaluations of climate and health labels on gas pumps.

### Statement from Gröna Mobilister

Gröna Mobilister (The Swedish Association for Green Mobility) is an NGO that tries to pave the way for a sustainable mobility for everyone, regardless place of residence or economic situation.

One way of doing this is to mandate climate and health information labels on products and services related to transport. To maximize the efficiency and accuracy of such labels, they should address the root cause of climate change: the burning of fossil fuels. Therefore, their preferred location should be points of sale of these fuels, such as gas pumps.

We therefore campaign for eco-labels with climate impact rating on fuel dispensers and charging stations. In fall 2021, such eco-labels [became mandatory](#) all across Sweden. A few months before that, climate and health warning labels [were placed](#) on all gas pumps in Cambridge, MA. These are the world's first labelling schemes of this kind.

To help shift attitudes to fossil fuels, and contribute to behaviour change, these labels must be disseminated widely.

Placing climate and health warning labels on gas pumps across Hawai'i according to bill SB1015 would be a major step forward. As the first mandatory such labels at state level, they would attract considerable attention, which would increase the odds of this idea spreading to other states – and to more countries.

Contact: Per Östborn, Campaign Manager, [The Swedish Association for Green Mobility](#), +46 (0)73 819 61 54, [per.ostborn@gronamobilister.se](mailto:per.ostborn@gronamobilister.se)

## **Call from experts: We need climate and health labels on gas pumps**

The use of fossil fuels must be rapidly reduced to help clean our air and protect the health of future generations, as is outlined in the Paris Agreement on climate change. A wide variety of measures are needed to achieve this goal.

We call for labels on points of sale of fossil fuels that inform customers about the climate and health effects of burning these fuels. It is a low-cost, scalable intervention that connects the long-term hazards to the act of choosing a fuel. Such labels are an important tool in raising awareness about invisible fossil fuel harms, encouraging clean energy alternatives, and to normalize some of the behavioral changes associated with a cleaner transportation system.

Similarly, health information labels on tobacco packages [successfully](#) raised awareness about the harms of smoking. However, while there are at least [211 countries](#) or jurisdictions that mandate health warnings on cigarette packages, the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts, is the only jurisdiction that requires [climate and health warnings](#) on gas pumps. Sweden is the only country that mandates [eco-labels](#) on fuel dispensers, with a color-coded climate impact rating showing fossil fuels at the highest risk level (red).

Fossil fuel interests oppose climate and health labels on fuel dispensers just as the tobacco industry opposed health labels on tobacco packages. The future of the eco-labels on Swedish fuel dispensers is uncertain after a recent lobbying effort to get rid of them.

More and more countries are mandating ever more visible, explicit, and larger messages on cigarette packages. Their contribution to overall tobacco control is not a matter for debate. By the same token climate and health labels on fuel dispensers should be proliferated and improved, not removed. Their increasing adoption has a similar potential to contribute to greater public awareness of the risks of fossil fuels.

**James Brooks**, Chairperson, Think Beyond the Pump

**Kristie L. Ebi**, Professor of Global Health, Center for Health and the Global Environment, University of Washington

**Bertil Forsberg**, Professor of Environmental Medicine, Section of Sustainable Health, Umeå University

**Mike Gabbard**, Senator, Hawai'i State Legislature

**Mike Gill**, former Regional Director of Public Health, South East England

**Andy Haines**, Professor of Environmental Change and Public Health, Centre for Climate Change and Planetary Health, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

**Jesper Johansson**, President, Gröna Mobilister (The Swedish Association for Green Mobility)

**Hye-Ryeon Lee**, Professor and Chair, School of Communication and Information, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

**Edward Maibach**, Distinguished Professor and Founding Director, Center for Climate Change Communication, George Mason University

**Ezra Markowitz**, Professor of Environmental Decision-Making, University of Massachusetts Amherst

**Francisca Martinez**, Deputy Chief of Staff, USC Schwarzenegger Institute

**Patricia Nolan**, City Councilor, Cambridge, Massachusetts

**Hans Orru**, Professor of Environmental Health, Center for Sustainable Development, University of Tartu

**Fran Pavley**, Senator (ret.), Environmental Policy Director, USC Schwarzenegger Institute

**Drew Shindell**, Nicholas Distinguished Professor of Earth Science, Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University

**Gregg Sparkman**, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, Boston College

**Stylianos Syropoulos**, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, The Schiller Institute for Integrated Science and Society, Boston College

**Lorraine Whitmarsh**, Professor and Director, Centre for Climate Change & Social Transformations, University of Bath

## Evaluations of health and climate labels on gas pumps

The following is the Executive summary of [preliminary results](#) from an ongoing research project: [Evaluating the Effectiveness of Climate Warning Labels on Gas Pumps](#), at the The Schiller Institute for Integrated Science and Society, Boston College.

“Preliminary findings surveying American drivers of gas and diesel personal vehicles finds that climate and health warning labels added to gas pumps can lead drivers to change their beliefs about their driving habits in ways that could help address climate change and improve local air quality. Specifically, when asked to imagine seeing these warning labels on gas pumps in one’s community, drivers were more likely to acknowledge their use of fossil fuels was harmful, feel responsible for changing their behavior, expect others in their community would want to transition away from gas and diesel cars, and feel personally obligated to “do their part” to help out in the broader societal transition away from fossil fuels.”

The Swedish Association for Green Mobility has [summarized](#) some previous preliminary results by social psychologist Stylianos Syropoulos, a collaborator in the abovementioned research project ( $N = 900$ ):

- The perceived effectiveness of warning labels on gas pumps such as those in Cambridge, MA, to increase awareness about the negative consequences of burning gasoline is around 40–55 on the scale 0–100.
- At least 70 percent of the U.S. population support installing the labels. Among republicans the level of support is around 55 percent, whereas it is about 85 percent among democrats.

The eco-labels on Swedish fuel dispensers are partially different from the health and climate warning labels proposed in SB1015, and they address the population of a different country. It may nevertheless be instructive to list some results from a [survey](#) among 1 000 motorists performed by the Swedish Energy Agency in spring 2024, about two years after the introduction of the eco-labels. These labels are present at about 70 percent of the gas stations, but they are not easily spotted on all of these. The results have been [summarized](#) by The Swedish Association of Green Motorists.

- No less than 75 percent of the motorists declare that the eco-labels would affect their choice of the next car, and 38 percent claim that the influence of the labels in this regard would be significant (grade 3-5 on the scale 1-5).

- Between eight and 13 percent of Swedish motorists let the eco-labels affect their choice of fuel for their present car.
- Only 30 percent of the motorists have seen the labels at the pump, whereas 16 percent have seen the associated environmental information at the retailer's web site.
- Among the motorists who have seen the environmental information both at the pump and on the web, 35-40 percent claim that it influences their choice of fuel for their present car.
- The respondents were allowed to express their thoughts about the labels freely. The most common viewpoint was that the labels are good (94 responses). Less than half as many thought they are bad (43 responses).

## References

The Guardian, December 25, 2020: *Massachusetts city to post climate change warning stickers at gas stations* <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/dec/25/massachusetts-city-to-post-climate-change-warning-stickers-at-gas-stations>

The Guardian, October 1, 2021: *Swedish fuel retailers required to display eco-labels at pumps* <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/oct/01/swedish-fuel-retailers-required-to-display-eco-labels-at-pumps>

Gröna Mobilister (The Swedish Association for Green Mobility), September 18, 2024: *Experts call for climate and health labels on gas pumps* <https://gronamobilister.se/in-english/we-want-to-know/voices-and-evidence/experts-call-for-climate-and-health-labels-on-gas-pumps/>

Think Beyond the Pump, December 20, 2024: *Efficacy Study on 'Warming Labels' at Boston College: Research Brief on Gas Pump Public Health and Climate Change Warning Labels* <https://thinkbeyondthepump.org/ourwork/efficacy-study-on-warming-labels-at-boston-college>

Gröna Mobilister (The Swedish Association for Green Mobility), November 17, 2023: *The case for sustainability labels on fuel dispensers* <https://gronamobilister.se/in-english/we-want-to-know/voices-and-evidence/the-case-for-sustainability-labels-on-fuel-dispensers/>





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Testimony of Bob Hood

President of the Hawaii Energy Marketers Association (HEMA)

## **OPPOSITION TO SB 1015 RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION**

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair

The Honorable Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

Friday, February 7, 2025 @ 1:01 p.m.

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Hawaii State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee:

I am Bob Hood, President of the Hawaii Energy Marketers Association (HEMA). HEMA is a nonprofit trade association comprised of members who market motor fuel products and operate convenience stores across the state.

While HEMA recognizes the intent of this measure, we believe this bill is unnecessary. Our members' retail fuel dispensers have existing warning labeling that communicate critical operational safety information to their customers to protect life and property, which include self-serve fueling requirements regarding no smoking, stopping the engine, age use restrictions, and static electricity explosion hazards.

HEMA believes that additional labels risk distracting from the priority of communicating operational safety protocols to our customers. In addition, we believe that environmental discourse is most effectively communicated through formal classroom instruction or similar educational channels. Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition.

**SB-1015**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 11:20:02 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill. Mahalo.

**SB-1015**

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:11:39 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Brooks	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

This testimony is in support of SB 1015 that will require a public health and climate change warning label on gas pumps in Hawaii.

As you may be aware, this bill is an extension of similar efforts to regulate consumer markets for transportation fuels as "warning labels" on gas pumps already appear in Cambridge, MA and the Country of Sweden. I want to emphasize that customers of gasoline and diesel in Hawai'i will ultimately determine Hawai'i's 2045 goal of 100% clean energy transportation. This means consumers from the ground up must freely choose, and accept, some of the behavioral changes associated with, 100% clean energy transportation. Sadly for most consumers of gasoline, the urgent need to choose alternatives to traditional fuels, which exist, is not salient. This bill comes on the heels of Hawaii's historic Navahine v. HI DOT lawsuit where the court determined transportation emissions in particular violate citizen's rights to a clean and healthy environment. Whereas the largest portion of this pollution comes from aviation, a not insignificant segment comes from ground transport which is controlled by the kinds of choices the driving public makes. Part of Hawaii's transition to 100% clean energy transportation will need to include increasing public education about the hidden harms from burning transportation fuels. Crucially, policy to reduce transportation emission must *include* shifting public attitudes about ongoing fossil fuel burning. Preliminary research out of Boston College and the Swedish Energy Agency shows "warning labels" increase the feeling of personal responsibility for transitioning off of fossil fuel and influence people's choice of next car perspective. Lastly, Honolulu is suing major suppliers of fossil fuels in Hawaii for "failing to warn" the public about the climate effects of their main product. In a climate crisis I suggest the next step is to actually warn the public and pass SB 1015.

Mahalo nui loa Senator Gabbard and Richards,

James Brooks

**SB-1015**

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:11:43 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hye-ryeon Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 1015.

My name is Hye-ryeon Lee and I live at 3094 Kaloaluiki Street in Manoa valley. I am a health communication researcher and am on the faculty of the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I strongly support SB1015, Relating to Transportation.

We all understand that public awareness about the role of gasoline and other fossil fuels in contributing to climate change is crucial in addressing this global issue. Increased public awareness can help individuals become more active in reducing their carbon footprint and consider shifting towards cleaner energy sources. An important way to achieve increased public awareness is to put warning labels on gasoline pumps, which can inform consumers about the negative impact of gasoline consumption on both the environment and human health.

Some may argue that citizens already know this, and the warning label may not be needed. However, years of health communication research provide strong evidence that repetition is necessary and essential to influence an individual's behavior. Knowledge alone does not prompt action, and repeated cues and messages are imperative if we want to motivate people to act. Everyone knows that consuming food that is high in sugar is detrimental to one's health, yet often, we will reach out for such food because that thought was not on top of our minds at that time. Marketing research also provides evidence about the importance of repeated cues and messages. Well-placed cues and messages are critically important in influencing people's cognition and behaviors.

Likewise, properly placed warning messages at the right time and place that remind people of the linkage between gasoline consumption and the environment and health will go a long way to keep providing necessary reminders to citizens to be mindful of how gasoline consumption negatively impacts the environment and health. While I recognize that continued educational efforts and other policy efforts to slow down climate change and protect our environment and health, warning labels on gas pumps are crucial to keep the issue salient in citizens' minds.

The great state of Hawaii is known for its strong commitment to a sustainable environment. SB 1015 is a good policy that reflects Hawaii's commitment to protecting our environment and health. I strongly urge you to support SB1015.

**SB-1015**

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 4:53:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2025 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Crozer	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Oh wouldn't it be nice if people took heed. I think they should know already, and companies will complain of too many rules. Wish we could say "using petrol products inhibits life on earth as we know it", but alas, people are selfish and it won't make a difference. It will just get companies upset at us being too "woke".

TO: Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment

FROM: Natalie Iwasa  
808-395-3233

HEARING: 1 p.m. Friday, February 7, 2025

SUBJECT: SB1015, Transportation (Labels on Gas Pumps) - **OPPOSED**

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB1015, which would require “climate warming labels” on gas pumps.

If you’re going to require labels on gas pumps, you should require labels on EV charging stations. Charging station labels could include any one or more of the following concerns.

- Transition to electric vehicles is estimated to require 87 more than 2015 of specific metals by 2060 that need to be mined initially . . . . According to IEA 2021 study, mineral supplies need to increase from 400 kilotonnes in 2020 to 11,800 kilotonnes in 2040 in order to cover the demand by EV. This increase creates a number of key challenges, from supply chain (as 60% of production is concentrated in China) to **significant impact on climate and environment** as result of such a large increase in mining operations.<sup>1</sup> (*Emphasis added.*)
- The manufacturing processes of lithium . . . **presents significant environmental and health hazards**. Lithium extraction **can be fatal to aquatic life due to [water pollution](#)**. It is known to cause **surface water contamination, drinking water contamination, respiratory problems, ecosystem degradation and landscape damage**. It also leads to unsustainable water consumption in arid regions (1.9 million liters per ton of lithium). Massive byproduct generation of lithium extraction also presents unsolved problems, such as large amounts of [magnesium](#) and [lime](#) waste.

In the United States, [open-pit mining](#) and [mountaintop removal mining](#) compete with [brine extraction mining](#). **Environmental concerns** include wildlife habitat degradation, potable water pollution including [arsenic](#) and [antimony](#) contamination, unsustainable [water table](#) reduction, and massive [mining waste](#), including radioactive [uranium](#) byproduct and [sulfuric acid](#) discharge.<sup>2</sup> (*Emphasis added.*)

**Please vote “no” on SB1015.**

<sup>1</sup> Wikipedia.org, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electric\\_vehicle\\_battery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electric_vehicle_battery)

<sup>2</sup> Wikipedia.org, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lithium>