

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
KA 'OIHANA PILI KĀLEPA
335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310
P.O. BOX 541
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
Phone Number: (808) 586-2850
Fax Number: (808) 586-2856
cca.hawaii.gov

NADINE Y. ANDO
DIRECTOR | KA LUNA HO'OKELE

DEAN I HAZAMA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR | KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
And
Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs
Tuesday, February 11, 2025
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 229

On the following measure:
S.B. 1220, RELATING TO RENEWABLE GAS TARIFF

Chair Keohokalole, Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committees:

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

The purpose of this bill is to: (1) require gas utility companies to submit proposed renewable gas tariffs to the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) by August 31, 2025; and (2) require the Commission to establish a renewable gas tariff within six months of receiving a proposed renewable gas tariff.

The Department appreciates the intent of this bill to serve certain gas customers' demand to procure renewable gas. An appropriately designed tariff that fully considers the costs to procure and deliver renewable gas through Hawaii Gas' transmission and distribution system to customers with demands for renewable gas may help increase the build-out of renewable gas supplies in Hawaii. The Department also especially

appreciates how this bill stipulates that any renewable gas tariff should not increase rates for other gas customers. While the Department acknowledges that Hawaii Gas may be seeking to establish a renewable gas tariff to provide assurance for potential customers of the costs that they would incur from procuring renewable gas, a rate case is the most appropriate mechanism for ensuring that the costs of providing renewable gas are fully recovered from those customers with renewable gas needs. Acknowledging that Hawaii Gas may not be seeking another rate case for several years, there are other potential options to Hawaii Gas to offer renewable gas such as through a pilot program. Such an approach may lower financial risk to Hawaii Gas and its customers while also enabling Hawaii Gas to offer renewable gas to some of its customers.

The Department also offers that the Legislature has heard bills that would have required Renewable Gas Portfolio Standards and the Commission is currently investigating an Integrated Resource Plan for The Gas Company LLC dba Hawaii Gas in Docket No. 2022-0009, which may set some renewable gas targets. Renewable gas targets together with full consideration of the greenhouse gas emissions resulting from obtaining and using different renewable gas feedstocks and producing, delivering, and using renewable gas can help guide some decarbonization of Hawaii's regulated gas market. All of these factors need to be considered as part of establishing a rate for providing renewable gas.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

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
E-mail: puc@hawaii.gov

Testimony of the Public Utilities Commission

To the
Senate Committees on
Commerce & Consumer Protection
and
Energy & Intergovernmental Affairs

February 11, 2025
9:30 a.m.

Chairs Keohokalole and Wakai, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Chang, and Members of the Committees:

Measure: S.B. No. 1220
Title: RELATING TO RENEWABLE GAS TARIFF.

Position:

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

Comments:

The Commission appreciates the intent of this measure to establish a renewable gas tariff.

Although the Commission understands desire to establish a renewable gas tariff to satisfy the immediate demand from customers who chose to receive service under a renewable gas tariff, the Commission believes that S.B. 1220 may not be the most efficient way to achieve that objective.

First, if there is immediate demand from numerous customers who wish to receive service under a renewable gas tariff, S.B. 1220's requirement that the "renewable gas tariff shall be based on the eligible customer's net therm usage" may prove challenging for the Commission because such a requirement may necessitate a separate tariff for each utility gas customer that wishes to receive service under a renewable gas tariff. Each utility gas customer is going to have their own unique net therm usage, so if, for example, a dozen customers elect to receive service under a renewable gas tariff, a dozen different renewable gas tariffs may need to be established.

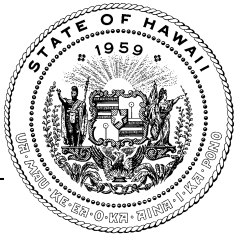
Second, the definition of “Net therm usage” in S.B. 1220 creates additional difficulties for the Commission when the Commission is attempting to establish a renewable gas tariff because the ambiguity of the “designated time period” during which a customer uses gas provides little guidance as to how much of the customer’s gas usage the Commission must consider when determining the appropriate rate for a renewable gas tariff.

Third, the Commission is concerned that six months may not be enough time for the Commission to establish an appropriate rate for renewable gas that is just, reasonable, and in the public interest. Ratemaking is a careful and deliberate exercise in balancing the interests of many stakeholders to determine a just and reasonable rate that is in the public interest. Consequently, there are many procedural constraints that affect the Commission’s schedule over which the Commission has little or no control. These may include public hearing requirements and the provision of sufficient time for any interested persons or entities to intervene or participate in the proceeding, each of which reduces the amount within S.B. 1220’s six-month window for the Commission to conduct any investigation of its own or deliberate. While the Commission appreciates the desire for a quick and timely decision, an overly prescriptive deadline for a Commission decision, especially for a novel issue such as a renewable gas tariff, may impair the Commission’s ability to effectively perform its duties.

Consequently, the Commission believes that implementing a renewable gas tariff via a general rate case is preferable than through S.B. 1220. A general rate case is a well-understood process that would afford the Commission with the opportunity to comprehensively consider a gas utility’s operations and allocate the cost of renewable gas service to a renewable gas tariff and the cost of non-renewable gas service to other appropriate tariffs. The Commission would also be able to examine the net therm usages both for customers who desire renewable gas service and customers who do not wish such renewable gas service during a general rate case. Implementing a renewable gas tariff via a general rate case would also preserve S.B. 1220’s desire for a timely Commission decision as the Commission is statutorily bound by HRS § 269-19(d) to issue an interim decision in a general rate case within ten months of the filing of a completed rate application.

Should the Committee decide to move forward with this bill, the Commission respectfully requests that amendments be made to: (1) clarify whether each gas customer seeking renewable gas service would need their own renewable gas tariff or if the Commission can establish a general renewable gas tariff; (2) specify the “designated time period” used in the definition of the term “Net therm usage”; (3) specify that the Commission’s review period starts after the filing of a completed application for a proposed renewable gas tariff; and (4) change the six month deadline to a nine month deadline, which would comport with the statutory deadline found in HRS § 269-19(d).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

235 South Beretania Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone:
Web:

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

MARK B. GLICK
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

(808) 451-6648
energy.hawaii.gov

Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION AND
ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

Tuesday, February 11, 2025
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229 and Videoconference

In Support of
SB 1220

RELATING TO RENEWABLE GAS TARIFF.

Chairs Keohokalole and Wakai, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Chang, and Members of the Committees, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports SB 1220 that requires gas utility companies to submit proposed renewable gas tariffs to the Public Utilities Commission by August 31, 2025 and the Public Utilities Commission to establish a renewable gas tariff within six months of receiving a proposed renewable gas tariff.

The purpose of §225P "... is to address the effects of climate change to protect the State's economy, environment, health, and way of life." The chapter establishes the framework for the State to "(1) Adapt to the inevitable impacts of global warming and climate change, including rising sea levels, temperatures, and other risk factors" and "(2) Mitigate its greenhouse gas emissions by sequestering more atmospheric carbon and greenhouse gases than the State produces as quickly as practicable, but no later than 2045." To achieve those ends all sectors of the economy need to be addressed. The gas utility in Hawai'i, Hawaii Gas, has long led the nation in hydrogen and RNG integration, laudable achievements. Remaining a leader requires continued progress in this sector for which a renewable gas tariff is a natural step to reasonably pursue HRS

§225P State decarbonization goals and provide customer choice to participate in renewable energy that has long been afforded to electric utility customers. A renewable gas tariff has been a topic of discussion in the Hawaii Gas IRP and is a concept that HSEO supports.

HSEO offers the following comment that the language starting on page 3, line 2 "...the proposed tariff does not increase rates for other customers,..." be stricken. The purpose of 225P is to address the effects of climate change, and §225P-5 (b) states that "After January 1, 2020, agency plans, decisions, and strategies shall give consideration to the impact of those plans, decisions, and strategies on the State's ability to achieve the goals in this section,...". The costs from the "...impacts of global warming and climate change, including rising sea levels, temperatures, and other risk factors..." may not show up in gas rates however still impact the costs to gas customers due to those risk factors. The language could unnecessarily restrict the consideration of those issues in the development of a tariff in conflict with §225P-5 (b) which provides direction to State agencies that "After January 1, 2020, agency plans, decisions, and strategies shall give consideration to the impact of those plans, decisions, and strategies on the State's ability to achieve the goals in this section...".

In addition, HSEO suggests that language be added to the preamble of SB1220 referencing Hawai'i's decarbonization and clean energy goals, to provide important context to the measure. HSEO stands ready to work with the legislature to craft such language.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



TESTIMONY TO COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION &
THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

9:30 AM, FEBRUARY 11, 2025

Conference Room 229 & Via Videoconference

SB1220

Chair Keohokalole, Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committees,

Hawaii Gas appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of SB1220**, which requires gas utility companies to submit proposed renewable gas tariffs to the Public Utilities Commission by August 31, 2025. Requires the Public Utilities Commission to establish a renewable gas tariff within six months of receiving a proposed renewable gas tariff.

Currently, there is no provision in HRS Chapter 269 that mandates a gas utility file a renewable gas rate by August 31, 2025. There is no provision in HRS Chapter 269 that mandates the PUC issue a decision on a renewable gas rate within 6 months. And there is no provision in HRS Chapter 269 that protects customers from bearing the cost of paying for a voluntary rate tariff for another customer. This measure, if approved will provide for these important actions, which will accelerate Hawaii's decarbonization achievement. If these provisions are not met, it allows for a renewable gas tariff to be filed at Hawaii Gas discretion and for the Public Utilities Commission to utilize their standard timeline for rate cases.

The regulatory approval process has historically been lengthy and costly – even in circumstances where there is unanimous agreement that a given proposal is good and beneficial for customers. This proposed measure intends to address the timely consideration of tariff approvals, within the existing established framework set forth in current Hawaii Administrative Rules. The measure seeks to address this issue by providing an accelerated regulatory process, without circumventing the rules and procedures of the process to establish a renewable gas tariff (i.e., a new renewable rate).

First, it requires gas utilities to commit to act promptly by filing an application for renewable gas tariff by August 31, 2025, available for customers who voluntarily request it. Second, it requires that the Commission act promptly as well. The Commission must rule on the application within six (6) months if provisions are met by the utility. These important conditions that are also included in the measure are designed to protect customers. A gas utility must file rates that are appropriate, just and reasonable. Additionally, in this accelerated regulatory process, the new renewable gas tariff cannot increase rates for other gas customers on the system (i.e., other customer's rates cannot be increased).



Why is this bill necessary? Without the proposed measures, gas utilities would need to file for a renewable gas tariff in a general rate case. Rate cases cost \$2-3 million and typically take 2 years to complete. Because customers ultimately pay this cost (per statute), and gas utilities try to keep rates stable as long as possible by delaying rate cases, without the accelerated process it could be 4-6 years before a new rate case is filed.

Specifically, the bill addresses a timely rate tariff proposal by a gas utility and decision making by the public utilities commission:

1. Require Gas Utilities to Act Promptly: Gas utilities must file a proposed renewable gas rate with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) by August 31, 2025.
2. Require the PUC to Decide Promptly. The PUC must review the proposed renewable gas rate and decide within six months.
3. Protects Customers from Increased Rates. The accelerated process may only be used if the proposed renewable gas rate is: (a) voluntary and (b) does not increase rates for other customers on the system.
4. Uses the Same Approval Standard and existing processes: The accelerated process uses the same approval standard as provided in Hawaii statute and Hawaii Administrative Rules Section 16-601-111 for all new rates. A gas utility must establish that the new rate is just, reasonable, and in the public interest.
5. Advance Renewable Energy Goals: The bill accelerates deployment of renewable gas to support the state's environmental and climate goals.

As we work with collaborating with the stakeholders, please accept these proposed amendments for SB1220 which address some of their feedback:

PAGE 3 LINE 15

- 13) The public utilities commission shall establish an
14) initial or revised renewable gas tariff or tariffs no later
than
15) six months after the filing of a completed application for
a proposed renewable gas tariff; the completeness of which shall
be determined by the public utilities commission no later than
thirty days after the application is filed;
16) provided that the renewable gas tariff shall not increase
rates
17) for other customers and the commission finds the tariff or
18) tariffs to be just, reasonable, and in the public interest;
19) provided further that all filings shall be in accordance
with
20) section 16-601-111, Hawaii Administrative Rules.



PAGE 4, LINE 2

- 1) b) The renewable gas tariff shall be based on the
- 2) eligible customer's net therm usage
- and or as otherwise determined by the
- 3) public utilities commission.

PAGE 4 LINES 6

- 4) (c) For the purposes of this section:
- 5) "Net therm usage" means the amount of gas a customer uses
- 6) during a ~~designated time period~~ monthly billing cycle as measured in therm units.

At Hawaii Gas, we are prepared to comply with the proposed requirements to file a renewable gas tariff by August 31, 2025, that does not affect other ratepayers' rates/tariffs to enable the PUC's review of proposed tariffs to be completed within six months. We look forward to working collaboratively with the PUC and other stakeholders to achieve these shared goals.

We urge the Committee to pass this important legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEES ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
& ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
Tuesday, February 11, 2025 — 9:30 a.m.

UluPono Initiative supports SB 1220, Relating to Renewable Gas Tariff.

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Mariah Yoshizu, and I am the Government Affairs Associate 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 SB 1220, which requires gas utility companies to submit proposed renewable gas tariffs to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) by August 31, 2025, and requires the PUC to establish a renewable gas tariff within six months of receiving a proposed renewable gas tariff.

A renewable gas tariff will enable customers to choose a cleaner energy option, supporting consumer demand for sustainable alternatives while providing a regulatory framework that ensures just and reasonable rates. By setting a clear timeline for PUC review and approval, SB 1220 helps prevent unnecessary delays in implementing a critical component of Hawai'i's decarbonization strategy.

Importantly, the bill ensures that renewable gas tariffs do not lead to increased costs for non-participating ratepayers, maintaining equity in the energy transition.

Hawai'i has long been a leader in renewable energy, and the establishment of a renewable gas tariff aligns with the State's broader efforts to achieve carbon neutrality and energy resilience. This measure not only supports local renewable gas development but also enhances energy security by diversifying our fuel sources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Mariah Yoshizu
Government Affairs Associate

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



LATE

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, February 11, 2025

TIME: 9:30 AM

PLACE: Conference Room 229

SB 1220 RELATING TO RENEWABLE GAS TARIFF.

OPPOSE

Aloha Chairs Keohokalole and Wakai, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Chang, and Members of the Committees

Life of the Land is Hawai`i's own energy, environmental and community action group advocating for the people and `aina for 55 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.

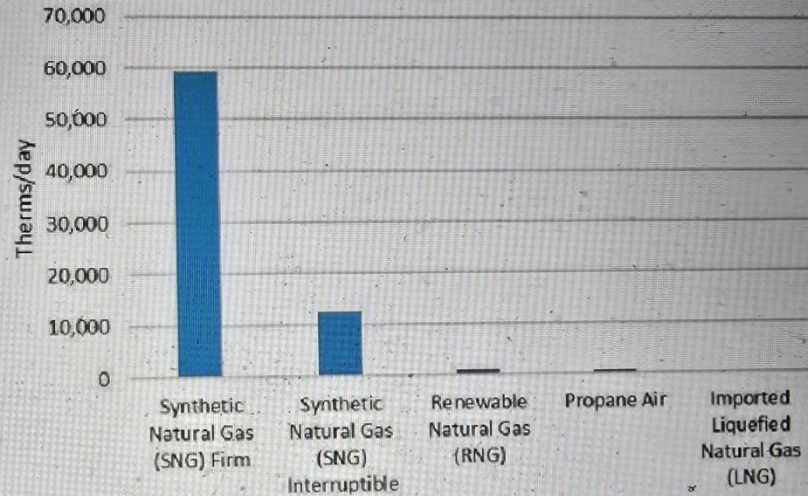
Hawaii Gas consistently has a negative net loss, that is, the methodology they used leads to sales exceeding production.¹ Hawaii Gas included a caveat on how they could sell more gas than they produced, resulting in gains (a.k.a. negative leakages). *“Hawaii Gas notes that unaccounted for gas is a calculation based on metered volume and the calorific value of the gas. In some instances, unaccounted gas may be negative where more is calculated/measured to be used than produced. This may be due to the calculation methodology which is affected by temperature and calorimetric differences at the time of measurement.”*

Therms	2023	2023 %	1Q 2023	2Q 2024
Purchased + Produced Gas	33,249,000	97.8	8,850,569	8,285,393
Gain	751,144	2.2	224,261	254,756
Customer Use + Adjustments	33,999,796	100.0	9,074,830	8,540,149

The Gas Company is almost exclusively a seller of fossil fuels. They have no plans to increase renewable fuels until 2030, and even then, with caveats. A renewable tariff absent any meaningful increase in the sale of renewable fuel is greenwashing.

¹ Docket No. 2021-0098 – Service Report for Fourth Quarter 2023, filed January 31, 2024; Docket No. 2021-0098 – Service Report for First Quarter 2024 filed April 30, 2024; Service Report for Second Quarter 2024 filed July 29, 2024

Figure 16: Hawaii Gas Current Supply Portfolio – Average 2017 – 2022



Middle Bar is the renewable energy component of regulated gas sales*

* Testimony of Nicolas Rodier, Executive Director of Clean Energy and Innovation Gas Company Rate Case, Docket No. 2024-0158. Entities in proceeding: Hawaii Gas, Consumer Advocate, Hawaii State Energy Office, Life of the Land.

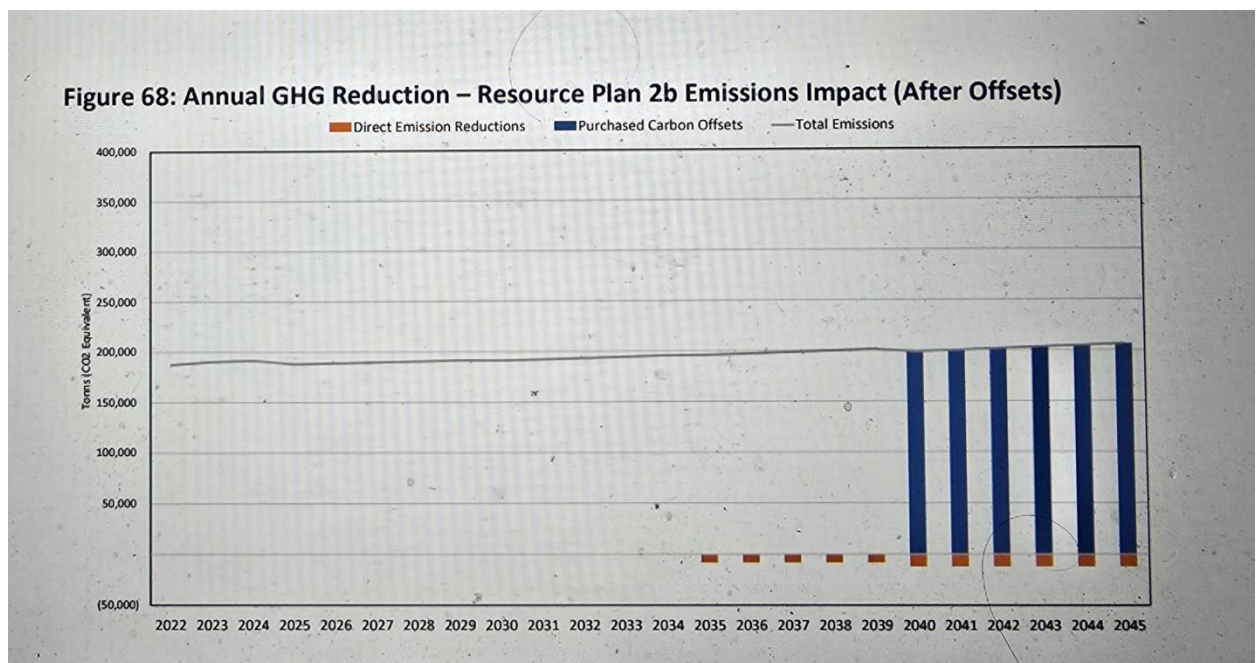
“Hawaii Gas released the RFP for local and non-local green hydrogen and RNG to the market on April 6, 2023.”² “On May 20, 2024, Hawaii Gas issued a press release announcing the selection of two projects from its RFP”³ “Eurus Project... If this project is able to move forward, the goal would be to move it online sometime around 2030.”⁴ “Bana Pacific One Project... If this project is able to move forward, the goal would be to move it online sometime around 2030.”⁵

² HG Application at pdf 539

³ Ibid at 540

⁴ Ibid at 541

⁵ Ibid at 541-42



Hawaii Gas plans to offset its greenhouse gas emissions almost exclusively by buying carbon offsets. The carbon offset market has been plagued with abuse.

“Following concerns that it is facilitating the sale of meaningless carbon credits to corporate clients, the **Nature Conservancy** says it’s conducting an internal review of its portfolio of carbon-offset projects. The nonprofit owns or has helped develop more than 20 such projects on forested lands mostly in the U.S., which generate credits that are purchased by such companies as JPMorgan Chase & Co., BlackRock Inc., and Walt Disney Co., which use them to claim large reductions in their own publicly reported emissions.

“The self-examination follows a Bloomberg Green investigation last year that found the world’s largest environmental group taking credit for preserving trees in no danger of destruction. The internal review is a sign that it’s at least questioning some practices that have become widespread in the environmental world, and could carry implications for the broader market for carbon credits.”⁶

⁶ <https://www.worldoil.com/news/2021/4/5/nature-conservancy-investigating-its-own-sales-of-potentially-meaningless-carbon-credits>

“The **Massachusetts Audubon Society** has long managed its land in western Massachusetts as crucial wildlife habitat. But in 2015, the conservation nonprofit presented California’s top climate regulator with a startling scenario: It could heavily log 9,700 acres of its preserved forests over the next few years.

:The group raised the possibility of chopping down hundreds of thousands of trees as part of its application to take part in California’s forest offset program.”

The California Air Resources Board “allows forest owners like Mass Audubon to earn so-called carbon credits for preserving trees. Each credit represents a ton of CO2. California polluters, such as oil companies, buy these credits so that they can emit more CO2 than they’d otherwise be allowed to under state law.”

“The Air Resources Board accepted Mass Audubon’s project into its program, requiring the nonprofit to preserve its forests over the next century instead of heavily logging them.”⁷

Mahalo for considering this testimony

Henry Curtis
Executive Director

⁷ <https://www.propublica.org/article/a-nonprofit-promised-to-preserve-wildlife-then-it-made-millions-claiming-it-could-cut-down-trees>

February 11, 2025

Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs
Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair



Working together for Kapolei

Tuesday, February 11, 2025
9:30 a.m. Conference Room #229 and via Videoconference

RE: SB1220 – Relating to Renewable Gas Tarriff

Dear Chairs Keohokalole and Wakai, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Chang, members of the Committees,

My name is Kiran Polk, and I am the Executive Director & CEO of the Kapolei Chamber of Commerce. The Kapolei Chamber of Commerce is an advocate for businesses in the Kapolei region including Waipahu, Kapolei, 'Ewa Beach, Nānakūli, Wai'anae and Mākaha. The Chamber works on behalf of its members and the business community to improve the regional and State economic climate and help West O'ahu businesses thrive. We are a member-driven, member-supported organization representing the interests of all types of business: small, medium or large, for profit or non-profit businesses or sole proprietorship.

The Kapolei Chamber of Commerce **supports SB1220** that requires gas utility companies to submit proposed renewable gas tariffs to the Public Utilities Commission by August 31, 2025 and the Public Utilities Commission to establish a renewable gas tariff within six months of receiving a proposed renewable gas tariff.

This measure takes a strategic and balanced approach to advancing renewable energy while maintaining strong regulatory oversight and consumer protections. By streamlining processes and eliminating unnecessary delays, this measure reinforces Hawaii's commitment to a sustainable, carbon-free future.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

Kiran Polk
Executive Director & CEO

TESTIMONY ON SB1220, RELATING TO
A RENEWABLE GAS FEED-IN TARIFF

Position: **Support**

LATE

To the Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair; Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair; Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair; Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committees:

LATE

Please accept this testimony in **support** of the proposed measure

We support this measure, to direct and facilitate the speedy establishment of a feed-in tariff for renewable gas. It's a balanced, prudent measure that helps ratepayers purchase renewable fuel more quickly and transparently. It does not raise costs or disenfranchise any stakeholders.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure, and urge your support for this bill.

Mahalo,



Joelle Simonpietri
President

About Simonpietri Enterprises LLC

Simonpietri Enterprises is a Kailua, Hawaii-based woman- and veteran-owned small business with ten employees, focused on technical innovation and first-of-kind project development of emerging clean and renewable technologies. Since launching the Aloha Carbon waste-to-fuel technical development process in August 2020, Simonpietri Enterprises is now developing renewable fuel production facilities in its own right, starting with the Aloha Sustainable Materials Recycling and Fertilizer Facility (SMRFF) in Kapolei, Hawaii to divert wastes generated in Honolulu from landfilling and transform it to renewable fuel, organic fertilizer, and recycled-material building products.

The SMRFF is a small pilot plant, intended to facilitate scaling up to the Aloha Carbon renewable fuel production facility. Aloha Carbon is designed to divert 500 tons per day of waste from landfilling, and convert it to renewable fuels, starting with green hydrogen and renewable natural gas, then expanding to sustainable aviation fuel.

In the 4.5 years since launching our Aloha Carbon technology and project development effort with our first-ever small business innovation research award from the USDA, we have grown our team from one to ten local and skilled science and engineering positions, matured our innovations from concept to pilot scale, secured a site in Campbell Industrial Park to be the future home for Aloha Carbon, competed engineering design for the SMRFF plant, and completed a full Environmental Assessment. To develop the SMRFF and Aloha Carbon projects, we embarked on four years of community engagement and input from the West O'ahu community to inform the project's siting, scale, scope, and products. We received hundreds of survey responses, conducted several dozen stakeholder interviews, and provided six Neighborhood Board briefings for two-way information flow to inform the community and also have the community inform our projects. We made the Aloha SMRFF's Environmental Assessment available for public input for a full year, in order to ensure

transparency to, and solicit input from, the community. This effort concluded with 100% public comments in support of the project, a unanimous vote of support from the Makakilo-Kapolei Neighborhood Board at their September 2024 meeting, and acceptance of the Environmental Assessment with a Finding of No Significant Impact by the City and County of Honolulu in January 2025.

LATE

LATE

SB-1220

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 6:25:27 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/11/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Naomi Kukac	Testifying for Simonpietri Enterprises	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

On behalf of Simonpietri Enterprises LLC, we are in support of this bill.