



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 93 SD1
URGING THE GOVERNOR, MAYORS OF EACH COUNTY AND THE STATE TO WORK
TOWARDS A JUST CLIMATE FUTURE BY INTEGRATING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE
INTO POLICY AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES RELATED TO CLIMATE
ADAPTATION, CLIMATE MITIGATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY**

Senate Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Hawai'i State Capitol

April 10, 2025

9:00 AM

Conf. Room 325

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environmental Protections:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SCR93 SD1, urging (1) the Governor, Mayors of each County and the State to work towards a just climate future by integrating Indigenous Knowledge into policy and decision-making processes related to climate adaptation, climate mitigation, and climate resiliency and (2) urging the investment, integration, and practice of 'Olelo Hawai'i as a key mechanism to achieving a just climate future.

Hawai'i has long been a recognized leader in environmental rights and the preservation of natural resources. We commend the State and legislature for the great strides made over the last two decades to address climate change. In continuity of Hawai'i's progressive leadership, we support SCR93 SD1 and its calls on State and County leaders to meaningfully include Indigenous Knowledge (IK) as an integral component of policy and decision-making related to climate change.

The integration of IK or what is often referred to as Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge (ITEK) has gained national and international attention as a crucial key to addressing the climate crisis. The Biden Administration previously sought to integrate IK/ITEK across all federal agencies, by issuing a memo and set of guidelines to help effectuate the integration of IK/ITEK into the nation's goals and policy priorities¹. Likewise, the United Nations recognizes the rights of Indigenous Peoples to steward the

¹ Memo to Heads of Federal Departments and Agencies, issued from the Executive Office of the President, Office of Science and Technology, and Council on Environmental Quality, dated November 30, 2022.

natural resources of their homelands,² and has acknowledged their crucial role in climate change initiatives, emphasizing their unique knowledge systems and sustainable practices. OHA participated in federal consultations regarding IK/ITEK and appreciates the State of Hawai'i's parallel efforts to integrate IK/TEK into its policies relating to climate adaptation, mitigation and resiliency, and the inclusion of 'Olelo Hawai'i as a key mechanism to achieving a just climate future.

Today, we are living in a climate crisis. Concurrent Resolution 93 SD1 seeks to help address this crisis, by integrating IK/ITEK which has evolved over millennia and withstood the test of time. In Hawai'i, IK/ITEK not only looks to the wisdom of our elders (ike kūpuna) but also to the traditional and cultural practitioners who continue to exercise and implement place-based knowledge across Hawai'i Nei. The collection of IK/ITEK requires meaningful consultation processes and protections for individuals and communities who are willing to share their knowledge in such consultations. OHA looks forward to working with the Governor, the Mayors of each County and the State of Hawai'i, to effectuate meaningful consultation and the integration of IK/ITEK into decision-making relating to policies on climate adaptation, mitigation and resiliency.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify on this measure. OHA respectfully requests that your committee **PASS SCR93 SD1**.

² UN General Assembly, *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* : resolution / adopted by the General Assembly, 2 October 2007, A/RES/61/295



To: The House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection (EEP)
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Thursday, April 10, 2025, 9am

In strong support of SCR93 SD1

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and members of the EEP committee,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org is in **strong support of SCR93 SD1** that urges the Governor, Mayors of each county, and the State to work towards a just climate future by integrating indigenous knowledge into policy and decision-making processes related to climate adaptation, climate mitigation, and climate resiliency.

Indigenous knowledge is crucial in the fight against climate change. Many Indigenous traditional practices offer effective climate solutions, such as sustainable agriculture systems and climate-resilient water management. These practices are rooted in a deep understanding of and respect for ecological systems and promote sustainable resource use, and as a result, have minimal impact on the environment, thereby fostering healthy and resilient ecosystems. Case in point, before European contact, Native Hawaiians had a thriving, sustainable economy based on intimate knowledge of their environment and resource management practices, supporting a large population (>1 million people) with a relatively small ecological footprint. Today, with a similar size population, Hawaii imports approximately 90% of its food, along with all the greenhouse gases that come with shipping the food in.

Working together with Indigenous communities and respecting their knowledge and practices is essential for effective, culturally sensitive, and sustainable environmental conservation efforts. An equitable and just climate future cannot be achieved without collaboration and purposeful efforts that integrate indigenous knowledge into the policy and decision-making processes of the State. We urge you to pass this important measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

APRIL 10, 2025

SCR 93, SD1, URGING THE GOVERNOR, MAYORS OF EACH COUNTY, AND THE STATE TO WORK TOWARDS A JUST CLIMATE FUTURE BY INTEGRATING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE INTO POLICY AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES RELATED TO CLIMATE ADAPTATION, CLIMATE MITIGATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

POSITION: SUPPORT

Coalition Earth supports SCR 93, SD1, which urges the governor, mayors of each county, and the state to work towards a just climate future by integrating indigenous knowledge into policy and decision-making processes related to climate adaptation, climate mitigation, and climate resiliency.

According to a report produced by the Hawai'i 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.

Just two years ago, 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 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 indigenous knowledge into our climate resilience plans and operations.** As the United Nations Development Programme stated in an article entitled “Indigenous knowledge is crucial in the fight against climate change – here’s why,” published on July 31, 2024:

Because of their ecological knowledge, which is intergenerational and community-based, Indigenous Peoples were among the first to notice the early signs of climate change. Now more than ever, as the climate crisis intensifies, their knowledge and practices offer valuable climate solutions that can advance mitigation efforts, enhance adaptation strategies and build resilience. This knowledge can also complement scientific data with precise landscape information that is critical to evaluating climate change scenarios.

Research shows that despite increasing and extractive commodification of their land, many ecosystems managed by native populations are in better health than nature outside such areas. By preserving these ecosystems, they can act as carbon sinks and protect biodiversity. In this way native peoples provide an environmental service to the rest of the world, which is often unrecognized and merits more robust financial support.

Native communities have also developed adaptive strategies over centuries to cope with environmental changes. Their knowledge systems offer valuable insights into climate-resilient practices such as nature-based solutions and the development of circular economies that have been a way of life for millennia for indigenous populations worldwide. Nature-based solutions (NbS) to climate change mitigation—such as ecosystem protection or conservation and improved marine resource management—can significantly reduce global net emissions.

A report performed by researchers affiliated with the (International Union for Conservation of Nature and the University of Oxford (*Nature-based Solutions in Nationally Determined Contributions*, 2019) found that NbS could provide 30 percent to 40 percent of the CO₂ mitigation required by 2030 to help ensure warming is capped at under 2°C. As the Intergovernmental Plan on Climate Change said in its 2019 summary for policymakers, this is particularly the case when NbS are paired with emissions reductions and clean energy initiatives that are supported by cross-sector investments and evidence-based policy targets.

*Coalition Earth is a nongovernmental organization that works to preserve the well-being of people and our planet. We champion policies that advance climate resilience, clean energy, public health, and economic fairness for working families. **Contact us at info@coalitionearth.org.***



April 10, 2025

TESTIMONY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS
To the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

SCR93 SD 1- URGING THE GOVERNOR, MAYORS OF EACH COUNTY, AND THE STATE TO WORK TOWARDS A JUST CLIMATE FUTURE BY INTEGRATING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE INTO POLICY AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES RELATED TO CLIMATE ADAPTATION, CLIMATE MITIGATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY.

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and members of the committee.

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs submits its testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SCR93 SD1 which urges the Governor, the Mayors of each County, and the State to integrate Indigenous Knowledge into policy and decision-making processes for a Just Climate Future.

Hawai‘i is unique in its geographical and cultural position to lead meaningful decisions and actions toward adaptation and living in closer balance with our environment in the face of extreme climate change. The Indigenous Knowledge of our native people, often referred to as ‘ike kūpuna, has provided the lessons and guides to living a sustainable life. Indigenous Knowledge-based principles are enshrined in the State Constitution as the right to a clean and healthy environment, the protection of traditional and customary practices, and the protection of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i. Indigenous Knowledge will be critical to creating a Just Climate Future.

This Senate Resolution is in alignment with our Resolution 2024-54 (attached), passed at the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs’ 65th annual convention in 2024.

The mission of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs is to effectively advocate for the educational, civic, health, cultural, economic, and social well-being of our lāhui.

Founded by Prince Kūhiō in 1918, the Hawaiian Civic Club movement is the oldest Native Hawaiian community-based advocacy movement. The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs is a not-for-profit organization that is a confederation of 61 individual and autonomous Hawaiian Civic Clubs and 3,000 members located across Hawai‘i and across the continental United States.

We urge the committee to ADOPT this resolution.

ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS

A RESOLUTION

NO. 2024 - 54

URGING THE GOVERNOR AND THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I TO WORK TOWARDS A JUST CLIMATE FUTURE BY INTEGRATING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE INTO POLICY AND DECISION MAKING PROCESSES RELATED TO CLIMATE ADAPTATION, CLIMATE MITIGATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

WHEREAS, due to the current and projected impacts of climate destabilization on Hawai‘i and the world, immediate action is necessary for our survival and a chance at a just climate future; and

WHEREAS, as the original inhabitants of Hawai‘i, Native Hawaiians have refined their methods of survival based on science and observation throughout the millennia; and

WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians continue to practice, refine, and share their Indigenous knowledge for our collective survival; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous knowledge includes the practices that have sustained native peoples since time immemorial, and is often referred to as ‘ike kūpuna, traditional ecological knowledge, Indigenous innovations, and more generally as cultural practices; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous knowledge also includes native languages, and in this form it serves to connect past, present, and future generations to a shared history, culture, and set of values; and

WHEREAS, the Indigenous knowledge-based principles are deeply enshrined in the Hawai‘i State Constitution, as articulated by the right to a clean and healthy environment, protections for our natural resources, and the recognition and protection of traditional and customary practices, including ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i; and

WHEREAS, Hawai‘i’s unique geographical location positions itself to not only cultivate Indigenous knowledge, but also to use it to facilitate and connect shared learnings with our relations across Moananuiākea and the world; and

WHEREAS, on June 11, 2024, traditional leaders from across Moananuiākea signed the Tuurama Ariki Declaration, which commits to ongoing collaboration, dialogue, and the exchange of knowledge among Pacific nations to respond to urgent challenges that impact across the Pacific region and the planet; and

WHEREAS, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs recognizes the urgent need to address the impending climate crisis, as evidenced by past positions relating to preserving Native Hawaiian culture and communities against the impacts of sea level rise and climate change (Resolution 2018-32), mandating climate change curriculum in public schools (Resolution 2019-38), adopting Indigenous land stewardship practices to address climate change (Resolution 2019-50), and transitioning to climate (disaster) resilient infrastructure (Resolution 2021-67); and

WHEREAS, an equitable and just climate future cannot be achieved without purposeful, meaningful, and agreed upon ways of integrating Indigenous knowledge into our policy and decision-making processes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at its 65th Annual Convention in Hamohamo, Waikīkī, O‘ahu, in the malama of Welehu and the rising of Hoku, this 16th day of November 2024, urging the Governor and the State of Hawai‘i to work towards a just climate future by integrating Indigenous knowledge into policy and decision making processes related to climate adaptation, climate mitigation, and climate resiliency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs urges the Governor and the State of Hawai‘i to formulate and identify goals to facilitate a just climate future that purposefully and meaningfully includes Indigenous knowledge as an integral component; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs insists that ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i should also be integrated, practiced, and invested in as a key mechanism to achieving a just climate future; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, President of the State Senate, Speaker of the State House of Representatives, Chair of the State Senate subject matter committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the State House subject matter committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and all County Mayors.



The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted in the malama of Welehu and the rising of Hoku, on the 16th day of November 2024, at the 65th Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs in Hamohamo, Waikīkī.

Dreana K. Lee

Dreana K. Lee, President



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

April 9, 2025

Testimony in Support of SCR93 SD1 URGING THE GOVERNOR, MAYORS OF EACH COUNTY, AND THE STATE TO WORK TOWARDS A JUST CLIMATE FUTURE BY INTEGRATING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE INTO POLICY AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES RELATED TO CLIMATE ADAPTATION, CLIMATE MITIGATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

TO: Chair Nicole E. Lowen, Vice Chair Amy A. Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

DATE: Thursday, April 10, 2025, **TIME:** 9:00 a.m. **PLACE:** Conference Room 325 & Via Videoconference

FROM: Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i strongly supports SCR93 SD1, which urges the Governor, Mayors of each County, and the State to work toward a just climate future by integrating Indigenous knowledge into policy and decision-making processes related to climate adaptation, mitigation, and resiliency.

Climate change presents unprecedented challenges to Hawai'i's people, environment, and infrastructure. It is imperative that solutions reflect a deep respect for Hawai'i's cultural heritage and align with practices proven effective over centuries of sustainable resource management.

Key arguments in support of SCR93 SD1 include:

- **Value of Indigenous Knowledge:** Native Hawaiian knowledge systems (ike kupuna), rooted in observation and harmony with nature, offer unparalleled insights for managing land, water, and natural resources sustainably.
- **Cultural Preservation:** Incorporating Indigenous knowledge ensures that traditional practices, such as ahupua'a land management and loko i'a (fishpond) systems, are perpetuated and integrated into climate solutions.
- **Community Engagement:** Meaningful collaboration with Indigenous communities ensures inclusive decision-making, strengthens social cohesion, and empowers those most affected by climate change.

- **Localized Solutions:** Indigenous knowledge complements modern science by tailoring solutions to Hawai‘i’s unique ecosystems, fostering resiliency and adaptation specific to our islands.

Passing SCR93 SD1 honors Hawai‘i’s cultural heritage while addressing the climate crisis with equity, innovation, and cultural integrity. We respectfully urge the Committee to pass this resolution and support a climate-resilient future guided by both traditional knowledge and scientific expertise.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Melodie Aduja and Alan Burdick

Co-Chairs, Environmental Caucus Democratic Party of Hawai‘i



House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Testimony on SCR93

Relating to a Just Climate Future

April 10th, 2025

9:00 AM

Room 325

The Climate Change and Health Working Group (CCHWG) is a cross-sector collaborative interested in strengthening climate and health resiliency in Hawai'i. CCHWG supports this resolution, which urges the Governor and the State to work towards a just climate future by integrating indigenous knowledge into policy and decision-making processes related to climate adaptation, climate mitigation, and climate resiliency.

Testimony of the Hawai'i Climate Change and Health Working Group

In Support of SCR93

Relating to a Just Climate Future

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection,

The Climate Change and Health Working Group (CCHWG) *strongly supports* SCR93, a resolution calling for the integration of Indigenous Knowledge for our just climate future.

The current and projected impacts of climate destabilization on Hawai'i and the world necessitate immediate action for our survival and chance at a just climate future. The unique impacts that we are already seeing warrant an appropriate, island-based science response. Indigenous knowledge is increasingly valued by various sectors as it returns us to living in harmony with our environment, while also providing opportunities for a sustainable future.

Hawai'i is in a unique position, both resource-wise and geographically, to not only make significant leaps toward a livable future, but to also lead by example for the world. The Indigenous Knowledge of Hawai'i includes the practices that have sustained Native peoples since time immemorial, often referred to as 'ike kūpuna, traditional ecological knowledge, Indigenous innovations, and cultural practices. The work being done that is based on Indigenous knowledge – such as loko i'a (fishponds), lo'i kalo (taro fields), and other cultural practices – offers some of the best solutions for climate adaptation, mitigation, and resiliency.

Critically, integrating Indigenous Knowledge is also essential from a public health perspective, as climate change directly impacts water and food systems, threatens traditional and staple crops, increases the risk of heat-related illnesses, and disproportionately affects vulnerable communities. Known as a “threat multiplier,” climate change further exacerbates existing health disparities among our most at-risk populations – including Hawaiian homestead communities, which bear a disproportionate burden of chronic diseases such as heart disease, stroke, and diabetes, resulting in a lower life expectancy. When we restore and practice Indigenous land management methods, we improve food security, sustain healthy ecosystems that help mitigate pollution and disease vectors, and foster community well-being through cultural connection. This enhances our capacity to adapt to and recover from climate-driven health challenges, ultimately benefiting everyone across our islands.

For our best chance at a just climate future, we must include Indigenous knowledge as part of our decision-making. Research studies validate a strong correlation between native language acquisition and biodiversity. 'Ōlelo Hawai'i itself is a valuable resource, carrying knowledge of place names, rains, and waterways – ancestral wisdom that guides how we best care for our environment. By acknowledging, honoring, and uplifting this 'ike kūpuna, we fortify our collective resilience against the climate crisis and its health impacts.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure. The climate crisis is a health crisis.

Sincerely,

The Climate Change & Health Working Group

Subject: Strong Support for SCR93: Integrating Indigenous Knowledge for a Just Climate Future

Aloha e Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

My name is Pelehonuamea Harman, a resident of Kea‘au, Puna, Hawai‘i, and a Native Hawaiian. I am writing in strong support of **SCR93**, a resolution calling for the integration of Indigenous Knowledge in creating a just climate future.

The current and projected impacts of climate destabilization on Hawai‘i and the world demand immediate action for our survival and the chance to create a just climate future. The unique challenges we are already experiencing require an island-based scientific response that is culturally informed and rooted in our local environment. Indigenous knowledge offers a pathway back to living in harmony with the land, while also providing solutions for a sustainable and resilient future.

Hawai‘i is uniquely positioned—both resource-wise and geographically—not only to make significant strides toward a livable future but also to lead the world in sustainable practices. The Indigenous knowledge of Hawai‘i includes practices that have sustained our people for centuries and are often referred to as **ike kūpuna** (ancestral knowledge), traditional ecological knowledge, Indigenous innovations, and cultural practices. The work being done, based on Indigenous knowledge (such as loko i‘a, lo‘i kalo, and other cultural practices that emphasize living in balance with the environment), provides some of the best solutions for climate adaptation, mitigation, and resiliency.

For Hawai‘i to have the best chance at a just climate future, we must integrate Indigenous knowledge into our decision-making processes. Research has shown a strong correlation between native language acquisition and biodiversity preservation. The Hawaiian language (**‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i**) is itself a valuable resource, encoding knowledge on how to care for the environment. Place names, names of rains, and names of waterways all carry with them **ike kupuna**, a deep well of ancestral knowledge that we can acknowledge, honor, and uphold with a sense of kuleana (responsibility).

In light of these considerations, I urge the committee to **adopt this resolution** and support the integration of Indigenous knowledge into our efforts to secure a just climate future for Hawai‘i and beyond. Mahalo nui loa for your attention and support.

Sincerely,



Pelehonuamea Harman
Resident of Kea‘au, Puna, Hawai‘i
Native Hawaiian

SCR-93-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2025 1:49:54 AM

Testimony for EEP on 4/10/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eva Majerova	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this

SCR-93-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2025 6:24:42 AM

Testimony for EEP on 4/10/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taffi Wise	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support!

SCR-93-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2025 7:50:00 AM

Testimony for EEP on 4/10/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hedwig Warrington	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Kūpuna for the Mo‘opuna is in **STRONG SUPPORT of SCR93.**

This resolution calls for the integration of Indigenous Knowledge for Our Just Climate Future and was adopted at the November 2024 Civic Club Convention. SCR93 is critical as we move forward as a state in protecting our people and our ‘āina, now and for the next generations to come. Mahalo.

SCR-93-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2025 8:23:57 AM

Testimony for EEP on 4/10/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Shaw	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honor the Traditional Indigenous Ecological Knowledge set of this place and help us ensure a climate ready future here in Hawaii for generations to come. Please pass this resolution!

SCR-93-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2025 9:51:47 AM

Testimony for EEP on 4/10/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lei Fisher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

My name is Lei Fisher, and I am a resident of O'ahu. I am writing in **strong support** of SCR93, a resolution calling for the integration of Indigenous Knowledge for our just climate future. The current and projected impacts of climate destabilization on Hawai'i and the world necessitate immediate action for our survival and chance at a just climate future. The unique impacts that we are already seeing warrant an appropriate, island-based science response. Indigenous knowledge is increasingly valued by various sectors as it continues to return us to living back in harmony with our environment, while also providing opportunities for a sustainable future.

Hawai'i is in a unique position, resource-wise and also geographically, to not only make big leaps towards a livable future but also be a leader for the world. The Indigenous knowledge of Hawai'i includes the practices that have sustained native peoples since time immemorial, and is often referred to as 'ike kūpuna, traditional ecological knowledge, Indigenous innovations, and cultural practices. The work being done that is based on Indigenous knowledge (i.e., loko i'a, lo'i kalo, cultural practices of living in balance with our environment) offer the best solutions for climate adaptation, climate mitigation, climate resiliency.

For our best chance at a just climate future, we need to integrate Indigenous knowledge as part of our decisionmaking. Research studies validate a strong correlation between native language acquisition and biodiversity. 'Ōlelo Hawai'i in itself is a rich resource that includes a lot of coding of how we best care for our environment. Place names, names of rains, names of water ways, all carry within them the 'ike kūpuna (ancestral knowledge) that we can acknowledge, honor, and 'auamo kuleana.

Accordingly, I urge the committee to **ADOPT** this resolution.

Ke aloha 'āina,
Lei Fisher

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

My name is Martina Kamaka and I am a resident of Kaneohe and a physician who is concerned about the impacts of climate change on Hawai'i, particularly as it relates to health. I am writing in **strong support** of SCR93, a resolution calling for the integration of Indigenous Knowledge for our just climate future.

The current and projected impacts of climate destabilization on Hawai'i and the world necessitate immediate action for our own survival and hopefully offer a chance at a just climate future for our children and grandchildren. Just the impacts on our health, both acute and chronic are staggering. The unique impacts that we are already seeing in Hawai'i and elsewhere in the Pacific warrant appropriate, island and science based responses. Indigenous knowledge is scientific knowledge, just look at the achievements by Native Hawaiians in resource management, aquaculture and wayfinding as examples. Indigenous knowledge is increasingly valued by various sectors as it shows us ways to return to living sustainably and in harmony with our environment.

Hawai'i is in a unique position, resource-wise and also geographically, to not only make big leaps towards a livable future but also be a leader for the world. The Indigenous knowledge of Hawai'i includes the practices that have sustained native peoples since time immemorial, and is often referred to as 'ike kūpuna, traditional ecological knowledge, Indigenous innovations, and cultural practices. The work being done that is based on Indigenous knowledge (i.e., loko i'a, lo'i kalo, cultural practices of living in balance with our environment) offer the best solutions for climate adaptation, climate mitigation, climate resiliency. For our best chance at a just climate future, we need to integrate Indigenous knowledge as part of our decisionmaking. Accordingly, I urge the committee to **ADOPT** this resolution.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martina Kamaka', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Martina Kamaka, MD
Family physician and educator

SCR-93-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2025 3:53:22 PM

Testimony for EEP on 4/10/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monica Morris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

My name is Monica Morris. I was born and raised in Keaukaha Hawaiian Homestead, and am now a resident of Honolulu, Hawaii.

I am in **strong support of SCR 93 SD1.**

The best chance for restoring stable weather patterns beneficial to Hawai'i, now and into the future, would incorporate indigenous Hawaiian knowledge ('Ike Hawai'i) and Hawaiian language ('Olelo Hawai'i) into State policy and decision-making processes related to climate and weather matters.

The practices of pre-contact Hawaiians found in 'Ike Hawai'i and 'Olelo Hawai'i resulted in a thriving, healthy lifestyle. It is not too late to incorporate these practices of 'Ike Hawai'i and 'Olelo Hawai'i for the benefit of everyone who calls Hawai'i home.

I respectfully urge your passage of SCR93 SD1.

Mahalo nui loa.

SCR-93-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2025 5:05:26 PM

Testimony for EEP on 4/10/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kekoa Kealoha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ano'ai Ke Aloha Kākou, I am writing in strong support of SR76 and SCR93 because I know that indigenous knowledge systems serve this 'āina well. Hawai'i is particularly susceptible to climate changes, regardless of where people stand on the issue politically. We are also resource-limited, which should motivate all of us to care for these resources diligently.

While Hawai'i is, today, a multi-cultural place, the integration of multiple knowledge systems has not been a smooth process. In fact, resource diversion has interrupted sustainable practices that supported life here for many centuries prior to Western contact. Today, there are multiple interests competing for these resources that have led to disasters like wildfires and desertification.

If we ho'i i ka piko, or "return to our center," we can harness the power of 'ike kūpuna (ancestral knowledge) to inform our future. This doesn't mean completely dismantling the status quo, but rather, acknowledging that the status quo is unsustainable and looking to our loea (experts) for the solutions. There is an 'ōlelo no'eau, "i ka wā ma mua ka wā ma hope," which means "the future is in the past." There is nothing new under the sun; let's use our knowledge of the past to guide our future. This resolution, while not a bill, demonstrates a commitment by the State of Hawai'i to its people, the kānaka maoli, and reaffirms what we already know: what's good for the 'āina is good for Hawaiians and all people who live here.

We are not the same as every other state, and we can lead the discussion about a just climate future by sharing that we have the answers within us. This isn't about being responsive to a climate disaster (although it does function in that way), it's about being responsible with what we have.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my mana'o. Mahalo piha,

Kekoaopololū Kealoha

**KE KŌMIKE HALE O KE IKEHU
A ME KA HO‘OMALU AO KŪLOHELOHE**

Apelila 10, 2025

9:00 AM

Lumi 325

**In STRONG SUPPORT of SCR93: URGING THE GOVERNOR AND THE STATE TO
WORK TOWARDS A JUST CLIMATE FUTURE BY INTEGRATING INDIGENOUS
KNOWLEDGE INTO POLICY AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES RELATED TO
CLIMATE ADAPTATION, CLIMATE MITIGATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY**

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sharde Mersberg Freitas, and I am a Native Hawaiian mother. I am writing in strong support of SCR93, a resolution that urges the governor and state to integrate Indigenous knowledge for our just climate future.

Hawai‘i is in a unique position, resource-wise and also geographically, to not only make big leaps towards a livable future but also be a leader for the world. The Indigenous knowledge of Hawai‘i includes the practices that have sustained kānaka since time immemorial, and is often referred to as ‘ike kūpuna, traditional ecological knowledge, Indigenous innovations, and cultural practices. With the daily, ongoing, drastic and chaotic changes happening the federal level, this resolution serves as a reminder to our governor and state that we shall remain firm and uphold the Hawai‘i State Constitution that enshrines our values and important Hawaiian perspectives founded on ‘ike kūpuna.

As a mother, and for our ‘ohana who has committed to learning and perpetuating the Hawaiian culture – inclusive of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i and cultural practices – I have personally witnessed and experienced the healing, and bright future ahead lead by our younger generation who’s identity are firmly (re)established in the Hawaiian culture and worldview. As there is an increasing interest and demand for Hawaiian products, the use of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, and even understanding of our own history, it is through the integration of our Indigenous knowledge that we will have the best chance at a just climate future.

Lastly, as we identify and develop solutions for our just climate future, we need not look far for best practices, data, or experts. ‘Āina-based practices that have symbiotically sustained the people and natural and cultural resources for generations, have also more recently been documented to quantify their impacts with regards to carbon capture to facilitate achieving the state’s climate goals. Further, research worldwide demonstrate the strong correlation between native language acquisition and biodiversity. ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i in itself is a rich resource that includes a lot of coding of how we best care for our environment. Place names, names of rains, names of water ways, all carry within them the ‘ike kūpuna (ancestral knowledge) that we can acknowledge, honor, and ‘auamo kuleana.

Therefore, I urge the committee to **ADOPT** this resolution. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SCR-93-SD-1

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Testimony for EEP on 4/10/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Nakaielua Ribao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in strong **support of SCR93 SD1**. It is essential for the future of Hawai‘i and for generations to come that we honor and uplift the knowledge and expertise of kānaka maoli in policy and decision-making related to climate adaptation, mitigation, and resiliency. Indigenous knowledge, rooted in centuries of deep connection to this land, offers time-tested strategies for living in balance with our environment.

Kānaka maoli have long been the stewards of these islands, with proven sustainable practices, from land management and food systems to water stewardship and community resilience. These practices are not only scientifically sound but culturally grounded, offering a holistic approach to today’s climate challenges.

By integrating Indigenous knowledge into our state’s climate policies, we strengthen our collective ability to respond to the pressing realities of climate change while also advancing justice, equity, and respect for the original caretakers of these islands.

Take this critical step toward a just climate future by embracing the insights and guidance of Native Hawaiian communities.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Amanda Nakaielua Ribao