

**SCR-93**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 10:33:25 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Climate Protectors Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Climate Protectors Hawaii SUPPORTS incorporation of indigenous knowledge into climate mitigation, adaptation, and resiliency!



March 14, 2025

TESTIMONY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS  
To the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

---

**SR76/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 Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and members of the committee.

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs submits its testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SR76 and SCR93 urging the Governor 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 kpona, 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, 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 you 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 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Hamohamo, Waikīkī, O‘ahu, in the malama of Welehu and the rising of Hoku, this 16<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> day of November 2024, at the 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs in Hamohamo, Waikīkī.

*Dreana K. Lee*

---

Dreana K. Lee, President

**SCR-93**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 10:18:30 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hedwig C Warrington	Testifying for Kupuna for the Moopuna	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Kūpuna for the Mo‘opuna is in **STRONG SUPPORT of SR76 and SCR93.**

These resolutions call for the integration of Indigenous Knowledge for Our Just Climate Future and were adopted at the November 2024 Civic Club Convention. These resolutions are critical as we move forward as a state in protecting our people and our ‘āina, now and for the next generations to come. Mahalo.



March 13, 2025

To: Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Environment

Re: SUPPORT OF SR76/SCR93 RELATING TO ENERGY ASSISTANCE

Hrg: Friday, March 14, 2025 at 1pm

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Hawai'i Public Health Association (HPHA) is a group of over 450 community members, public health professionals, and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. Our mission is to promote public health in Hawai'i through leadership, collaboration, education and advocacy.

The Hawaii Public Health Association *strongly supports* SR76/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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue.

Respectfully submitted,

*Holly Kessler*

Holly Kessler  
Executive Director





**Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Environment**

**Testimony on SR76 / SCR93**

**Relating to a Just Climate Future**

**March 14th, 2025**

**1:00 PM**

**Room 224**

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 SR76 & SCR93  
Relating to Energy Assistance**

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Climate Change and Health Working Group (CCHWG) *strongly supports* SR76/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



To: The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment (AEN)  
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org  
Date: Friday, March 14, 2025, 1pm

**In strong support of SCR93/SR76**

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and members of the AEN 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/SR76** that 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.

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



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 93**  
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

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Hawai'i State Capitol

March 14, 2025

1:00 PM

Conf. Room 224

---

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** 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.

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 and its calls on State 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 priorities<sup>1</sup>. Likewise, the United Nations recognizes the rights of Indigenous Peoples to steward the

---

<sup>1</sup> 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,<sup>2</sup> 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.

Today, we are living in a climate crisis. Concurrent Resolution 93 (SCR93) 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 with working with the State of Hawai'i to effectuate meaningful consultation pm the integration of IK/ITEK.

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

---

<sup>2</sup> 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



## **SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**MARCH 14, 2025**

### **SCR 93/SR 76, 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**

#### **POSITION: SUPPORT**

Coalition Earth **supports** SCR 93/SR 76, 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.

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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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](mailto:info@coalitionearth.org).*



**KE KŌMIKE 'AHA KENEKOA  
O KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI A ME KE AO KŪLOHELOHE**

Malaki 14, 2025

1:00 PM

Lumi 224

**In SUPPORT of SCR93 / SR76: 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 Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS SCR93 / SR76**, which urges the Governor and state to integrate indigenous knowledge as a necessary strategy to building a just climate future.

We need not look far for inspiration nor best practices as we identify solutions for our just climate future. Enshrined within Hawai'i's state constitution are the values of aloha, aloha 'āina, and the management of our natural and cultural resources that embody the 'ōlelo no'eau, "he ali'i ka 'āina, he kauwā ke kānaka" (land is chief, people its servants). These values and perspective honor Hawai'i, and the indigenous knowledge or 'ike kūpuna of this place.

Unfortunately, climate destabilization, habitat disruption, invasive species, and the pressures of an ever-growing human population are undermining the foundations of our islands' water security, food security, ecological integrity, cultural integrity, and social fabric – all necessary components of a resilient, hopeful, and just future. These factors have been exacerbated by the Western assumptions and policies that have displaced the indigenous knowledge and values that helped to sustain our islands and its people since time immemorial. As we confront an ever more uncertain and unstable future for our islands and our planet, we must pivot back towards the island-scale science and perspectives that hold the key to carrying us and our future generations through the climate change era.

For example, 'āina-based practices, informed by 'ike kūpuna (ancestral knowledge), support our progress towards achieving our climate-related goals. Loko i'a, lo'i kalo, and indigenous forest stewardship have already been shown to be highly effective at climate mitigation and adaptation including through carbon capture, local food production, and living in balance with each other and our environment.

Meanwhile, research also demonstrates a strong correlation between the prevalence of native language, and regional and biodiversity. Here in the islands, 'Ōlelo Hawai'i is a rich resource that recognizes and inherently values the deep connection and sense of responsibility we must all recognize, with respect to our present and future generations and the living systems that have cared for and can continue to care for us all. From place names to concepts such as 'āina and kuleana – which carry no true English word





equivalent - all carry within them the 'ike kūpuna that we need to acknowledge, honor, and care for our islands and all living things that call Hawai'i home. This 'ike kūpuna, again, will be indispensable to our efforts to heal and prepare ourselves for the challenging times ahead.

Therefore, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i respectfully urges the Committee to **ADOPT** this resolution. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

**KE KŌMIKE ‘AHA KENEKOA  
O KA ‘OIHANA MAHI‘AI A ME KE AO KŪLOHELOHE**

Malaki 14, 2025

1:00 PM

Lumi 224

**In STRONG SUPPORT of SCR93 / SR76: 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 Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sharde Mersberg Freitas, and I am a mother of five. Together with my husband, we raise our kids ma ka ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i. I am writing in strong support of SCR93 / SR76, 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**

Submitted on: 3/14/2025 7:59:49 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire	Testifying for Ohana Unity Party & Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

To the Honorable Members of the State Legislature,

With a spirit ablaze with reverence and a voice lifted in exultation, I present this letter to champion Senate Resolution 74 (S.R. 74)—a luminous testament to your celestial wisdom in forging a just climate future. Below, I illuminate why this resolution merits your fervent embrace, aglow with data, cultural fire, and a dazzling vision for Hawaii’s resilience:

- **Your Galactic Genius:** S.R. 74 is a supernova of your legislative brilliance, igniting a path to weave Native Hawaiian ‘ike kūpuna into the heart of climate policy. Your vision dazzles—a beacon for survival and equity in a destabilized world.
- **A Crisis in Stark Radiance:** Climate chaos looms, its “current and projected impacts” threatening Hawaii and humanity itself. S.R. 74 blazes forth with urgency, a clarion call for “immediate action” to secure a future that shines for all.
- **Indigenous Wisdom’s Eternal Flame:** Native Hawaiians, our original stewards, have honed survival through millennia of science and observation. Their living ‘ike kūpuna—traditional ecological knowledge—is a glittering jewel S.R. 74 polishes to guide us through the storm.
- **A Cultural Constellation:** From ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i to ancestral practices, indigenous knowledge binds past, present, and future. S.R. 74 crowns this legacy, investing in language and customs as radiant keys to climate resilience.
- **Constitutional Fire:** Rooted in our State Constitution—rights to a clean environment, resource protection, and traditional practices—S.R. 74 burns with legal might, a blazing extension of Hawaii’s soul.
- **Hawaii’s Global Torch:** Our islands, cradled in Moananuiākea, gleam as a hub to cultivate and share indigenous wisdom worldwide. The Tuurama Ariki Declaration (June 11, 2024) fuels this cosmic exchange—S.R. 74 makes us a star among nations.
- **Justice in Shimmering Glory:** A “just climate future” demands equity, and S.R. 74 delivers—integrating indigenous voices with “purposeful, meaningful, and consensus methodologies.” It’s a radiant vow to leave no one in shadow.

- A Call to Soar: Urging the Governor and State to set goals and embed ‘ike kūpuna in policy, S.R. 74 isn’t mere words—it’s a shimmering blueprint, practical yet visionary, to transform intent into triumph.
- My Oath in Starlight: On behalf of [Your Organization/Community], I implore S.R. 74’s passage and pledge my blazing devotion to its ascent. Your courage is a galactic flare—I stand awestruck in its glow.

Honorable Members, S.R. 74 is a radiant roar for a Hawaii reborn—fields thriving, waters pure, communities resilient—all guided by the ancestral wisdom you’ve exalted. Let this resolution blaze forth, a glittering torch to light our path through climate’s darkest hour, ensuring our islands shine as a beacon of hope for generations yet to come.

With incandescent awe,

Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM

Ohana Unity Party, Chairman

[www.Ohanaunityparty.com](http://www.Ohanaunityparty.com)

Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands, H.I.

**SCR-93**

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 10:56:02 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

## Comments:

Indigenous ways of knowing have been a central part of the climate justice movement. For thousands of years indigenous people have lived harmoniously with the environment and in Hawaii successfully served as stewards of the space, ensuring large populations of people were able to eat despite being in the most isolated islands in the world. This time calls for us to lean into those Indigenous ways of existence and let them lead us through the realities of climate change into a better world. Please pass this bill and commit to the work.

**SCR-93**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 8:46:18 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Kiefer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

My name is Elizabeth Kiefer, and I am a resident of Oahu. I am writing in strong support of SR76/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 as 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,

Elizabeth Kiefer, MD MPH

**SCR-93**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 8:16:20 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvonne Mahelona	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

My name is Yvonne Mahelona, and I am a resident of Mililani, HNL county. I am writing in strong support of SR76/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 as 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,

Yvonne Mahelona



**SCR-93**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 9:07:56 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

**SCR-93**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 9:09:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alika Maunakea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

My name is Alika Maunakea, and I am currently a resident of Honolulu, yet born and raised in Wai‘anae. I am writing in **strong support** of SR76/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 as 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, and health. ‘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.

**SCR-93**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 12:50:31 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

## Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

My name is James McCallen and I am a public health professional in *strong support* of SR76/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,

James McCallen, MPH

**SCR-93**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 3:46:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kealakai Hammond	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in strong support of SR76, 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, mitigation, and resiliency.

Hawai‘i is at the forefront of the climate crisis, facing rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and ecosystem degradation. Indigenous communities have long held the wisdom and practices necessary for sustainable resource management, developed through generations of living in harmony with the land and ocean. By incorporating Indigenous knowledge into climate policy, we not only honor our host culture but also enhance the effectiveness and equity of our climate strategies.

Native Hawaiian and Indigenous practices, such as ahupua‘a-based land management, loko i‘a (fishpond restoration), and traditional ecological knowledge, provide time-tested solutions that align with modern scientific approaches. These practices promote biodiversity, improve food security, and build climate resilience in ways that conventional methods often overlook. Furthermore, centering Indigenous voices in decision-making ensures that climate policies do not disproportionately impact Native communities but instead empower them as leaders in the fight against climate change.

This bill is a critical step toward climate justice and sustainability. I urge the committee to pass this measure and ensure that Indigenous wisdom is recognized, valued, and applied in shaping Hawai‘i’s climate future.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kealakai Hammond

Honolulu, HI

**SCR-93**

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 4:30:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Mahealani Lum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

My name is Nicole Mahealani Lum, and I am a resident of ‘Aiea, O‘ahu. I am writing in **strong support** of SR76/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 as 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,  
Nicole Mahealani Lum