

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



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

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Testimony of the Public Utilities Commission

To the
House Committee on
Energy & Environmental Protection

January 28, 2025
9:00 a.m.

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

Measure: H.B. No. 346
Title: RELATING TO ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE.

Position:

The Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") supports this measure and offers the following comments for consideration.

Comments:

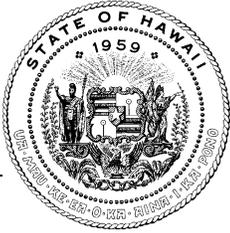
The Commission supports this measure to increase access to Electrical Vehicle ("EV") charging infrastructure in new construction of affordable housing.

The Commission currently manages the Electric Vehicle Charging System ("EVCS") Rebate Program in consultation with EV stakeholders and in cooperation with the program's administrator, Hawaii Energy. The program directly supports the state's decarbonization goals and continues to provide benefits to Hawaii's residents. This measure would be a meaningful addition to the program.

Equity is a high priority for the Commission, and we support the provisions of this measure to increase EV charging access for low-income communities. The Commission has worked with EV stakeholders to begin identifying communities that are underserved by EV charging infrastructure and may further explore equity measures related to transportation electrification in the Energy Equity proceeding, Docket No. 2022-0250. The Commission also notes that Hawaii Energy has partnered with Ulupono Initiative to offer a bonus rebate for the installation of Level 2 EVCS at affordable housing projects. The Commission supports the language of the measure that allows entities to simultaneously claim a rebate for a charging system as well as for an EV-ready parking stall. This will help to ensure that EV-ready stalls are actually furnished with charging systems.

Regarding the proposed definition of “affordable housing”, the Commission notes that income verification can be a barrier to program participation for many customers and can place a significant administrative burden on the administrator, should they not already have access to income information on potential participants. Preserving the flexibility to define income thresholds would allow the administrator to pursue streamlined income verification practices, such as via proxies like enrollment in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or participation in the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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

Telephone:
Web:

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

MARK B. GLICK
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

(808) 451-6648
energy.hawaii.gov

Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Tuesday, January 28, 2025
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

In Support of
HOUSE BILL NO. 346

RELATING TO ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE.

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers testimony in support on HB346, which provides rebates for the installation of electric vehicle (EV)-ready parking stalls for new affordable housing developments, addressing a critical need to expand equitable access to EV charging infrastructure across the state.

To meet Hawai'i's decarbonization goals, significant emissions reductions from ground transportation are required by 2030 to place the state on a trajectory toward achieving a net-negative carbon economy by 2045. HSEO's *Hawai'i Pathways to Decarbonization* report,¹ submitted to the Legislature in December 2023 pursuant to Act 238 (2022), emphasizes the transition to Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) as a key strategy to reducing emissions in ground transportation. Expanding access to reliable EV charging, particularly for residents of multi-unit dwellings and affordable housing, is an essential component of this strategy.

Unfortunately, Hawai'i is failing to do this. Currently, Hawai'i has approximately 47 registered EVs per public charging port statewide,² the second worst ratio in the

¹ <https://energy.hawaii.gov/what-we-do/clean-energy-vision/decarbonization-strategy/>

² Alliance for Automotive Innovation: Get Connected Electric Vehicle Quarterly Report, Third Quarter 2024

nation. This compares to 38 registered EVs per public charging port statewide,³ and third worst in the nation, the year before. Hawai'i's growing deficit in EV charging infrastructure, about a 24% increase year over year, creates a significant barrier to EV adoption. Reliable access to charging at home is critical, as evidenced by data from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), which underscores the importance of overnight charging availability for 90% of EV drivers by 2030. Without expanded access, particularly in underserved communities, achieving equitable ZEV adoption will remain challenging.

HB346 directly addresses this challenge by incentivizing EV-ready parking stalls in affordable housing developments. This measure ensures that low- and moderate-income communities, who are often the most affected by transportation costs and environmental burdens, can participate in, and benefit from, the state's transition to a cleaner transportation system.

All three mitigation scenarios in the *Hawai'i Pathways to Decarbonization* report assume Hawai'i will achieve 100% ZEV light-duty vehicle sales by 2035, with 21% of registered light-duty passenger vehicles needing to be ZEVs by 2030. Achieving these goals requires policies that remove barriers to EV adoption, including access to charging infrastructure for residents in affordable housing.

The HSEO supports HB346 as long as its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

³ Alliance for Automotive Innovation: Get Connected Electric Vehicle Quarterly Report, Third Quarter 2023



LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF PLANNING
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DIRECTOR

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846
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Web: <https://planning.hawaii.gov/>

Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Tuesday, January 28, 2025
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of
HB 346
RELATING TO ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE.

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

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **supports** HB 346, which Provides rebates for the installation of eligible electric vehicle-ready parking stalls for new construction of affordable housing.

The inclusion of electric vehicle (EV)-ready parking stalls in new affordable housing projects is a forward-thinking initiative that aligns with Hawai'i's clean energy goals and ensures equitable access to emerging technologies.

Designing EV-ready parking stalls in affordable housing developments is a practical, cost-effective, and equitable strategy to support Hawai'i's clean energy laws. Leveraging and expanding these existing rebate programs to incentivize EV infrastructure during construction ensures that affordable housing developments are prepared for the future while enabling residents to actively participate in the clean energy transition.

Importantly, this bill underscores the State of Hawai'i's commitment to equity by ensuring that low-income and ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households have affordable access to EV infrastructure, empowering these residents to share in the financial savings and environmental benefits of sustainable transportation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HB-346

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 2:26:38 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan B Roberts Emery	Green Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen and Vice Chair Perruso,

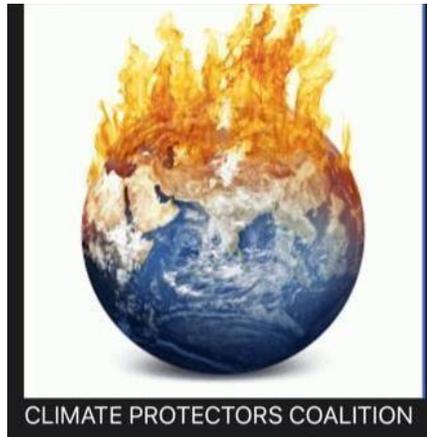
The Green Party of Hawai'i is in support of HB346 . Affordable housing incentives needs to be a part of our readiness to move forward with the roll out of electric vehicles. Everyone needs to have access to charging. Let us not leave anyone behind. Please support HB346.

Green Party of Hawai'i

Susan RobertsEmery

Co chair GPH

Paauilo



To: The Honorable Representative Nicole Lowen, Chair, the Honorable Amy Perruso, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection.

From: Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing HB346 RELATING TO ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE

Hearing: Tuesday January 28, 2025 9:00 a.m.

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Energy and Environmental Protection Committee Members:

The mission of the Climate Protectors Hawai'i is to educate and engage the local community in climate change action, to help Hawai'i show the world the way back to a safe and stable climate.

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB346!

HB346 Provides rebates for eligible electric vehicle-ready parking stalls for new construction of affordable housing. **New affordable housing should prepare for the day, coming soon, when electric vehicles will be the norm. It will be far more expensive to retrofit parking spaces with electric vehicle charging capacity than to install that capacity up front.**

Access to electric vehicle charging infrastructure presents a barrier and an **equity issue** for low income and some middle-income families who are unable to access the savings and other benefits associated with electric vehicle ownership because they lack access to charging infrastructure. As we transition away from gas vehicles, we need to include our LMI/ALICE communities. They have economic concerns that must be accounted for as we decarbonize our transportation sector. To adopt electric cars, everyone must have access to charging. And in a just transition, no one is left behind.

Ground transportation is a key sector for reducing Hawaii's **greenhouse gas emissions** and reaching our target to be carbon negative in or before 2045. Affordable housing should be part of that effort.

Please pass this bill.

Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)



**Hawaiian
Electric**

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE 2025 COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**HB 346
Relating to Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure**

Tuesday, January, 28, 2025
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Jamila Jarmon
Manager, Growth Strategy
Electrification of Transportation
Hawaiian Electric

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

My name is Jamila Jarmon and I am testifying on behalf of Hawaiian Electric in support of HB 346, which provides rebates for the installation of eligible electric vehicle-ready parking stalls for new construction of affordable housing.

Hawaiian Electric recognizes that the transition to electric vehicles (EV) is a critical component of the State's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve our renewable energy goals, especially to achieve the 2030 goal of reducing carbon emissions by 50% from 2005 levels. The 2024 Report to the Hawaii State Legislature, "Hawaii Pathways to Decarbonization," forecasts scenarios where all light-duty vehicle sales are zero-emission vehicles by 2035. However, limited availability of EV charging infrastructure, particularly for residents of apartment buildings, presents a significant barrier to widespread EV adoption. By providing rebates for the installation of EV-ready parking stalls in new affordable housing construction, this bill ensures that all residents, regardless of income level, can access the benefits of EV ownership. This

measure promotes environmental sustainability while also fostering equity by making clean transportation options available to low-income families.

HB 346 will also alleviate the financial burden on affordable housing developers to include EV charging infrastructure in their plans for new construction with the additional benefit of avoiding higher costs associated with retrofitting existing parking spaces.¹

Accordingly, Hawaiian Electric supports HB 346. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

¹ See page 71 of the EoT Strategic Roadmap 2.0 at https://www.hawaiianelectric.com/documents/products_and_services/electric_vehicles/electrification_of_transportation_roadmap/20240531_eot_roadmap_2.pdf



To: The House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025, 9am

In strong support of HB346

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Energy and Environmental Protection Committee members,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org **supports HB346** that provides rebates for eligible electric vehicle ready parking stalls for new construction of affordable housing.

Parking stalls for affordable housing units are not constructed to be electric vehicle ready because of the added cost and because affordable housing is exempted from electric vehicle ready county requirements. But for Hawaii to achieve its sustainable transportation and climate goals, we must electrify ground transportation on our islands as soon as possible. **And in a just transition, no one is left behind.**

Access to vehicle charging infrastructure presents a barrier and an equity issue for low-income families who are unable to access the savings and other benefits associated with electric vehicle ownership because they lack access to charging infrastructure. Clearly, adequate vehicle charging infrastructure is a MUST for the democratization of transportation. To adopt electric cars, everyone must have access to charging. Providing incentives for electric vehicle ready new construction for affordable housing, as in HB346, is an effective step to address this important equity issue.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

Hawaii Electric Vehicle Association

hawaiiev.org
info@hawaiieva.com



January 26, 2025

SUPPORT FOR HB 346 (RELATING TO ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE)

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Perruso, and members of the Committee,

Hawaii Electric Vehicle Association supports HB 346, which **provides rebates for the installation of eligible electric vehicle-ready parking stalls in new affordable housing construction.**

Installing EV-ready infrastructure during construction costs much less than retrofits. This is especially true when parking stalls are involved, and retrofits may require excavation and repaving.

HB 346 will incentivize the installation of EV-ready public parking stalls in affordable housing projects. This measure will allow lower-income households to drive cost-effective electric vehicles by addressing a key barrier to EV adoption: inadequate access to charging infrastructure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Noel Morin".

Noel Morin
President
Hawaii EV Association

Hawaii EV Association is a grassroots non-profit group representing electric vehicle owners in Hawaii. Our mission is to accelerate the electrification of transportation through consumer education, policy advocacy, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure expansion. For more information, please visit hawaiiev.org.

**Citizens' Climate Lobby
Hawaii**

hi.ccl.lobby@gmail.com



January 27, 2025

**SUPPORT FOR HB 346 (RELATING TO ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING
INFRASTRUCTURE)**

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Perruso, and members of the EEP Committee,

On behalf of the Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL)¹ Hawai'i, I'm testifying in **Support of HB346**, which if enacted, would **provide rebates for the installation of eligible electric vehicle-ready parking stalls for new construction of affordable housing.**

Personal transportation is a major contributor to our greenhouse gas emissions. To reduce these emissions, we need to convert the existing fleet of gasoline powered vehicles to EVs. One of the largest barriers to people buying EVs is the lack of charging infrastructure, especially for lower-income families. This bill will reduce this barrier by incentivizing the installation of EV ready parking stalls.

Furthermore, installing EV-ready infrastructure during construction costs much less than retrofits. This is especially true when parking stalls are involved, and retrofits may require excavation and repaving work.

Please pass HB346 out of your committee.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Paul Bernstein'.

Paul Bernstein

CCL Hawai'i State Co-Coordinator

¹ CCL Hawai'i has over 960 members in four chapters: Hawaii Island, Honolulu, Kauai, and Maui. CCL National has several hundred chapters throughout the US with tens of thousands of members.



Before the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Testimony in Support of HB346: Relating to Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of and provide comments on House Bill 346.

Hawai'i Energy works to empower island families and businesses on behalf of the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to make smart energy choices to reduce energy consumption, save money, and pursue a 100% clean energy future. Energy efficiency – the energy we do not use – is the cheapest option to help us achieve our 100% clean energy goal by eliminating waste and being more efficient.

Hawai'i Energy applauds the legislature's efforts to support the continued impact of electrical vehicle charging station (EVCS) infrastructure on Hawai'i's residents and businesses as an integral component of the State's Clean Energy Initiative, which calls for Hawai'i to achieve 100% clean energy by 2045.

Hawai'i Energy administers the state-funded EVCS Incentive Program on behalf of the Public Utilities Commission, which was established through Act 75 (2021) and Act 202 (2022) by the Hawai'i State Legislature. We are proud to already be emphasizing EVCS installations for our underserved communities via a bonus incentive for affordable housing developments for AC Level 2 single- and multi-port EV charging stations with network connectivity. The bonus incentive, which is in addition to the state-funded rebate, is \$5,000 per station for existing affordable housing developments, and \$1,500 per station for new affordable housing developments.

House Bill 346 expands the state-funded EVCS Incentive Program to offer rebates to new affordable housing developments to install the power-capacity and wiring necessary to make parking lots "electric vehicle ready." Giving rebates to affordable housing developments that are built as "electric vehicle ready" will only further accelerate our important momentum toward making electric vehicles more affordable to our local families. That, in turn, will only further accelerate Hawai'i's overall pursuit of a 100% clean energy future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 346.

Sincerely,
Caroline Carl
Executive Director
Hawai'i Energy

HB-346

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:40:36 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Durazzo	RERides EV, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our main goal at RERides EV, LLC is to help provide low-cost adoption of electric vehicles (EV) by converting personal internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles to electric power. Electric vehicles have much lower maintenance requirements and thus lower cost over the life of the vehicle.

HB346 would provide incentives for electric vehicle ready new construction for affordable housing. Access to vehicle charging infrastructure presents a barrier and an equity issue for low-income families who are unable to access the savings and other benefits associated with electric vehicle ownership because they lack access to charging infrastructure.

As our employees have experience living in an apartment building and know it presents significant challenges for charging their personal EVs. The vast majority of public chargers in Hawai'i are not the faster, Level 3 Quick Chargers like Tesla's Superchargers, but Level 2 chargers like those which are installed at residences, whose design supports overnight charging. These Level 2 chargers are usually located near shopping areas, sometimes at a significant distance from the residences of EV owners. Most apartment buildings' electrical infrastructure cannot support the retrofitting of residential EV chargers. Without a legal mandate, affordable housing developers may implement cost savings by omitting EV charging infrastructure from construction, forcing residents to maintain a higher cost ICE vehicle.

The state has mandated being carbon-neutral by 2045 through Hawai'i Revised Statutes §225P-5. As we transition away from gas vehicles, we need to take close account of our LMI/ALICE communities. They have unique economic concerns that must be accounted for as we decarbonize our transportation sector.

HB-346

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:42:40 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steve Parsons	Kauai Climate ACTION Coalition, Small Biz Owner	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB 346 Kauai Climate Action Coalition Strongly Support this bill that will help lower income residents financially the most and give all residents and visitors cleaner air to breathe and reduce Ocean Acidification that is Killing our precious coral reefs and harming other Ocean wildlife! Today, MANY EVs are cheaper at time of purchase and certainly total cost of ownership and EVs continue to fall in Price along with charging infrastructure hardware! In addition, this bill and any actions also stimulate good green jobs and stops sending money off island to for-profit fossil fuel companies that have and continue to destroy the ‘ānia! Please act boldly on this bill! Imua>>>

Steve Parsons, Kauai Climate Action Coalition-Lead



SanHi

GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

DATE: January 27, 2025

TO: Representative Nicole Lowen
Chair, Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Representative Lisa Marten
Vice Chair, Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Submitted Via Capitol Website

FROM: Tiffany Yajima

RE: **H.B. 346 – Relating to Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure**
Hearing Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room: 325

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Alliance for Automotive Innovation (“Auto Innovators”) we submit this testimony in **support** of H.B. 243, Relating to Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure, which would provide rebates for the installation of EV-ready parking stalls for new construction of affordable housing.

The Alliance for Automotive Innovation represents the full auto industry, a sector supporting 10 million American jobs and five percent of the economy. From the manufacturers producing most vehicles sold in the U.S. to autonomous vehicle innovators to equipment suppliers, battery producers and semiconductor makers – the association is committed to a cleaner, safer and smarter personal transportation future.

A sustainable and equitable transition to electrification will require public and private collaboration across various industries and sectors. By 2025, the auto industry will have invested more than \$330 billion to reach the goal of an electrified future. The auto industry is ramping up by delivering a new generation of ZEVs that includes 130 models for sale in the U.S. market by 2026, up from over 70 models today.

This measure would broaden the eligibility requirements for the state’s EV rebate program to include EV-ready parking stalls in new construction of affordable housing, in addition to the existing rebates for new and existing EV charging systems. Expanding the program to affordable housing development not only

incentivizes developers to plan for EV infrastructure but also make electric vehicle adoption more accessible and affordable for consumers. For these reasons, we support this measure and ask you to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

*Expanding the range of opportunities for all by
developing, managing and promoting quality
affordable housing and diverse communities.*



Testimony of EAH Housing | Hawai'i Region
RELATING TO HB 346

Tuesday January 28, 2025 at 9:00 AM,
Written Testimony Only

Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Chair Nicole Lowen, Vice Chair Amy Perruso

Members Kirstin Kahaloa, Matthias Kusch, Sean Quinlan, and Gene Ward

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB346, which provides rebates for the installation of electric vehicle (EV)-ready parking stalls in new affordable housing developments. This measure represents a proactive step toward creating a sustainable, equitable future for Hawaii residents.

By leveraging rebates to offset initial costs, HB346 encourages effective collaboration between developers, government agencies, and utility providers to expand EV infrastructure in a way that benefits all communities.

While this is a critical step forward, we respectfully suggest that the incentive amount could be increased to ensure that the cost is fully covered going forward to further accelerate adoption and ensure maximum participation by developers in meeting the state's sustainability goals.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide input on this important measure.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Seddon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karen Seddon, Regional Vice President
EAH Housing

EAH Housing is a non-profit corporation founded with the belief that attractive affordable rental housing is the cornerstone to sustainable, healthy, and livable communities.

733 Bishop Street, Suite 1717
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 466-7774



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

JANUARY 28TH, 2025

HB 346, RELATING TO ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE

POSITION: SUPPORT

Coalition Earth **supports** HB 346, relating to electric vehicle charging infrastructure, which provides rebates for the installation of eligible electric vehicle-ready parking stalls for new construction of affordable housing.

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 increasing access to electric vehicles and EV-ready charging stations.** A growing number of people are adopting electric vehicles in Hawai'i. As of March 2022, there were about 19,000 registered electric vehicles in the state—a 35 percent increase from the prior year—and 24,000 hybrid vehicles. Yet, a lack of sufficient charging infrastructure presents a persistent impediment to expansion, especially for renters or residents who live in apartment buildings, especially with regard to construction for low- and middle-income families.

We note that according to the National Low-Income Housing Coalition's *Out of Reach 2023* report, there are 38,606 renter households earning below 30 percent of area median income (21 percent of renter households) in the islands and 66,692 renter households earning below (36 percent of renter households) earning below 50 percent of area median income. This barrier creates an equity issue for low-income families who are unable to access the savings associated with electric vehicle ownership because they lack access to charging infrastructure and the fundamental financial security necessary to pursue clean transportation opportunities.

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.



January 27, 2025

Representative Nicole Lowen, Chair
Representative Amy Perruso, Vice Chair
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

RE: **HB 346 HD1 – RELATING TO ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING
INFRASTRUCTURE**
Hearing date – January 28, 2025 at 9:00 AM

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

Thank you for allowing NAIOP Hawaii to submit testimony in **SUPPORT OF HB 346 HD1 – RELATING TO ENERGY**. NAIOP Hawaii is the Hawaii chapter of the nation's leading organization for office, industrial, retail, residential and mixed-use real estate. NAIOP Hawaii has over 200 members in the State including local developers, owners, investors, asset managers, lenders, and other professionals. NAIOP Hawaii is generally supportive of efforts to incentivize sustainability.

HB 346 HD1 provide rebates for eligible electric vehicle ready parking stalls for new construction of affordable housing starting in 2025. NAIOP Hawaii supports the legislature's intent to incentivize the installation of EV charging stations in affordable housing projects. Currently, Hawaii is experiencing higher construction costs due to inflation and interest rates have significantly risen in the past year making affordable housing projects nearly infeasible.

NAIOP Hawaii understands the need for zero-emission transportation infrastructure, however, the cost should not be placed upon the developers of affordable housing, and future homeowners. We support the rebate at an increased amount to adequately offset the high cost of level 2 EV charging stations. We would recommend an increase in the rebate amount to prevent the substantial cost of level stations from being placed on affordable housing buyers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Mahalo for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Reyn Tanaka".

Reyn Tanaka, President
NAIOP Hawaii

HB-346

Submitted on: 1/24/2025 11:00:49 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawn Morais Webster Ph.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The lack of adequate vehicle charging infrastructure presents a barrier to widespread EV adoption, particularly for residents who are renters or who live in apartment buildings.

Access to vehicle charging infrastructure is a barrier and an equity issue for low-income families who cannot enjoy the savings and other benefits of electric vehicle ownership because they lack access to charging infrastructure. If we are serious about transitioning away from our dangerous addiction to fossil fuels we need to be mindful of the needs of our LMI/ALICE communities.

For Hawai'i to achieve its clean energy goals, we must electrify ground transportation on our islands as soon as possible. To adopt electric cars, **everyone** must have access to charging. And in a just transition, no one is left behind. The rebates provided for the installation of charging stations in affordable housing through HB346 will encourage such a transition. Please move this bill forward. Mahalo.

HB-346

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 10:36:37 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB346 would provide incentives for electric vehicle ready new construction for affordable housing. Access to vehicle charging infrastructure presents a barrier and an equity issue for low-income families who are unable to access the savings and other benefits associated with electric vehicle ownership because they lack access to charging infrastructure. As we transition away from gas vehicles, we need to take close account of our LMI/ALICE communities. They have economic concerns that must be accounted for as we decarbonize our transportation sector.

-- For Hawaii to achieve its sustainable transportation and climate goals, we must electrify ground transportation on our islands as soon as possible. To adopt electric cars, everyone must have access to charging. And in a just transition, no one is left behind.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

HB-346

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 12:52:36 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support. Thank you.

HB-346

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 2:42:23 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Georgia L Hoopes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB346 STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Representatives. I'm writing to ask you to support HB346.

HB346 would provide incentives for electric vehicle ready new construction for affordable housing. Access to vehicle charging infrastructure presents a barrier and an equity issue for low-income families who are unable to access the savings and other benefits associated with electric vehicle ownership because they lack access to charging infrastructure. As we transition away from gas vehicles, we need to take close account of our LMI/ALICE communities. They have economic concerns that must be accounted for as we decarbonize our transportation sector.

-- For Hawaii to achieve its sustainable transportation and climate goals, we must electrify ground transportation on our islands as soon as possible. To adopt electric cars, everyone must have access to charging. And in a just transition, no one is left behind.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

HB-346

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 4:15:05 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Wiencek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Member,

Building out our electric charging infrastructure is crucial to the ongoing clean energy transition. A significant hinderance for the adoption of electric vehicles is the lack of built out charging infrastructure. This proposal, I believe, will help bridge that gap. I strongly urge this Committee to SUPPORT this bill!

HB-346

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 5:59:21 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MissT	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support. As we transition away from gas vehicles access to vehicle charging infrastructure presents a barrier and an equity issue for low income families who are unable to access the savings and other benefits associated with EV ownership because they lack access to charging infrastructure.

Hawaii needs to electrify ground transportation ASAP.

HB-346

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 12:06:00 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JON BRODZIAK	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Lowen and Members of the Energy & Environmental Protection Committee,

HB346 is a vital step toward ensuring that Hawaii’s transition to electric vehicles is equitable and inclusive. By incentivizing electric vehicle-ready construction for affordable housing, this bill addresses a significant barrier faced by low-income families—access to charging infrastructure. Without this access, many are excluded from the cost savings and environmental benefits of electric vehicle ownership. As Hawaii shifts away from gas-powered transportation, we must prioritize the needs of our most vulnerable communities, ensuring that economic concerns are not overlooked in the effort to decarbonize.

Achieving Hawaii’s sustainable transportation and climate goals requires the electrification of ground transportation for all residents, not just the fortunate few. HB346 ensures that everyone has the tools to participate in this transition, creating a more just and resilient future. By providing equitable access to charging infrastructure, this legislation reinforces the principle that no one should be left behind as we build a cleaner and more sustainable Hawaii.

Thank you for your consideration, and I urge you to support HB346.

Yours sincerely,

Jon Brodziak

HB-346

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 3:31:35 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dylan Okihiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Bill HB346 would make EV ownership more accessible for lower-income individuals who are interested in transitioning away from gasoline vehicles.

HB-346

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 2:27:40 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB346 will help to reduce the barriers to low and middle income residents to participate in the decarbonization of our transportation sector. All of us will benefit, and we need all hands on deck to avoid the worst hazards of climate change. Please pass HB346.

HB-346

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 9:09:02 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victoria Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT

HB-346

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 9:29:18 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenneth Peck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Kenneth Peck, and I am testifying in strong support of HB346, which provides much-needed rebates for the installation of electric vehicle (EV)-ready parking stalls in new affordable housing construction. This measure addresses critical gaps in infrastructure equity and supports Hawai‘i’s clean energy transition.

1. Overcoming Barriers to EV Adoption:

While EV adoption is steadily increasing in Hawai‘i, renters and residents of affordable housing often lack access to charging infrastructure, creating significant barriers to entry. This disparity limits low- and moderate-income families from accessing the financial savings and environmental benefits of EV ownership. By incentivizing EV-ready parking stalls in new affordable housing projects, this bill ensures that all residents—regardless of socioeconomic status—can participate in the clean energy movement.

2. Cost-Effective and Forward-Thinking:

Retrofitting existing parking stalls to accommodate EV chargers is significantly more expensive than including EV-ready infrastructure during initial construction. By addressing this at the development stage, the State saves money in the long run while preparing communities for an electric future. This proactive approach ensures that affordable housing developments are not left behind as Hawai‘i progresses toward its renewable energy goals.

3. Environmental and Economic Benefits:

Transitioning to EVs is critical for reducing Hawai‘i’s reliance on imported fossil fuels and cutting greenhouse gas emissions. By supporting infrastructure development in affordable housing projects, this bill contributes to both environmental sustainability and energy security. Additionally, the rebate program creates economic opportunities by stimulating demand for electricians, construction workers, and other local industries.

4. Equity and Accessibility:

This measure prioritizes equity by ensuring EV infrastructure is accessible to underserved communities, including those in affordable housing. The inclusion of EV-ready parking stalls in new affordable housing developments directly supports environmental justice by addressing infrastructure disparities that disproportionately affect low-income families.

5. Alignment with State Goals:

This bill complements Hawai‘i’s broader goals of achieving 100% renewable energy by 2045 and transitioning to a clean transportation system. By encouraging EV adoption

among all residents, the State takes another step toward reducing carbon emissions and promoting sustainable practices statewide.

6. **Program Flexibility and Market Responsiveness:**

The provisions in this bill ensure the Public Utilities Commission and program administrators have the flexibility to adapt to market changes, technological advancements, and participation levels. This adaptability will maximize the program's impact and ensure funds are used efficiently to meet Hawai'i's evolving needs.

This bill addresses a critical equity gap in Hawai'i's clean energy transition by providing incentives for EV-ready infrastructure in affordable housing developments. By reducing cost barriers and promoting accessibility, this measure ensures that all residents can participate in building a more sustainable and equitable future for our islands.

I strongly urge the committee to pass HB346 and advance this important initiative.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Peck

HB-346

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 9:51:57 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

I am an EV owner and strongly support HB346 which would provide incentives for electric vehicle ready new construction for affordable housing. Access to vehicle charging infrastructure presents a barrier and an equity issue for low-income families who are unable to access the savings and other benefits associated with electric vehicle ownership because they lack access to charging infrastructure. As we transition away from gas vehicles, we need to take close account of our LMI/ALICE communities. They have economic concerns that must be accounted for as we decarbonize our transportation sector.

-- For Hawaii to achieve its sustainable transportation and climate goals, we must electrify ground transportation on our islands as soon as possible. To adopt electric cars, everyone must have access to charging. And in a just transition, no one is left behind.

Respectfully,

Diane Ware, Volcano Hawai'i

HB-346

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 12:42:59 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support HB346

HB-346

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 6:44:24 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniela Escontrela	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB346 would provide incentives for electric vehicle ready new construction for affordable housing. Access to vehicle charging infrastructure presents a barrier and an equity issue for low-income families who are unable to access the savings and other benefits associated with electric vehicle ownership because they lack access to charging infrastructure. As we transition away from gas vehicles, we need to take close account of our LMI/ALICE communities. They have economic concerns that must be accounted for as we decarbonize our transportation sector.

HB-346

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 7:04:38 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karin Hoida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for your consideration and honest intentions to act in the best interest of our keiki and the many generations to come. We put our trust in you in this position of power, and are grateful for your dedication to serve now, more than ever.

We hope you will make the decisions you know are right, even if your own long term job security in this temporary but most honorable position of service is jeopardized for doing so.

We have elected you to do your part to support positive changes in our community - even if you know they may be painful and perhaps unpopular to implement at first.

Please help move us away from expensive and harmful petroleum as quickly as possible and support this bill and others like it to make solar energy more accessible to everyone. This bill alone doesn't directly move us toward solar energy, but in combination with HB243 and other initiatives to be considered at this time, it sure does move us in a more sustainable direction.

HB346 would provide incentives for electric vehicle ready new construction for affordable housing. Access to vehicle charging infrastructure presents a barrier and an equity issue for low-income families who are unable to access the savings and other benefits associated with electric vehicle ownership because they lack access to charging infrastructure. As we transition away from gas vehicles, we need to take close account of our LMI/ALICE communities. They have economic concerns that must be accounted for as we decarbonize our transportation sector.

For Hawaii to achieve its sustainable transportation and climate goals, we must electrify ground transportation on our islands as soon as possible. To adopt electric cars, everyone must have access to charging. And in a just transition, no one is left behind.

Mahalo nui loa!

P.S. I was disappointed to learn that in-person visits to your office are considered more impactful than written testimony. Please act on behalf of all of us who are counting on you, knowing the vast majority of us won't be showing up in person, and many don't even know about this process through no fault of their own. Please follow your conscience and know your decisions will have important and lasting impacts.

HB-346

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:35:34 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of [HB346](#).

[HB346](#) Provides rebates for eligible electric vehicle-ready parking stalls for new construction of affordable housing.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT? The lack of adequate vehicle charging infrastructure presents a barrier to widespread EV adoption, particularly for residents who are renters or who live in apartment buildings. This barrier creates an equity issue for low-income families who are unable to access the savings and other benefits associated with electric vehicle ownership because they lack access to charging infrastructure.

-- HB346 would provide incentives for electric vehicle ready new construction for affordable housing. Access to vehicle charging infrastructure presents a barrier and an equity issue for low-income families who are unable to access the savings and other benefits associated with electric vehicle ownership because they lack access to charging infrastructure. As we transition away from gas vehicles, we need to take close account of our LMI/ALICE communities. They have economic concerns that must be accounted for as we decarbonize our transportation sector.

-- For Hawaii to achieve its sustainable transportation and climate goals, we must electrify ground transportation on our islands as soon as possible. To adopt electric cars, everyone must have access to charging. And in a just transition, no one is left behind.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, Mō‘ili‘ili, HI 96826

HB-346

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:22:15 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glenn Choy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill

HB-346

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 3:03:25 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maureen Brock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of HB346.

To the Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Tahan Bapna, and I am a sophomore in high school. Even as a student, I can clearly see the critical importance of H.B. 346 in advancing Hawaii's transition to clean transportation and addressing equity issues related to electric vehicle (EV) adoption. This bill represents a meaningful step toward ensuring that all Hawaii residents, regardless of income or housing type, can benefit from the financial and environmental advantages of EV ownership.

The lack of adequate EV charging infrastructure, particularly for renters and those living in affordable housing, is a significant barrier to broader EV adoption. By providing rebates for the installation of electric vehicle-ready parking stalls in new affordable housing developments, this bill makes EV ownership more accessible to low-income families, helping to address the equity gap in Hawaii's clean energy transition.

One compelling point in support of this bill is the economic advantage of building EV-ready parking stalls during initial construction rather than retrofitting later. According to the bill, the cost of constructing EV-ready parking stalls is approximately one-tenth the cost of retrofitting existing parking stalls. This makes it clear that proactive planning during new construction is not only financially prudent but also essential for long-term sustainability.

The proposed rebate of up to \$1,750 per EV-ready parking stall incentivizes developers to include these features in affordable housing projects, where the cost is often a deterrent. This ensures that residents of affordable housing are not left behind in the transition to clean transportation. By prioritizing accessibility, this bill helps level the playing field for low-income families, allowing them to enjoy the cost savings and environmental benefits of EVs.

Additionally, H.B. 346 aligns with Hawaii's broader goals, such as the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative, which aims for 100% renewable energy by 2045. Transportation is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in our state, and enabling more residents to switch to EVs will significantly reduce these emissions.

This bill also reflects smart policy by encouraging broader public benefits beyond just EV adoption. For example, the rebates prioritize projects that serve multiple tenants and promote grid resiliency through technologies like networked charging and time-of-use regulation. These measures ensure that the program supports Hawaii's clean energy and grid stability goals.

As someone who is growing up in a world increasingly defined by the climate crisis, I am deeply motivated by solutions like H.B. 346 that tackle climate change while promoting social equity. Ensuring that affordable housing developments include EV-ready infrastructure is not just about planning for the future; it is about ensuring that everyone can participate in and benefit from the clean energy economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill. I urge you to pass H.B. 346 and help make Hawaii a leader in sustainable and equitable transportation.

Sincerely,
Tahan Bapna