

OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Friday, March 12, 2021
1:00 PM
State Capitol

in consideration of
SCR 61/SR 43
**REAFFIRMING THE STATE'S COMMITMENT TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE
AND PRIORITIZE CLIMATE CHANGE LEGISLATION**

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Senate Committee:

The Office of Planning (OP) offers the following **clarifying comments and proposed amendments** on SCR 61/SR 43. The Office of Planning appreciates the intent of this resolution and supports the reaffirmation of the state's commitment to combat climate change.

The Office of Planning notes that the state has previously prioritized climate change adaptation through the codification of Hawai'i Revised Statutes §226-109 within the Hawai'i State Planning Act as a priority guideline for the State, and would like to offer the following clarifications for the committee's consideration:

- **Page 1, Lines 1-3:** "WHEREAS, [~~in 2018~~] the State adopted legislation, Act 32, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, which committed to complying with the Paris Climate Agreement, and enacted and codified Hawaii Revised Statutes §225P-5 in 2018 to reach [~~carbon neutrality~~] a Zero Emissions Clean Economy by 2045; and"
- **Page 1, Lines 9-11:** "WHEREAS, [~~local experts~~] the State's Sea Level Rise Adaptation Vulnerability Report estimates that the sea level will rise by three feet as early as 2060 and cause at least \$19,000,000,000 in damage by the end of the century; and"
- **Page 1, Lines 24-26:** "WHEREAS, [~~the State is legally~~] Hawaii Revised Statutes §269-92 require[~~d~~]s each electric utility company that sells electricity for consumption in the State shall establish a renewable portfolio standard of [~~to obtain~~] one hundred percent of its net electricity sales [~~from renewable sources~~] by [2040] December 31, 2045 [~~as outlined in its renewable portfolio standards~~]; and"

- **Recommended additional paragraph between Page 2, Lines 24 and 26:**
“WHEREAS, the State adopted recent legislation, Act 45, Session Laws of 2020, which established a statewide sustainability branch within the office of planning to develop, organize, and promote policies and programs that assist in the meeting of Hawaii’s numerous sustainability and climate policies and goals, in addition to updating and reaffirming the role of the office of planning to coordinate among state agencies regarding climate change adaptation, sea level rise adaptation, and sustainability; and”
- **Recommended additional paragraph to immediately follow:**
“WHEREAS, Hawaii Revised Statutes §226-109 of the Hawaii State Planning Act established state climate change adaptation priority guidelines to prepare the state to address the impacts of climate change, including impacts to the areas of agriculture, conservation lands, coastal and nearshore marine areas, natural and cultural resources, education, energy, higher education, health, historic preservation, water resources, the built environment, such as housing, recreation, transportation, and the economy; and”
- **Page 3, Lines 34-39:** “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State will persist in its mission to reach [~~carbon neutrality~~] a Zero Emissions Clean Economy and use renewable sources to obtain a renewable portfolio standard of one hundred percent of [the State’s] net electricity sales statewide by [2040] 2045 and will prioritize the establishment of a green energy industry within the islands by supporting renewable sources of energy and green initiatives; and”

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide the committee with clarifying comments and proposed amendments to this resolution.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Friday March 12, 2021
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Via Videoconference

In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 61/ SENATE RESOLUTION 43
REAFFIRMING THE STATE'S COMMITMENT TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE
AND PRIORITIZE CLIMATE CHANGE LEGISLATION.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 61/Senate Resolution 43 affirms the State's commitment to combat climate change and highlights the important role the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) plays in this effort. **The Department supports these measures with comments.**

The resolutions recognize the importance of Hawaii's unique natural and cultural resources to sustaining life in the islands, and that funding for the management of these resources has not kept pace with the scale of effort required to address the challenges we face, most recently with climate change.

The Department notes that the final approved Fiscal Year (FY) 21 budget numbers are as follows:

WHEREAS, in the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the Department of Land and Natural Resources was budgeted ~~\$185,298,304~~ \$157,867,887 in the final approved Statewide Supplemental Operating Budget out of a final approved statewide total of ~~\$16,197,208,201~~ \$15,672,211,865, constituting only ~~1.1~~ 1.0 percent of the Statewide Supplemental Operating Budget;

Of this \$157,867,887 Department FY21 budget, \$64,406,646 or 41% was in general funds; \$65,823,551 or 42% was in special funds - much of it from rents and fees produced by the Department; \$24,881,333 or 16% was in federal funds, and \$2,364,217 or 1% was in miscellaneous other funds.

The Department appreciates the resolutions' recognition of the scope and importance of the Department's mission and its critical role in Hawaii's response to climate change. Protection and management of Hawaii's natural environment is vital to maintaining the health and well-being of our residents, and to provide ecological resilience. The Department recognizes the important role of communities and nonprofit partners in supporting ecosystem restoration and is dedicated to continuing to collaborate with partners to address climate change.

The Department supports these measures as they highlight the importance of natural resources in addressing climate change and the role of the Department in managing these resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these measures.



AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

OFFICERS	DIRECTORS		MAILING ADDRESS
John Bickel, President	Melodie Aduja	John Miller	P.O. Box 23404 Honolulu Hawaii 96823
Alan Burdick, Vice President	Juliet Begley	Jenny Nomura	
Dave Nagajji, Treasurer	Stephanie Fitzpatrick	Stephen O'Harrow	
Doug Pyle, Secretary	Jan Lubin	Lyn Pyle	

March 10, 2021

TO: Chair Gabbard and members of AEN Committee

RE: SCR 61/SR 43 REAFFIRMING THE STATE'S COMMITMENT TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND PRIORITIZE CLIMATE CHANGE LEGISLATION.

Support for hearing on March 12

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization founded in the 1950s by leading supporters of the New Deal and led by Patsy Mink in the 1970s. We are devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

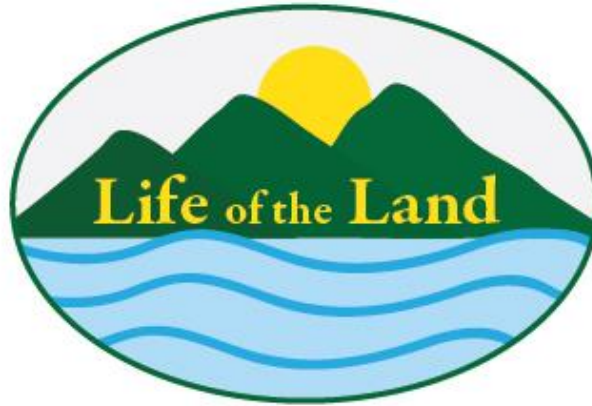
We support SCR 61/SR 43 as we support multiple efforts to combat climate change.

Environmental protection has been an increasing concern of government. With climate change that path will likely continue or accelerate We will need resources and commitment to make a positive difference. We appreciate the reaffirmation in this resolution.

Thank you for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,
John Bickel, President





P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, Hawai`i 96837-0158
Phone: 927-0709 henry.lifeoftheland@gmail.com

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, March 12, 2021

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

SCR 61 SR 43

CONCERNS

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

Life of the Land is Hawai`i's own energy, environmental and community action group advocating for the people and `aina for 51 years. Our mission is to preserve and protect the life of the land through sound energy and land use policies and to promote open government through research, education, advocacy and, when necessary, litigation.

Life of the Land has advocated for strong climate change laws and regulations for two decades and won two Hawai`i Supreme Court cases dealing with climate change.

We are concerned with several misleading statements in the resolution. The state passed establishing a soil GHG sequestration task force and then defunded it. Refunding it is critical.

If an island has only two sources of electricity, a coal plant attached to the grid and rooftop solar that produces the same amount of electricity, then the island has achieved an RPS of 100% using the legislatively imposed definition found in HRS 269-92. HECO confirmed our analysis in 2015.

Free market economists and numerous fossil fuel companies point to specific economic studies that conclude that a carbon tax effectively raises taxes and cuts the growth rate of emissions.

Social Justice advocates (Indigenous Environmental Network, Climate Justice Alliance, Friends of the Earth, Food & Water Watch, Greenpeace, and Life of the Land) point out that a carbon tax offers too little too late to effectively address climate change.

Mahalo, Henry Curtis, Executive Director



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

March 10, 2021

To: Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Re: SCR 61/ SR 43 REAFFIRMING THE STATE'S COMMITMENT TO COMBAT
CLIMATE CHANGE AND PRIORITIZE CLIMATE CHANGE LEGISLATION

Meeting: Friday, March 12, 2021, 1:00 p.m., via videoconference

Position: **STRONG SUPPORT**

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

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i and its Natural Resources Committee are in **strong support** of SCR 61 and SR 43, as they propose to reaffirm the State's commitment to combat climate change and prioritize climate change legislation, all of which are consistent with the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH") Party Platform.

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i has adopted at its 2018 State Convention, clear safeguards to protect and promote our clean and healthy environment. At page 17 of the DPH Platform, it specifically provides, to wit:

ENVIRONMENT

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i believes that the preservation and restoration of our natural environment is essential. We support a sustainable society that utilizes the earth in such a way that future generations will benefit from the practices of our generation. We support the restoration, preservation, and protection of our native ecosystems on each island. We believe in integrated approaches, practices, and support public policies that create and maintain a sustainable way of life in Hawai'i.

We believe in supporting best management practices in sustaining our environment and in increased citizen involvement. We support programs that encourage sustainable clean, efficient, creative and environmentally friendly modes of transportation, recycling and waste reduction.

The conservation, preservation and restoration of Hawai'i's natural resources are connected to the health and welfare of our people; therefore, we support the conservation and protection of our natural environment, which includes reducing our carbon footprint for the benefit of current and future generations.

We support the protection of our *'āina* against destruction by corporate, government, or military usage and expect full restoration and reparation of environmental damage. To handle current and future demands for water, we must assess the current condition of our aquifers and take appropriate actions to secure our fresh water resources.

We support democratic participation of citizens and residents to protect (i) valuable coastal ecosystems and reefs from misuse and (ii) beaches for public use and recreation. The Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management (CZM) law, HRS Chapter 205A, currently provides for public participation in management of coastal resources.

We believe in the vigorous enforcement of our environmental laws and increased public-private stewardships and citizen involvement in protecting our resources.

We know that climate change is a real threat to our islands and the world. We strongly urge our candidates and elected officials to take immediate action to mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change. This includes funding adaptation measures including coastal retreat, effective participation of indigenous peoples in climate change governance, and recognition that indigenous, local, and traditional ecological knowledge is key in climate change adaptation solutions.

Further, the DPH Platform provides on page 18 as follows:

CONFRONT GLOBAL THREATS AND GLOBAL CLIMATE LEADERSHIP

Climate change poses an urgent and severe threat to our National Security, and DPH believes it would be a grave mistake for the United States to wait for another nation to take the lead in combating the global climate emergency. According to the U.S. military, climate change is a threat multiplier that is already contributing to new conflicts over resources, catastrophic natural disasters, and the degradation of vital ecosystems across the globe. DPH recognizes the catastrophic consequences facing our State, our country, our planet, and civilization.

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
March 10, 2021
Page 3

We believe that Hawai'i must lead in forging a robust global solution to the climate crisis. We are committed to a national mobilization, and to leading a global effort to mobilize nations to address this threat. Our generation must lead the fight against climate change and we applaud Hawai'i's leadership in joining the historic Paris Climate Accord. We will not only meet the goals set in Paris, we will seek to exceed them and push other countries to do the same by slashing carbon pollution and rapidly driving down emissions of potent greenhouse gases like hydrofluorocarbons. We will support other States and developing countries in their efforts to mitigate carbon pollution and other greenhouse gases, deploy more clean energy, and invest in climate resilience and adaptation.

Specifically, SCR 61 and SR 43 call for the State to commit to focusing on climate change legislation that reduces greenhouse gas emissions as provided within the framework of the 2016 Paris Climate Accord; to setting ambitious goals for carbon sequestration, decrease of greenhouse gas emissions, and decrease of the State's dependence on imported fuels; to its mission to reach carbon neutrality and use renewable sources to obtain one hundred percent of the State's electricity by 2040 and will prioritize the green energy industry; and to raising awareness about the climate crisis and advocating for climate literacy and will promote youth climate literacy and increased public awareness.

We strongly urge the passage of SCR 61 and SR 43, as they propose to reaffirm the State's commitment to combat climate change and prioritize climate change legislation, all of which are consistent with the DPH Platform.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify on these important issues.

Respectfully yours,
Alan B. Burdick
Co-Chair, Environmental Caucus
Co-Chair, Natural Resources Committee
Democratic Party of Hawai'i
Email: burdick808@gmail.com

Melodie R. Aduja
Co-Chair, Environmental Caucus
Co-Chair, Human Environmental Impacts Committee
Democratic Party of Hawai'i
Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com

SCR-61

Submitted on: 3/11/2021 12:23:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Climate Protectors Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair, the Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

From: Climate Protectors Hawaii (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: SCR61/SR43 REAFFIRMING THE STATE'S COMMITMENT TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND PRIORITIZE CLIMATE CHANGE LEGISLATION.

Hearing: Friday March 12, 2021, 1:00 p.m. by videoconference

Position: **STRONG SUPPORT!**

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Climate Protectors Hawaii are in **STRONG SUPPORT OF SCR61/SR43!** The Climate Protectors Hawaii is a group focused on mitigating the climate crisis and urging Hawaii to lead the world on climate issues. Hawaii needs to lead because, as an island nation, we will be among the first places harmed by the climate crisis, with more intense storms, food insecurity and rising sea levels. We must do all we can to reduce our carbon footprint and become at least carbon neutral as soon as possible.

The planet faces an existential climate crisis and we must act now! Scientists have made clear that we are part of the last generation that can stop or at least mitigate the devastating impacts of climate change. If we are to solve the climate crisis, it will require **all of us** working together. Hawaii can and should be a leader in showing the world the way forward towards a safe and sustainable climate and future. The sooner we inspire others to take action and lead by example, the better off the future will be for our children.

Intense rainfalls this week and on Kauai and Hawaii Island in the past couple of years, and the more intense hurricanes (that have fortunately missed us so far) may be precursors of the weather problems we will face with the climate crisis.

UH SOEST Coastal Geology Group and its leader, climate expert Dr. Chip Fletcher, predict that, with sea level rise and resulting groundwater rise, much of Honolulu makai of King Street may be under water by the end of the century, maybe earlier with recent data on climate feedback loops!

As teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg has said:

"I don't want you to be hopeful. I want you to panic. I want you to feel the fear I feel every day, and then I want you to act. I want you to act as you would in a crisis. I want you to act as if our house is on fire. Because it is."

A first step in addressing the climate crisis would be to pass SCR44 and SR40. These resolutions would reaffirm Hawaii's commitment to:

- combating climate change and prioritizing climate change legislation,
- setting ambitious goals for decreasing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing carbon sequestration,
- decreasing the State's dependence on imported fuels,
- considering the scope and importance of DLNR's mission to protect flora and fauna,
- promoting climate literacy, and
- supporting ecological restoration projects.

This concurrent resolution SCR61 complements and does not supplant the need for SCR44, which has a different focus in declaring a climate emergency.

Please pass both SCR61 and SCR44! Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawaii (by Ted Bohlen)

SCR-61

Submitted on: 3/9/2021 9:43:27 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/12/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Let's get moving on this please! Let's hold DPP accountable too for allowing all the building going on and the building code infractions. Paving over entire properties...



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Friday, March 12, 2021, 1:00 pm

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

SCR61 AND SR43 – REAFFIRMING THE STATE'S COMMITMENT TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND
PRIORITIZE CLIMATE CHANGE LEGISLATION.

Position: Strong Support

Me ke Aloha, Chair Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair Clarence Nishihara, and Members of the Committee on
Agriculture and Environment:

The Energy and Climate Action Committee of the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party heartily
endorses these resolutions. They could not come too soon. Indeed, we are losing ground even as we
address these questions.

The UN/IPCC 6th Synthesis Report of the immediately past February 26, 2021 notes the substantial
commitments of the world's nations adhering to the Paris Agreement, but reports also that next to
nothing has come of them so far.

The bold goals and earnest intentions are absolutely necessary, but a need for action is on the table.
Hawaii's current budget situation has rendered it very difficult, if not impossible, to take action on any
number of essential initiatives. Reaffirmations, in our opinion, must be accompanied by very clear
strategies for action at the earliest opportunity, and capacities of State and county government must
double down on actions that are hard and disruptive to familiar partnerships. Our Hawaiian style is
forgiving and patient, but we must now ask whether aloha 'āina and its public trust kuleana do not
weigh especially heavy on us at this moment in our history, requiring more than bold statements.

In times past, we are aware that drastic steps were necessary for survival of the Hawaiian people.
Discomfort and sacrifice were required of rulers and commoners alike. No less is true today. This is not
called an existential moment in our history as a matter of hubris, as are so many other hyperbolic
affirmations. Certain harsh realities regarding favored and privileged parties must be re-evaluated.
Cognitive and moral revolutions are at hand.

The Environmental Caucus as a body calls upon our members and our progressive allies to step off the
soapbox and roll up our sleeves to join the Legislature in formulating better strategic pathways than our
State has managed so far. This 31st Legislature has brought together an extraordinary array of
thoughtful and committed representatives and an inspiring collection of initiatives to set the State
moving in a forward direction with prudence but most deliberate intent.

There is a growing consensus, for example, that our energy goals have provided too much latitude in
dealing with our predicament, and need to be brought forward. Our normal caution is being challenged
by unrelenting reality to risk greater boldness and risk-taking, harder commitments, and more ambitious
goals.

The statements in the resolutions clearly reflect how out-of-balance our commitments have been to date, where agencies charged with the most basic functions now called to escalate are perennially understaffed and underfunded, while for-profit companies are often the preferred choices in arranging “public-private partnerships” that end up with less efficiency and greater cost than dedicated staffing and funding can achieve. These agencies have the necessary authority but not the necessary resources to accomplish what we now agree is imperative.

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party accepts the risk of being held accountable for our statements and actions, and is committing itself to continuing the work of this session during the coming interim, in problem-solving mode with our allies and friends in the Legislature, humbly and with eyes on the prize.

/s/ Charley Ice and Ted Bohlen, Co-chairs, on behalf of the Energy and Climate Action Committee, with the concurrence of the Executive Committee of the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party.