



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
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By

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And

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HCR 35/HR 24 – REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII ECONOMIC RESEARCH ORGANIZATION TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON SCOPE ONE, TWO, AND THREE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Concurrent Resolution 35 /House Resolution 24. These measures are requesting the University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization (UHERO) to conduct a study on scope 1, 2, and 3 greenhouse gas emissions that would include recommendations to accelerate the State's transition to a clean economy, meet the State's climate change mitigation targets, and provide an analysis of the trends, sources, and impacts of greenhouse gas emissions.

As you may know, UHERO's core mission is to enhance public and private sector decision-making through rigorous research focused on the people, environment, and economy of Hawai'i. Over the years, UHERO has made significant contributions to environmental research in Hawai'i, and specifically greenhouse gas emissions inventories for the State.

UHERO supports continued study and research on scope 1, 2, and 3 greenhouse gas emissions, but these inventories are more appropriate for institutions, such as a specific business or agency. Should the Legislature seek a comprehensive overview of Hawai'i's emissions landscape, UHERO and the Institute for Sustainability and Resilience's work on the [Hawai'i Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reports](#) for 2005, 2018, and 2019 already offers a detailed inventory of the State's emissions with an appropriate approach for the whole of Hawai'i as a system.

It would be possible to inventory the State of Hawai'i's scope 1, 2, and 3 greenhouse gas emissions by distinguishing between the State's direct and indirect activities; it is not clear from HCR 35/HR 24 if that was the intent.

Finally, it is important to point out that UHERO relies on the donations and contracts for roughly one-half of its budget. Undertaking a comprehensive study that distinguishes between the State's direct and indirect activities would require new funding to support student and staff researchers and to cover other expenses. We would be happy to develop a budget for this work for your consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.