



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

By

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And

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And

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SCR 20/SR 12 – REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII ECONOMIC RESEARCH ORGANIZATION TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON SCOPE ONE, TWO, AND THREE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Chairs Gabbard and Kim, Vice Chair Richards and Kidani, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution 20 and Senate Resolution 12. 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.

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. With continued funding from Department of Health, UHERO is currently working on updating the overall state inventory for 2020-2021, and this latest inventory should be available soon. We advise against changing accounting methods to

scopes 1/2/3 and recommend continuing with the established emissions inventory methodology to meaningfully continue to support state climate goals. Therefore, UHERO opposes these resolutions and recommends that they be deferred.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.