

# Bill 24 (2024) Testimony

**MISC. COM. 340**

Planning and the Economy



**Hawaiian  
Electric**

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE  
COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND THE ECONOMY**

**Bill 24 (2024)  
RELATING TO THE ADOPTION OF THE REVISED PRIMARY URBAN CENTER  
DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

Thursday, June 27, 2024  
9:00 AM  
City Council Chamber

Submitted by  
Hawaiian Electric

Dear Chair Kia'āina, Vice Chair Cordero, and Members of the Committee,

Hawaiian Electric submits written comments regarding Bill 24 (2024), which proposes to adopt a revised Primary Urban Center Development Plan ("Plan") for the City and County of Honolulu. The Plan, which extends from Kāhala to Pearl City, presents a vision for the Primary Urban Center's ("PUC") future development consisting of policies, guidelines, and conceptual schemes that will serve as a policy guide for more detailed zoning maps and regulations, and for public and private sector investment decisions. Hawaiian Electronic recognizes the changing conditions of the City and County of Honolulu, particularly changes in community priorities, and appreciates the Plan's vision to guide new development in the PUC, which is currently home to about 440,000 people and will account for 43 percent of O'ahu' s population by 2040.

While the Plan is not regulatory in nature, it does mention Hawaiian Electric in its recommendations that could have an impact on the company assets, operations, and

possibly customer rates. We support the recommendations related to the Electrification of Transportation (EoT) as it aligns with the company's EoT Strategic Roadmap 2.0 to account for the evolving electric transportation landscape.

However, the following plan suggestions would require consideration by the Public Utilities Commission, Consumer Advocate and other stakeholders regarding its potential impact to customer rates and at this time should be discussed further prior to being included in the Plan:

- Page 65 mentions key view corridors and additional streets “where utilities shall place their facilities underground.” Hawaiian Electric has no objections to this consideration as the Plan encourages consideration of undergrounding.
- Page 92 references a catalytic project involving the potential redevelopment of Hawaiian Electric property facing Ward Avenue with residential and office uses. While Hawaiian Electric acknowledges that catalytic projects can help to foster economic development and growth, the Ward Avenue property is a key component to our company's operations, and any future plans to repurpose this property would need to be carefully considered and discussed amongst all interested parties.

We welcome the opportunity to engage with stakeholders and councilmembers that represent the PUC communities and are open to participating in discussions and meetings that may lead to the introduction of new ordinances or changes to existing ordinances as it relates to the revised Plan.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on Bill 24 (2024).