

RES26-206
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 415

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Oct 7, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 3

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jonathan Huynh	jhweather123@yahoo.com	96792
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Oct 4, 2026 @ 05:13 PM
Testimony: Aloha, I participated in the CAP engagement process when the Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency came to my neighborhood in Waianae. I was one of the younger participants in the room by. Most attendees were kupuna. What struck me was that every person there, across generations, supported this plan. They didn't need convincing. They came with questions about real challenges we face daily: infrastructure gaps, food security, transportation access, and flood mitigation. This CAP addresses each of those. The opposition testimony raised affordability concerns. I understand that instinct. Waianae residents know cost-of-living pressure better than many. This plan's actions are designed to lower household costs, not raise them. Expanding transit, retrofitting homes for energy efficiency, and building housing near job centers reduce what families spend on transportation and utilities. That's money back in people's pockets. I strongly support RES26-206 and urge its passage. Mahalo for your consideration, Jonathan Huynh		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jacob Wiencek	jacob.m.wiencek@pm.me	96815
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Oct 5, 2026 @ 08:19 PM
Testimony: Aloha Councilmembers, Climate change is a very real challenge, and Honolulu is a frontline city. This Climate Action Plan is a foundational measure to enact a whole-of-government effort to mitigate the worsening impacts of climate change. Honolulu needs to take decisive, frontloaded action now. I urge the Council to support this resolution and to adopt this plan!		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Dylan Armstrong	dylan.p.armstrong@gmail.com	96822
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Oct 6, 2026 @ 10:53 AM

*TESTIMONY FOR THE HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
THE HONORABLE TOMMY WATERS, CHAIR, AND ANDRIA TUPOLA, VICE CHAIR*

7 October 2026

RES 26-206

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Council Members,

Thank you for considering my COMMENTS for the Climate Action Plan (CAP) 2025-2030:

- **This second CAP is in some regards a substantive improvement over the first CAP.** Both are about 100 pages in length. Both are highly thoughtful.

If all the actions in this CAP were accomplished, the benefits would not only be large and substantive, these would create efficiencies that spillover as positive feedback into other improvements (maximizing cost-benefit). But many of these are broader environmental benefits that are not specifically ‘climate action.’

- If the CAP’s bulk is Mitigation (tackling point-source pollution) and Adaptation (nulling the effects of climate change), this CAP deserves some discussion.
 - The Mitigation side of the CAP appears well-researched and systematic.
 - **The council must reduce surface transportation (and ultimately, air) emissions or there will be no effective Mitigation.** Electrifying city buses is a “good” policy for a number of reasons, but that isn’t where the bulk of reductions will come from, nor is the first-order.

Real Mitigation would be doubling or tripling the number of primary pedestrian, primary bicycle, primary transit users.

Electrification is a fad which, while it should be supported, will not make the most impact.

Like Seattle, Honolulu needs to mode-shift all new residents (neighbor island and mainland/international transplants) to alternate-mode transportation, not more cars. TOD building designs that are human-first, not car-first, are one area of opportunity.

Right now, reductions are not going to be accomplished simply via rail. The council must reduce transportation emissions heavily and consistently, not with one-time tricks. Electric cars, just like internal combustion vehicles, still clog roads, causing other vehicles to idle, and spread most of our local carbon emissions.

Burying the lede on transportation in the CAP won't work. It is the do-or-die of climate action for Honolulu. It requires difficult, complex debate.

- **Land Use Change calculations may be too optimistic.** Where are the data sources? We now know that previous assumptions within climate models were too conservative and neglected the role of land emissions contributing exponentially to warming in the face of anthropogenic-triggered warming. Wetlands, forests, farms, emitting on a feedback loop.
- What approaches full adaptation?
 - **Emergency shelters (mostly schools) need to be retrofitted for resilience against Category-5 tropical cyclones** (Saffir-Simpson scale). <https://www.category-5.com/>
 - **New buildings, especially City, need to be retrofitted thusly.**
 - **Flood mitigation requires systematic changes to stormwater retention, detention, and waterfront redevelopment.**
 - **Adapting for urban heat island (UHI) effects doesn't just mean street trees.** Trees must be where people actually have reason to live and move. New leis of parks can increase windflow (to the extent it still flows)

Connecting Mother Waldron through the 'Piano Lots' to the waterfront in a multi-block, regional park, would help with cooling the area, and allowing Kakaako residents their own large urban forest and recreation facilities without creating demand on Ala Moana Beach Park. Give OHA, HCDA, and private developers an incentive to develop responsibly, and densify without undue stormwater output, traffic, and scenic impacts.

- Low-lying areas (Waikiki, Kakaako, Iwilei, Moiliili) must be hardened against multiple feet sea level rise, storm, and coastal surge. This must be done now. The CAP needs to make this explicitly non-optional.
- **Much of the emphasis of this second CAP is on what I will refer to as Sustainability, not Climate.** The council cannot ultimate triage to doing these actions in the CAP, with an emphasis on Department of Environmental Services' refuse and recycling, including food, in the name of accomplishment or cost-effectiveness, and believe it is 'doing enough' on climate.

Without adaptation and reducing the major emission sources, climate action fails as 'too little, too late.'

Mahalo nui loa,
DYLAN P. ARMSTRONG, Individual Capacity