



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Hawaii Carpenters' Union Launches Public Awareness Campaign Opposing HECO Bailout Legislation:

New website, NoHecoBailout.com, gives residents a platform to demand accountability from Hawaiian Electric

HONOLULU — The Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters (HRCC) today announced the launch of a public awareness campaign opposing legislation that would let Hawaiian Electric (HECO) off the hook for wildfire damages while saddling ratepayers with the bill. The campaign includes a new website, NoHecoBailout.com, and a multimedia outreach effort aimed at informing the public about the dangers of [HB982](#), the so-called HECO Securitization Bill, and urging residents to speak out.

The legislation, [HB982](#), would establish a \$1 billion Wildfire Recovery Fund, paid for by ratepayers through higher electricity bills, while capping HECO's financial liability for future wildfire damages at just \$200 million per event. The bill also requires wildfire victims to go through a burdensome administrative claims process before being allowed to sue—and bars them from taking any legal action entirely if they miss deadlines or accept a settlement.

“While HECO's top executives collect massive paychecks and bonuses—even after losing \$1.4 billion—Hawaii residents are being asked to pay more for less accountability,” said Ronald Taketa, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of HRCC. “This isn't just bad policy—it's corporate greed in action, and it must be stopped.”

HRCC's campaign comes amid growing concerns that Hawaii's cost of living is spiraling out of control, outpacing wage growth and threatening the ability of working families to make ends meet. The union says the bill was rushed through without enough public awareness or input—and that even though [HB982](#) has been amended, the core danger remains that it could be revived in its original form, forcing all Hawaii residents to pay more while shielding HECO from full accountability.

“Instead of trying to limit its own responsibility, HECO should be investing in fireproofing its infrastructure so tragedies like the Lahaina wildfire never happen again,” Taketa added.

To inform its efforts, HRCC commissioned a statewide public opinion poll conducted from March 5–10, 2025, among 500 registered voters. The results were clear:

- 75% of voters initially opposed HB982
- 51% were definitely opposed
- After hearing both sides of the argument, opposition jumped to 82%, with just 12% supporting the bill

(Poll memo included with this press release)

The campaign's goals are threefold:

1. **Urge HECO to rescind support for its securitization bill (HB982)** and any other legislative proposal that limits its liability for future disaster victims.
2. **Call for new leadership at HECO**—including changes at the executive and board levels—in light of recent reports that HECO executives received large raises even as the company suffered massive losses. ([Source](#))
3. **Provide a direct line for residents to speak out by visiting NoHECOBailout.com**, where they can send messages directly to HECO leadership demanding fairness, transparency, and accountability.

The multimedia campaign will run through the end of this legislative session and continue beyond, serving as a public watchdog on HECO's actions.

"We're raising the alarm because no one else is," said Taketa. "Hawaii's working families should not be forced to pay the price for HECO's negligence and corporate excess. This fight is about fairness, accountability, and standing up for the people."

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About HRCC:

The Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters represents thousands of union carpenters across the state, advocating for good-paying jobs, fair treatment, and a better quality of life for Hawai'i's working families.