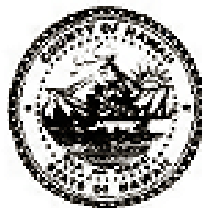


*Aaron S. Y. Chung*  
Council Member  
District 2 South Hilo



Phone No.: (808) 961-8272  
Fax No.: (808) 961-8912  
[aaron.chung@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:aaron.chung@hawaiicounty.gov)

## **HAWAII COUNTY COUNCIL**

*County of Hawai'i*  
*Hawai'i County Building*  
*25 August Street*  
*Hilo, Hawai'i 96720*

Date: March 23, 2015

To: Representative Nicole Lowen, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

From: Aaron S. Y. Chung, Council Member  
Hawai'i County Council

RE: HCR169/HR105 - EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF FURTHER DISCUSSION  
ON THE POSSIBILITY OF LOCAL OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL OF  
ELECTRIC UTILITIES.

Aloha Representative Lowen:

Thank you for your leadership in seeking ownership alternatives for our Hawai'i Island utility services. I would like to join you in expressing my strong support for the adoption of HCR169 and HR105. The formation of the Hawai'i Island Energy Cooperative (HIEC) gives our community a real chance at having a hand in the decisions which affect the energy future of the Big Island.

I personally have a better level of comfort with the notion of a locally-owned utility company rather than one controlled by a mainland-based mega corporation whose primary motives are profit driven. Although I confess not knowing all of members of the cooperative, the ones that I do know are high character individuals that are respected as much for their business acumen as they are for their community-mindedness and integrity. It is my understanding that their business plan contemplates a stable transition which will not involve changing the physical plant and infrastructure or present contracts. Of particular interest and importance to our residents, though, is the reasonable possibility that local ownership of the utility may result in lower electricity costs islandwide.

I support the idea of providing HIEC with the opportunity to take their seats at the table to provide HELCO users with benefits of a locally-owned, not-for-profit utility. The vision of lower utility costs, innovative technology and forward thinking to benefit the rate-payers is something that we must explore.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share some of my thoughts on HCR 169 /HR105. I join many others on the Big Island in support of the Hawai'i Island Energy Cooperative initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Chung".

Aaron S. Y. Chung, Council Member  
Hawai'i County Council