

# Energy Equity and Justice (Docket No. 2022-0250)

Presentation for the Maui County  
Council ESCS Committee

Thursday, June 22, 2023

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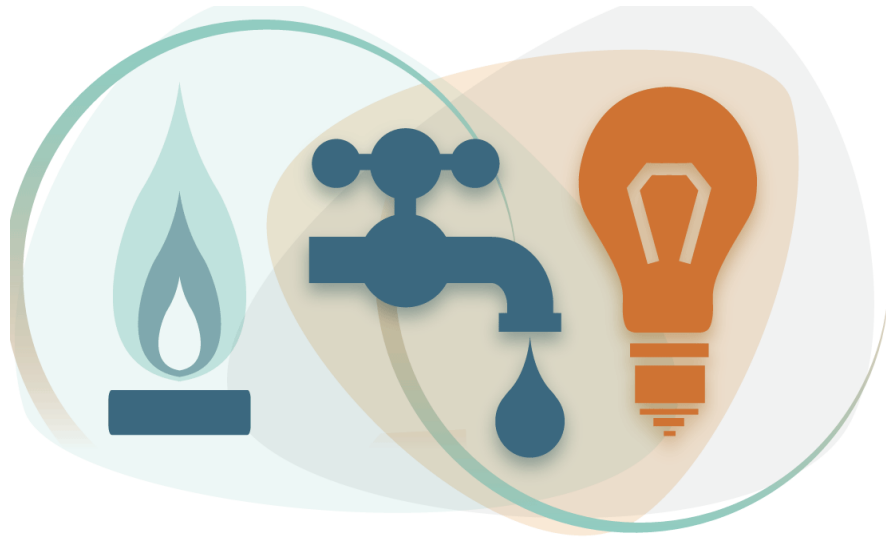
Hawaii Public Utilities Commission



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

<https://puc.hawaii.gov/energy/equity/>

# What is the Public Utilities Commission?



We regulate over 1,800 utilities across six industries:

- electricity,
- gas,
- telecom,
- private water & wastewater,
- water carriers, and
- motor carriers.

# What is a docket?

Rate Case



Investigations and  
Other Applications



Power Purchase  
Agreement Application



# How can I get involved?



Docket Intervention

Docket Participation

Public Comment

Subscribe for Reports

# Resources

- Visit the Commission's website (<https://puc.hawaii.gov/>) for more information about the Commission, including news and recent announcements.
- Visit CDMS eServices (<https://hpuc.my.site.com/cdms/s>) to submit public comments, ask questions, and access docket records.
- The Commission's Equity Docket page (<https://puc.hawaii.gov/energy/equity/>) provides more information regarding the proceeding.



Why did the  
Commission open  
the Energy Equity  
and Justice  
proceeding?

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THE SENATE  
THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE, 2022  
STATE OF HAWAII

S.C.R. NO. 48  
S.D. 1

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION, IN CONSULTATION WITH  
THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER ADVOCACY, TO CONSIDER EFFORTS TO  
MITIGATE HIGH ENERGY BURDENS FOR LOW- AND MODERATE-INCOME  
CUSTOMERS AND INVESTIGATE HOW TO INTEGRATE CONSIDERATIONS  
OF ENERGY EQUITY AND JUSTICE ACROSS ITS WORK.

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

----- In the Matter of ----- )  
 )  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION ) DOCKET NO. 2022-0250  
 )  
Instituting a Proceeding )  
To Investigate Equity )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

- Key Terminology
- Challenges to Energy Equity in Hawaii
- Consideration of Ongoing Commission Actions to Address Equity
- Proposed Docket Scope

ORDER NO. 38759

INSTITUTING A PROCEEDING TO INVESTIGATE ENERGY EQUITY



# Challenges to Energy Equity in Hawaii

1. High Energy Rates
2. High Percentage of LMI Persons
3. High Energy Burden
4. Lack of Universal Access to Renewable Energy Initiatives
5. Need for Utility Payment Assistance
6. Historic Siting of Fossil Fuel Infrastructure
7. Land Constraints
8. Regulatory Process Burdens



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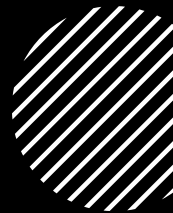
**REPORT TO THE 2023 LEGISLATURE  
PURSUANT TO SENATE RESOLUTION 33,  
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 48 /  
SENATE RESOLUTION 43 / HOUSE RESOLUTION 43,  
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 242 /  
SENATE RESOLUTION 133/ HOUSE RESOLUTION 44  
(2022)**

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DECEMBER 2022



# What is different about this proceeding?



Intent to limit or remove barriers to participation



Focus on stakeholder engagement, including meeting communities where they are



“Listen-first” approach to understand communities’ perspectives on energy equity and justice



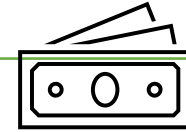
The core of the Commission’s initiative to “broadly incorporate equity and access into all of its work”

# Overview of Five Docket Workstreams

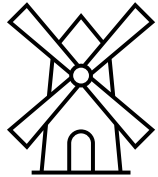


Procedural Equity

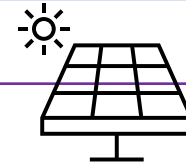
Affordability & Direct Payment Assistance



Equitable Siting & Hosting of Energy Infrastructure



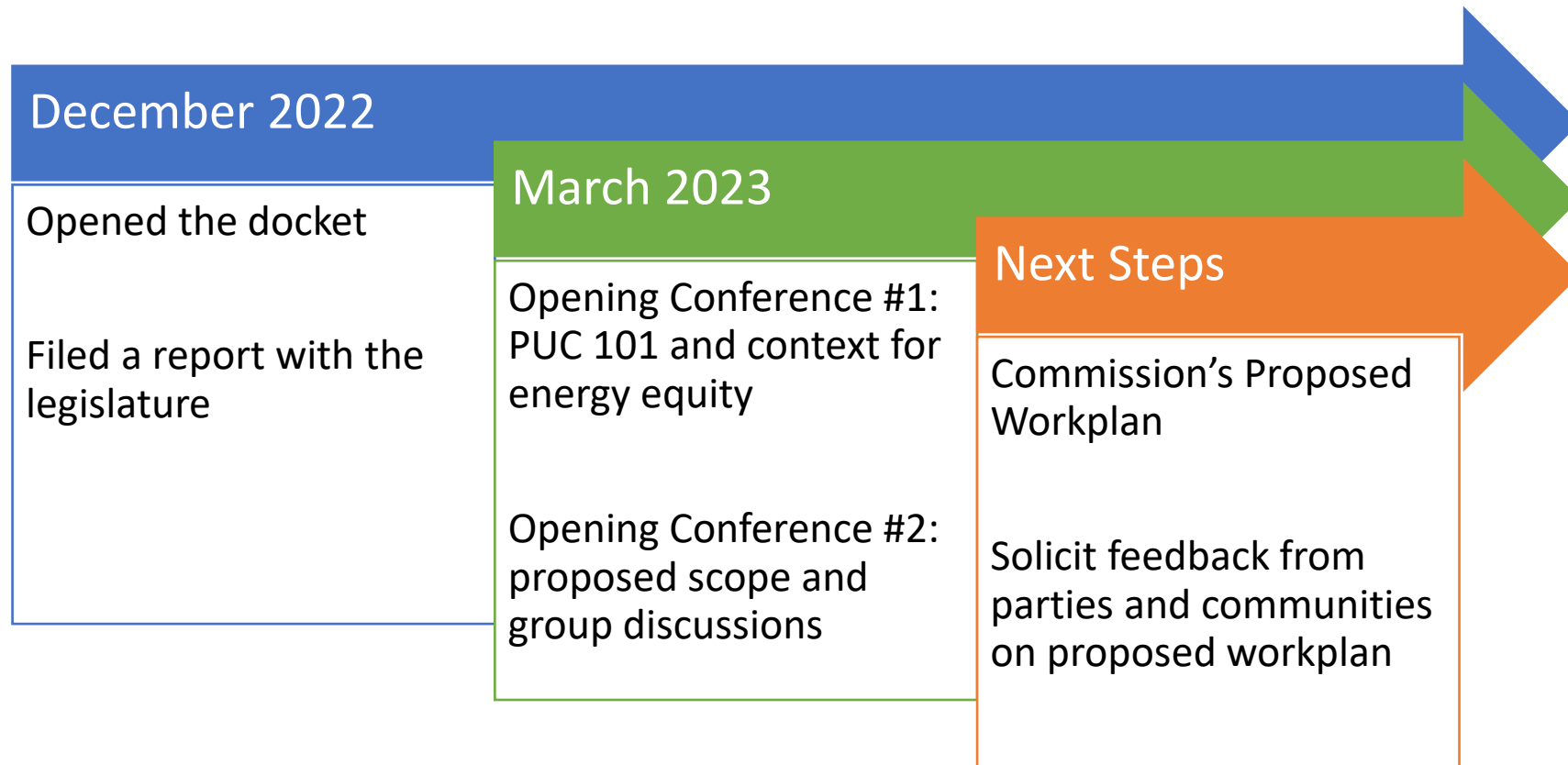
Equitable Access to Clean Energy



Utility Performance Tracking



# What has the Commission done so far in this proceeding?



# Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

- A federal program that provides heating and/or cooling assistance to families in need via one-time payments towards electric or gas bills
- DHS administers Hawaii's LIHEAP with the assistance of Community Action Agencies, using funds the federal government distributes to each state
- Two types of assistance
  - Energy Credit: assistance with bill payments
  - Energy Crisis Intervention: assistance to households whose electric or gas service has been or will be disconnected (open year-round)
- Application period for Energy Credit is only open June 1-30
  - <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/bessd/liheap/>

# LIHEAP Working Group

- State legislature requested the PUC convene a working group to create a state LIHEAP program due to the high need and relatively low funding, which is decreasing as COVID funds end
- Working Group members: PUC, DCCA, DHS, HSEO, Hawaiian Electric, KIUC, C&C Honolulu, Chairpersons of House EEP Committee and Senate EET Committee, & Hawaii Energy
- Monthly meetings from September to December 2022 to develop findings and recommendations regarding a state program
- Working group resumed meeting in March 2023 to develop updated recommendations and/or propose legislation



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Mahalo!

Commission website:

<https://puc.hawaii.gov/energy/equity/>

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