

HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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JOSH GREEN, M.D.
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LT. GOVERNOR

MARK B. GLICK
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON
ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM
AND
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

Thursday, March 14, 2024
3:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225 and Videoconference

In Support of
HB 2614, HD1

RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.

Chairs DeCoite and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Wakai and Gabbard, and members of the Committees, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports HB 2614, HD1, that requires government entities in the State that issue building permits to implement SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform by 1/1/2025. The measure also requires government entities in the State that issue building permits in areas served by an investor-owned electric utility to adopt a self-certification process for solar distributed energy resource systems that are not SolarAPP+ compatible.

HSEO notes that SolarAPP+ has several appealing features, including its development by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, nation-wide availability, significant improvements in capabilities since just last year, and partnerships with standards bodies, code councils, and at least one nationally recognized testing laboratory. But, HSEO appreciates the flexibility provided in the measure of the option to use a functionally equivalent online permitting platform.

HSEO appreciates the efforts underway by individual permitting agencies to improve the permitting for solar photovoltaic and battery installations and is working with the University of Hawai'i at Manoa on a strategy to dedicate personnel to augment those efforts. Importantly, HSEO understands that the SolarAPP+ requirement is compatible and complementary to those efforts to streamline permitting and renewable energy project approvals.

HSEO looks forward to working with the authorities having jurisdiction on Section 2 of the bill, which is consistent with existing statutory responsibilities of HSEO and of the Chief Energy Officer, including those set forth in Section 196-72 (d):

- (2) Identify, track, and report key performance measures and milestones related to the State's energy and decarbonization goals;
- (3) Provide technical assistance to state and county agencies to assess and implement projects and programs related to energy conservation and efficiency, renewable energy ... and related measures;

And also

- (15) Facilitate the efficient, expedited permitting of energy efficiency, renewable energy, clean transportation, and energy resiliency projects.

Regarding the self-certification section of the bill, HSEO notes the efficiency of the concept and looks forward to supporting the authorities having jurisdiction as they “establish a self-certification process” (page 4, lines 12-13) to allow residential and commercial on-site solar distributed energy resource systems to **begin** construction, with the understanding (based on discussions on a similar bill introduced last year) that final compliance review and approval will take place at the time of final inspection by the authority having jurisdiction (i.e. permitting agency).

HSEO recommends edits and additions for clarity. Regarding item (2) on page 5, lines 1-6, other testifiers previously pointed out that engineers and architects are not approved installers of systems. The following is a recommended re-wording of this item:

- (2) The [~~duly licensed architect, duly licensed engineer, duly licensed electrician, or duly licensed plumber, as applicable, who intends to install the solar distributed energy resource system~~] projects' relevant licensed professionals in their respective fields that the plans for installation of the system comply with all applicable codes and laws.

Also, to make it clear that although the self-certification processes described by the bill will enable an expedited start of construction, it is not expected that a permit would be closed, or certificate of occupancy issued, without completion of a final inspection. The following is provided for the committee's consideration for page 5, lines 16-19:

(c) If the requirements of subsection (a) are satisfied, the applicable government entity in the State that issues building permits shall issue the building permit number [~~and close the permit~~] within thirty days of submittal.

(d) Final inspections shall be required prior to permit closing.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR



Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority

An Agency of the State of Hawaii

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
CHAIR

GWEN S YAMAMOTO LAU
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Testimony of
Gwen Yamamoto Lau
Executive Director
Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
and the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM
March 14, 2024, 3:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225
in consideration of
HOUSE BILL NO. 2614, HD1
RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

Chairs McKelvey and DeCoite, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Wakai, and Members of the Government Operations and Energy, Economic Development Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and provide comments on House Bill No. 2614, HD1, relating to renewable energy. The Hawai'i Green Infrastructure Authority (HGIA) **supports** this bill which contains measures to streamline the permitting process for distributed solar projects through use of an automated permitting platform.

HGIA, Hawaii's Green Bank, works to advance the State's goal of a 100% renewable portfolio standard in energy production to further decarbonize Hawaii's economy, and contribute to a more resilient, climate-ready energy grid. This bill could address delays in the permitting processes, saving ratepayers and contractors time and money while enabling faster reduction of carbon emissions. Removing administrative barriers to the deployment of solar energy systems by leveraging existing software will enable HGIA to more efficiently facilitate the transition to renewable energy for our ALICE households and other underserved ratepayers, and help them lower their energy burden.

HGIA defers to the authorities having jurisdiction over the proposed self-certification process and technical implementation of the concerned software.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and provide comments on House Bill No. 2614, HD1.

Testimony of the Contractors License Board

**Before the
Senate Committee on
Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism
and
Senate Committee on Government Operations**

Thursday, March 14, 2024

3:45 p.m.

Conference Room 225 and Videoconference

On the following measure:

H.B. 2614, H.D. 1, RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

Chair DeCoite, Chair McKelvey, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Neal Arita, and I am the Chairperson of the Contractors License Board (Board). The Board opposes this bill.

The purposes of this bill are to require government entities in the State that issue building permits: (1) to implement, by January 1, 2025, SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform that verifies code compliance and issues permits to licensed contractors for solar distributed energy resource systems in real time; and (2) in areas served by an investor-owned electric utility to adopt a self-certification process for solar distributed energy resource systems that are not SolarAPP+ compatible.

While the Board does not object to the intent of this bill to lower administrative barriers during the permitting process, it should not be done at the risk of consumer safety. The Board has serious concerns because this bill includes commercial on-site solar distributed energy resource systems. Commercial and large utility-scale photovoltaic plant projects are complex and do not appear to be suited to a self-certification permit process.

The Board also requests clarification on whether the proposed subsection 196-B(a)(2) on page 5, lines 1 through 6, is meant for the government agency to receive written notice from the duly licensed architect or duly licensed engineer that the solar distributed energy resource system complies with all applicable codes and laws in

addition to a written notice from a duly licensed electrician or plumber who intends to install the solar distributed energy resource system.

The Board believes that the self-certification permit process is better suited for residential solar distributed energy resource systems, provided that there is an inspection following the completion of the project that deems the installation to be in compliance with all applicable codes and laws.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

**Testimony of the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and
Landscape Architects**

**Before the
Senate Committee on
Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism
and
Senate Committee on Government Operations**

**Thursday, March 14, 2024
3:45 p.m.
Conference Room 225 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
H.B. 2614, H.D. 1, RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Chair DeCoite, Chair McKelvey, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Sheena Choy, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects (Board). The Board appreciates the intent of this bill and offers comments.

The purposes of this bill are to require government entities in the State that issue building permits: (1) to implement, by January 1, 2025, SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform that verifies code compliance and issues permits to licensed contractors for solar distributed energy resource systems in real time; and (2) in areas served by an investor-owned electric utility to adopt a self-certification process for solar distributed energy resource systems that are not SolarAPP+ compatible.

The Board comments that on page 5, lines 1 to 6, licensed architects and licensed engineers should not be installing solar distributed energy resource systems; as such, installation is not within their authorized scope of practice. Further, the Board notes the bill does not mention that a final inspection process will occur by the authority having jurisdiction. The Board emphasizes the importance of a final inspection for consumer safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING
KA 'OIHANA HO'OLĀLĀ A ME NĀ PALAPALA 'AE
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 SOUTH KING STREET, 7TH FLOOR • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 768-8000 • FAX: (808) 768-6041 • WEB: honolulu.gov/dpp

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA



DAWN TAKEUCHI APUNA
DIRECTOR
PO'O

JIRO A. SUMADA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
HOPE PO'O

March 14, 2024

The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Government Operations
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Energy,
Economic Development and Tourism
Hawai'i State Senate
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Subject: House Bill No. 2614, HD 1
Relating to Renewable Energy

Dear Chairs McKelvey, DeCoite, and Committee Members:

The Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) **offers comments** on House Bill No. 2614, HD 1, which would require government entities in the State that issue building permits to implement SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform that verifies code compliance and issues permits to licensed contractors for solar distributed energy resource systems in real-time by January 1, 2025. This Bill also would require government entities in the State that issue building permits in areas served by an investor-owned electric utility to adopt a self-certification process for solar distributed energy resource systems that are not SolarAPP+ compatible.

The DPP agrees that online permit processing apps such as SolarAPP+ are a must in order to process solar applications in a timely manner. In 2021, the DPP refined our own automated online permitting system for solar permits. This functionally equivalent system has proven very successful and processes solar permits that equal 60% of our residential permits. Recently, Ordinance 23-29 was signed by Mayor Rick Blangiardi that allows for self-certification of many building permits and the ordinance could be amended to include solar permits to comply with this Bill, should it be approved.

The DPP's current system has the same instant online functionality as SolarAPP+ and has proven very effective in reducing our backlog of residential building

The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Government Operations
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Energy,
Economic Development and Tourism
Hawai'i State Senate
House Bill No. 2614, HD 1
March 14, 2024
Page 2

permit applications. We support House Bill No. 2614, HD 1, so long as the counties are given the option of using a functionally equivalent automated system.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dawn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dawn Takeuchi Apuna
Director



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM AND
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Thursday, March 14, 2024 — 3:45 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports HB 2614 HD1, Relating to Renewable Energy.

Dear Chair DeCoite, Chair McKelvey and Members of the Committees:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food, renewable energy and clean transportation choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

Ulupono supports HB 2614 HD1, which requires government entities in the State that issue building permits to implement SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform that verifies code compliance and issues permits to licensed contractors for solar distributed energy resource systems in real time by 1/1/2025; and requires government entities in the State that issue building permits in areas served by an investor-owned electric utility to adopt a self-certification for solar distributed energy resource systems that are not SolarAPP+ compatible.

Ulupono supports the use of SolarAPP+, or an equivalent platform, to help streamline solar and energy storage project permitting. The Hawai'i State Energy Office recently published its Hawai'i Pathways to Decarbonization Report, which identifies, among other things, the significant need for additional renewable energy generation to meet broader economy-wide decarbonization goals.¹ Solar photovoltaic (PV) systems are becoming so common that there is little risk and much to gain in terms of timeliness with such systems, as more renewable energy can be installed at a faster rate. The self-certifying procedure proposed in this bill supports a streamlined process for renewable energy projects, which may even decrease the workload on already burdened county planning and permitting departments.²

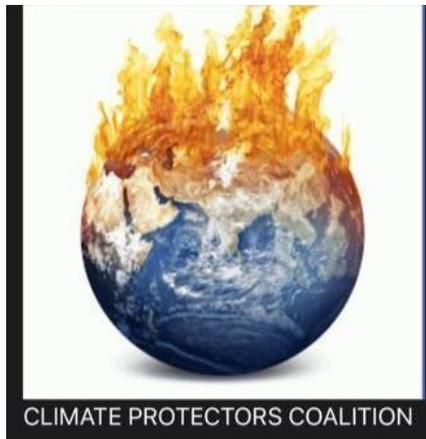
Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

¹ Hawai'i Pathways to Decarbonization Act 238, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2022, Report to the 2024 Hawai'i State Legislature December 2023. https://energy.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Act-238_HSEO_Decarbonization_Report.pdf

² The counties all struggle with a backlog of permit applications, so any effort to streamline the process would be welcomed. For example, the Civil Beat recently noted that the median residential permitting time for the City and County of Honolulu's Department of Planning and Permitting, was 330 days and commercial jobs were at a median of 420 days. <https://www.civilbeat.org/2023/12/honolulus-building-permit-delays-a-nightmare-decades-in-the-making/>



To: The Honorable Chairs Lynn DeCoite and Angus McKelvey, the Honorable Vice Chairs Glenn Wakai and Mike Gabbard, and Members of the Committees on Energy, Economic Development and Tourism and Government Operations.

From: Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: **Hearing HB2614 HD1 RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Hearing: Thursday March 14, 2024, 3:45 p.m., CR225

Aloha Chairs DeCoite and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Wakai and Gabbard, and Members of the Committees on Energy, Economic Development and Tourism and Government Operations!

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i seek to educate and engage the local community in climate change action, to help Hawai'i show the world the way back to a safe and stable climate. The Climate Protectors Hawai'i favors streamlining permitting for solar PV and storage systems to save homeowners costs and reduce pollution.

Climate Protectors Hawai'i STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB2614 HD1.

This bill requires government entities in the State that issue building permits to implement SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform that verifies code compliance and issues permits to licensed contractors for solar distributed energy resource systems in real time by 1/1/2025; and requires government entities in the State that issue building permits in areas served by an investor-owned electric utility to adopt a self-certification for solar distributed energy resource systems that are not SolarAPP+ compatible.

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i supports the use of SolarAPP+, or an equivalent platform, to help streamline solar and energy storage project permitting. Solar photovoltaic (PV) systems are becoming so common that there is little risk and much to gain in terms of timeliness with such systems, as more renewable energy can be installed at a faster rate. The self-certifying procedure proposed in this bill supports a streamlined process for renewable energy projects, which may even decrease the workload on already burdened county planning and permitting departments. It also would save consumers substantial money spent in obtaining permits.

Please pass this bill!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)



SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Thursday, March 14, 2024, 3:45 p.m., Room 225

Testimony in support of HB 2614 HD1

Aloha Chairs DeCoite and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Wakai and Gabbard, and members of the Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism and Government Operations committees:

As partners of the Hawai'i Executive Collaborative (HEC) Climate Coalition, we support HB 2614 HD1, which seeks to reduce barriers to achieving our 100% clean energy future by streamlining and accelerating the rooftop solar permitting process.

The HEC Climate Coalition was formed in 2022 to address the systemic barriers that impede meaningful climate action in Hawai'i. Our strategy is two-fold: helping organizations work internally on climate initiatives (Climate In) while providing a platform to work collectively with others to drive systemic climate progress (Climate Out). To date, 42 organizations have signed our Climate Pledge, including businesses, nonprofits, educational institutions, all four of Hawai'i's counties and the Governor. Our Coalition plays a critical role in uniting Hawai'i's business and environmental communities under one mission: building a sustainable, resilient, and safe climate future for ourselves and our children.

Solar energy is one of Hawai'i's lowest cost resources to decarbonize our economy. While over 100,000 rooftop solar systems have been installed across Hawai'i, reaching our climate goals requires that nearly every rooftop statewide tap into the sun's free energy. That means well over 250,000 additional systems need to be deployed. But administrative and permitting bottlenecks are impeding this deployment and adding unnecessary cost, time, and risk to Hawai'i's renewable energy transition. This not only hurts our climate, but particularly impacts low- to moderate-income households, who to date have largely been left out of the rooftop solar opportunity.

House Bill 2614 HD1 seeks to help remedy this challenge in a few key ways:

- The measure establishes a requirement for building permit issuing authorities to adopt the SolarAPP+ automated online permitting tool, or a functional equivalent. SolarAPP+ was developed by the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory and has been successfully deployed for PV and PV+Storage projects in numerous municipalities across the nation. The tool reduces compliance risks, lowers time and cost, and removes relatively small and simple projects from the manual review queue so that building permit officials can spend more time on larger and more complicated projects and customers can install and benefit from their systems sooner. National data shows that local governments with instant online permitting for rooftop solar, like SolarAPP+, process 5 – 14 times more volume than jurisdictions with traditional permit processing.
- The measure removes the burdensome and time-consuming "materials and methods" review process and replaces it with standardized, peer-reviewed national product safety certification and product documentation requirements. In addition to causing delay and extra cost, this unnecessary requirement stifles innovation and blocks new, lower-cost technologies and products from entering our market.
- The measure requires permitting authorities to provide a self-certification pathway for projects that do not qualify for the SolarAPP+ online permitting tool. If a duly licensed design professional certifies that a solar project's plans are compliant with all applicable laws and codes, the project should not be delayed from proceeding to construction. Final compliance review and approval can occur at inspection.

Climate Coalition members have selected solar permit streamlining as a priority for our policy engagement this session. Achieving Hawai'i's 100% renewable energy goal will require that we maximize the amount of solar energy on rooftops statewide.

House Bill 2614 will lower costs and installation timelines for rooftop solar, leading to faster, more cost-effective, and equitable decarbonization of our islands. We urge its passage.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

About Hawai'i Executive Collaborative

The Hawai'i Executive Collaborative (HEC) is a nonprofit organization that serves as a convener and provides backbone support to leaders from different sectors who want to help build a more resilient economy and state. HEC members believe in the power of acting collectively and focus their energies and resources on areas where immediate and systemic changes will benefit Hawai'i and the world. For more information on the HEC Climate Coalition's real-world, high-impact solutions, visit hec.org/climate.

Hawai'i Executive Collaboration Climate Coalition partners supporting this testimony:

AES Hawai'i

Alaska Airlines

Alexander & Baldwin

Blue Planet Foundation

Bowers & Kubota

Catholic Charities Hawai'i

Chaminade University

Hawai'i Energy

Hawai'i Executive Collaborative

Hawai'i Green Bank

Hawai'i Solar Energy Association

Hawaiian Airlines

Hawaiian Electric

'Iolani School

Kaiser Permanente

KHON2

The Nature Conservancy - Hawai'i and Palmyra

Re-Use Hawaii

School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology, Univ. of Hawai'i

Sun Noodle

Young Brothers

Zephyr Insurance Company, Inc.

Zippy's

LATE

March 13, 2024

Re: STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB 2614 HD1 Relating to Renewable Energy

Aloha Chairs DeCoite and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Wakai and Gabbard, and esteemed committee members:

I am writing to you as the CEO of Hawaii Unified Industries, a cornerstone in Hawaii's pursuit of a sustainable and resilient energy future. Our commitment extends beyond providing rooftop PV, storage, and microgrid solutions for homes and businesses; we are at the forefront of facilitating the transition to renewable energy through our support of workforce development and our relentless efforts to streamline energy solutions for Hawaii's residents.

Economic and Community Impact:

Hawaii Unified is proud to be a major employer in the state, providing over 100 local jobs and standing as the third-largest private employer on the Leeward Coast, according to Pacific Business News. Our dedication to the community is further demonstrated through our support of the Makaha Learning Center, a beacon for renewable energy workforce development, having certified over 200 students in the past three years. However, the protracted permitting process by the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) is not only stifling our business operations but also jeopardizing our ability to support vital community programs.

Urgency of Implementing SolarAPP+:

The implementation of SolarAPP+ (or its equivalent) represents a pivotal step towards rectifying the inefficiencies plaguing our permitting process. The delays experienced by our customers and our business are more than mere inconveniences—they are barriers to Hawaii's clean energy future. Over the past year, the absence of streamlined permitting has directly led to contract cancellations, a clear indicator of the tangible impact on our business and consumer confidence. This situation underscores the need for state intervention and leadership to adopt best practices that have been recognized nationally.

Local and National Benefits:

Adopting SolarAPP+ is not just about improving the business climate for companies like Hawaii Unified; it's about unlocking the potential for Hawaii's residents to contribute to

and benefit from renewable energy initiatives. Solar and storage solutions are pivotal in helping residents reduce electricity bills, contribute positively to the environment, and enhance their resilience against power outages.

Moreover, streamlining the permitting process will accelerate Hawaii's progress towards its clean energy goals, making the state a leader in renewable energy adoption and setting a precedent for other states to follow. The efficiency and predictability brought about by SolarAPP+ can serve as a catalyst for increased investment in renewable energy, further driving economic growth and job creation in the sector.

Conclusion:

In light of the above, **I strongly urge the committee to consider the far-reaching benefits of HB 2614 HD1**. By mandating the adoption of SolarAPP+ for local online permitting, Hawaii can alleviate the unnecessary burdens on businesses and consumers alike, fostering a more sustainable and prosperous future for all residents.

Our commitment to Hawaii's clean energy transition is unwavering, and we believe that with the right reforms, we can overcome the current challenges and continue to lead by example. Thank you for considering our testimony in support of this critical piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Ryno Irwin
CEO, Hawaii Unified Industries



Sunnova Energy Corporation
20 Greenway Plaza, Suite 540
Houston, TX 77046
sunnova.com

Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism



Senator Angus McKelvey, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Committee on Government Operations

Thursday, March 14, 2024; 3:45 p.m.
Conference room 225 & Videoconference

Re: Strong support for HB 2614 HD1 Relating to Renewable Energy

Dear Chairs DeCoite and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Wakai and Gabbard, and committee members:

Sunnova Energy International, Inc. is a national provider of solar energy as a service. Founded in 2012, Sunnova services more than 380,000 customers across 40 States and U.S. territories including Hawaii. We strongly support HB 2614 HD1 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that have impeded progress on Hawaii’s renewable energy and climate resilience goals.

HB 2614 HD1 will facilitate more efficient permitting processes for simple solar projects. When residents invest in solar, including paying application fees, they expect a streamlined process. Unfortunately, hundreds of our customers have experienced egregious delays with local jurisdictions throughout the permitting process. It hurts local businesses (installers), and is also unfair to ratepayers who are doing their part to generate local clean energy. Solar is a simple and safe technology which should be approved instantaneously. Over-the-counter permit approval for solar systems is urgently needed in Hawaii.

SolarAPP+ is free for local jurisdictions to use, has already been successfully deployed in multiple municipalities across the country and has reduced permitting timelines to less than one day. Solar projects that cannot be reviewed under SolarAPP+ will be given a self-certification pathway which will also save time and consumer money.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2614 HD1. We ask for your favorable consideration in passing this measure as it will help the residents of Hawaii save money and support Hawaii’s climate resilience goals.

Respectfully,

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

Meghan Nutting, EVP of Government and Regulatory Affairs
Sunnova Energy International

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 11:07:21 PM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Mulinix	Testifying for Greenpeace Hawaii	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha EET Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai & Committee Members, and GVO Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Gabbard & Committee Members,

I am CoFounder of the Hawai‘i chapter of Greenpeace, the largest environmental organization in the world, with an international membership of over 3 million. On behalf of Greenpeace Hawai‘i's thousands of members and supporters statewide, we Stand in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2614 that addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawai‘i's renewable energy and climate resilience goals.

HB2614 establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects. Currently families are often waiting more than a year to receive their permit. By implementing provisions in HB2614, there will be auto-approval, proceed-to-build for all solar and storage projects that qualify for the online submission.

It is important to note that Solar APP+ has been very successful on the continent reducing solar permitting time down to as little as one day. HB2614 will greatly reduce solar permitting approval time in Hawai‘i. Streamlining permit processing time will greatly increase the installation of solar panels to help cut Hawai‘i's carbon emissions.

In testimony submitted by the Department of Planning & Permitting of the City & County of Honolulu they commented on the value of their online permitting process to cut down on their permitting approval time, i.e.: “The DPP agrees that online permit processing apps such as SolarAPP+ are a must in order to process solar applications in a timely manner...The DPP’s current system has the same instant online functionality as SolarAPP+ and has proven very effective in reducing our backlog of residential building permit applications.”

As a renewable source of power, solar energy has an important role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating Climate Change, which is critical to protecting humans, wildlife, and ecosystems. Solar coupled with battery storage also provides resiliency by providing a backup energy source when storms or other emergencies cause a power failure.

Please pass HB2614 to help remove the unnecessary roadblocks and burdens to installing solar plus storage systems so that all may access and benefit from solar energy. This would be an important step forward to support Hawai‘i in achieving our decarbonization goals!

Mahalo,

Dave Mulinix, CoFounder & Statewide Organizer

Greenpeace Hawai'i



1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 | Honolulu, HI 96813
P: 808-533-1292 | e: info@hawaiiifood.com

Executive Officers

Gary Okimoto, Safeway Hawaii, *Chair*
Maile Miyashiro, C&S Wholesale Grocer, *Vice Chair*
Kit Okimoto, Okimoto Corp., *Secretary/Treas.*
Lauren Zirbel, HFIA, *Executive Director*
Paul Kosasa, ABC Stores, *Advisor*
Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Toby Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Joe Carter, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, *Advisor*
Eddie Asato, Pint Size Hawaii, *Immediate Past Chair*

TO: Committee on Government Operations and Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: March 14, 2024
TIME: 3:45pm
PLACE: Room 225

RE: HB2614 HD1 Relating to Renewable Energy

Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, manufacturers and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

Dear Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committee,

Lowering the administrative barriers to the deployment of energy generation and storage technology has a range of benefits for Hawaii's food systems and our state.

Removes an Unnecessary Road Block to More Sustainable and Resilient Energy in Hawaii -

In a recent meeting many HFIA members were asked, "How would state incentivized solar and batteries positively impact your business, and/or the food industry in Hawaii? What is the main obstacle preventing you from transitioning to renewable energy for your business?" Overwhelming the answer that received the most votes was, "Simplify permit zoning approval processing." This reply received more than 6 times as many votes as "Money, credits, incentives." Existing and future tax credits and incentives are an important part of creating a sustainable energy future for our state, but right now what businesses need in order to allow them to make the switch is a less onerous permitting process.

Making Essential Industries More Sustainable Makes Our State More Sustainable –

To make progress on our State and national greenhouse reduction goals, it's important to address energy usage in essential industries. Our essential industries are those that are necessary for our residents to live and function. These industries, including the food industry, have certain energy demands that must be met in order for our state to run. If we can meet these energy demands more sustainably our entire state becomes more sustainable.

Make Our Food Industry More Resilient and Our State More Resilient -

All residents in our State rely on the food supply chain to feed them in good times and in times of crisis. Increasing the use of energy generation and storage within our state's food systems means that if the power grid is interrupted during a time of crisis these essential businesses can continue to function. Making the permitting process for energy generation and storage less of an obstacle will allow for increased usage in the food industry. This can be especially beneficial in areas that are more susceptible to disruptions in power supply and transportation routes in times of crisis. Creating a food supply chain that is more energy self-sufficient and resilient should be a priority in order to make mass feeding more feasible and equitable in case of a natural disaster or other crisis.

Streamlining the Permitting Process Can Be Done With Little To No Cost to the State -

Increasing the sustainability and resiliency of our state is a goal we all share. Unfortunately, the current system of permitting for energy generation and storage has created unnecessary obstacles to meeting that goal. Streamlining this process will move the state in the right direction, without costing the state. Creating a streamlined, consistent, permitting process is an efficient way to ensure that all regulations, rules, and safety guidelines are adhered to, and can help relieve some of the backlog in the Counties' overburdened permitting systems. This requires no investment from the State, and will encourage growth in key areas necessary for meeting our de-carbonization and resiliency goals.

We encourage the committee to pass this measure and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.



To: The Senate Committee on Energy and Economic Development, and Tourism (EET)
and
The Senate Committee on Government Operations (GVO)
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024, 3:45pm

In strong support of HB2614 HD1

Aloha Chairs DeCoite and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Wakai and Gabbard, and members of the EET and GOV committees,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org is in **strong support of HB2614 HD1** which requires government entities in the State that issue building permits to implement SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform that verifies code compliance and issues permits to licensed contractors for solar distributed energy resource systems in real-time by 1/1/2025. This measure further requires government entities in the State that issue building permits in areas served by an investor-owned electric utility to adopt a self-certification process for solar distributed energy resource systems that are not SolarAPP+ compatible.

HB2614 HD1 addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. This bill offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline solar permitting ***without compromising on safety***. Addressing these permitting issues is essential if Hawaii is to achieve its decarbonization goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.

This measure is a true game-changer. In particular, by establishing a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent, HB2614 HD1 will streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects. **It is noted that the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, (NREL), developed SolarAPP+ in a collaborative partnership with industry and the building safety community, with funding from the U.S. Department of Energy.** Currently, Hawaii's families are often waiting more than 8 months to receive their permit, with some families reporting waits *up to a year or more*. This is unacceptable and must be remedied. By implementing provisions in HB2614 HD1, there will be auto-approval, proceed-to-build for all solar and storage projects that qualify for the online submittal. In jurisdictions in California

already using the SolarAPP+, they have shortened waits for permits from months to a *single day*.

With the highest electrical rates in the country and the impacts of climate change already being felt, we need to move forward on smart solutions that will help to stimulate our economy and make us more resilient. The current system for processing permits is untenable and a detriment to Hawaii achieving our clean energy goals. This measure will remove unnecessary barriers and move us to the clean-energy economy we need.

Rooftop solar power reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and as such, is a key tool in our fight against the climate crisis. **HB2614 HD1 is a crucial step needed to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.** We must remove the unnecessary roadblocks and burdens to installing solar plus storage systems so that all may access the benefits from solar energy.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** for this very important legislation.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

March 14, 2024

3:45 PM

Conference Room 225

In **SUPPORT** of **HB2614 HD1**: Relating to Renewable Energy

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committees,

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS** HB2614 HD1, which will help to enhance our islands' climate resiliency by helping to expand our distributed renewable energy infrastructure in a timely and equitable manner.

Hawai'i's continued dependence on fossil fuels not only contributes to the climate crisis that has already reached our islands' shores – in the form of historic floods, prolonged droughts, wildfires, repeated coral bleaching events, the proliferation of invasive species, and the extinction of native species, among others – but also subjects our residents and businesses to the ever-increasing costs of fossil fuels, exacerbating the financial instability faced by so many who call these islands home. Moreover, our dependence on a centralized grid can render us particularly vulnerable to power outages caused by extreme weather or other events that compromise centralized energy producing facilities. **Accordingly, the equitable development of distributed renewable energy infrastructure, such as distributed solar energy systems, is an important and necessary strategy to help reduce our islands' contributions to the climate crisis, free our utility costs from the ballooning price of fossil fuels, and ensure greater energy resiliency should a climate change-related extreme weather event impact our islands' largely centralized energy infrastructure.**

The provisions contained in this measure, including those requiring the use of readily available app technology and empowering licensed professionals to self-certify solar and energy storage products, can reduce the cost, time, and risk in realizing the benefits of greater distributed renewable energy infrastructure throughout the islands. The Sierra Club appreciates that this measure may also particularly benefit those that have not yet been able to install or participate in a solar and energy storage project. HB2614 HD1 is therefore an important step forward to ensure a timely and equitable transition towards a cheaper, more resilient, and climate-friendly energy future for our islands.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i respectfully urges the Committees to **PASS** HB2614 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 8:51:58 AM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan B Roberts Emery	Testifying for Green Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of Committee, as well as, Chair McKelvey, and Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of Committee,

The Green Party of Hawai'i stands in strong support of HB2614 HD1 !

The time has come to streamline solar permitting, and repair the broken system that is stunting our ability to move forward on clean renewable energy. The solarAPP+, will decrease wait times for permits from months to days, our communities need support in streamlining the process for solar energy.

Rooftop solar is also key in Hawai'i for guiding us to a secure energy future. We ask that you be on the right side of the solar movement and vote Yes on HB2614 HD1.

Mahalo for your time,

Susan RobertsEmery

Co -chair GPH



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

Testimony of The Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) Regarding HB2614 HD1, Relating to Renewable Energy, Before the Senate Committees on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism and Government Operations

Thursday, March 14, 2024

Aloha Chairs DeCoite and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Wakai and Gabbard, and committee members:

The Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) **strongly supports HB2614 HD1**, which contains measures to streamline and remove permitting barriers to distributed solar and energy storage projects critical to achieving Hawaii’s clean energy transition.

HSEA members include the majority of locally owned and operated solar and renewable energy companies doing business in the state of Hawaii along with leading global cleantech manufacturers and service providers that invest and sell in our market. We employ thousands of residents in diverse green economy jobs and advocate for policies that help Hawaii achieve critical climate and resilience goals by enabling residents and businesses to invest in and benefit from the transition to clean energy.

While significant progress has been made at the municipal level, permitting bottlenecks and backlogs remain problematic for significant segments of our community. These bottlenecks add unnecessary cost, time, and risk to Hawaii’s renewable energy transition impacting all residents and businesses, particularly those that have not yet been able to install or participate in a solar and energy storage project. As new federal, state, and local programs are introduced to bring the cost of solar and energy storage systems down for residents, and systems become more available and accessible to underserved communities, removing permitting obstacles offers a significant opportunity.

HB2614 HD1 aims to address ongoing permitting challenges in several significant ways:

Firstly, the bill requires building permit issuing authorities to adopt the SolarAPP+ automated online permitting tool or an equivalent system. Developed by the U.S. Department of Energy’s National Renewable Energy Laboratory, SolarAPP+ expedites the processing and approval of applications in real time. This adoption benefits all stakeholders involved by reducing compliance risks, cutting time and costs, and freeing up resources for officials to focus on larger projects. By streamlining the process, smaller projects can be approved more



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

efficiently, allowing customers to install and benefit from solar and battery systems sooner while also reducing administrative burdens and taxpayer expenses.

Secondly, the bill eliminates the cumbersome materials and methods (MM#) review process, replacing it with standardized national product safety certification requirements. This change not only reduces delays and costs for residents and businesses seeking to adopt solar and energy storage but also fosters innovation by removing barriers to the introduction of new, more cost-effective, and efficient technologies.

Lastly, the bill introduces a self-certification pathway for projects that do not qualify for the SolarAPP+ online permitting tool. If a licensed design professional certifies that a solar project's plans comply with all applicable laws and codes, the project can proceed to the construction phase without unnecessary delays, provided that it still undergoes final inspection. This streamlined process accelerates overall project timelines and complements existing efforts at the municipal level to improve efficiency.

HSEA and other stakeholders have collaborated extensively with city and county administrations to enhance permitting processes. While progress has been made, there is still room for improvement. This bill offers a clear solution to save time and resources for all parties involved, contributing to Hawaii's renewable energy goals and carbon reduction targets.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to testify in **strong support of HB2614 HD1.**

Respectfully,

/s/ Rocky Mould,

Executive Director



**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

March 14, 2024 at 3:45 PM
Conference Room 225

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2614 HD1

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Chair McKelvey, and members of the Committees:

Blue Planet Foundation **supports HB 2614 HD1**, which will streamline permitting for rooftop solar panels. This bill will increase the adoption of solar energy— helping us meet our climate goals, improve grid resiliency, and provide utility savings to homeowners and ratepayers.

The State of Hawai'i has committed to a decisive and irreversible transition away from fossil fuels. The legislature has passed aggressive carbon reduction goals, including a mandate to achieve 100% renewable electricity by 2045 (Act 97 of 2015), and a goal to be carbon-negative by 2045 (Act 15 of 2018). Setting these bold targets is important, but alone it is insufficient. Hawai'i needs implementation-focused policies, such as improving the process and efficacy for solar permitting, if we hope to achieve our clean energy and climate goals.

Hawaiian Electric's current plan for achieving Hawai'i's 100% renewable energy goal includes power generation from the rooftop of nearly every home across the islands. Over 106,000 homes on O'ahu, Maui, and Hawai'i island¹ and 6,000 homes on Kauai² have already installed rooftop solar. Residential rooftop solar is a proven tool to help homeowners and renters save money and reduces the need for utility investments in the power grid. When paired with batteries, rooftop solar panels can also increase resiliency in neighborhoods, helping homes keep the lights on and communication powered during a blackout.

Adjustments to the current permitting process will ensure a more timely transition to solar energy to help us meet our clean energy goals. Solar also provides additional benefits. Residential rooftop solar is a proven tool to help homeowners and renters save money and reduces the need for utility investments in the power grid, which are paid for by all ratepayers. When paired with batteries, rooftop solar panels can also increase resiliency in neighborhoods, helping homes keep the lights on and communication powered during a blackout.

¹ "Cumulative Installed PV - As of December 2023" *Hawaiian Electric Company*. Accessed January 27, 2024. (hawaiianelectric.com/documents/clean_energy_hawaii/clean_energy_facts/pv_summary_4Q_2023.pdf)

² Per KIUC testimony on SB 781 from 2023, page 12, see:

https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2023/Testimony/SB781_TESTIMONY_EET-GVO_02-09-23_.PDF

For these reasons, we support HB 2614 as a common-sense measure to advance the adoption of solar energy and battery storage systems throughout Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Citizens' Climate Lobby Hawai'i
hi.ccl.lobby@gmail.com
cclhawaii.org



March 13, 2024

SUPPORT FOR HB2614 HD1 – Relating to Renewable Energy

Aloha Chairs DeCoite and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Wakai and Gabbard, and Committee Members,

Citizens' Climate Lobby Hawai'i supports HB2614 HD1, which "Requires government entities in the State that issue building permits to implement, by 1/1/2025, SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform that verifies code compliance and issues permits to licensed contractors for solar distributed energy resource systems in real time. Requires government entities in the State that issue building permits in areas served by an investor-owned electric utility to adopt a self-certification process for solar distributed energy resource systems that are not SolarAPP+ compatible."

HB2614 HD1 would address existing red tape and inefficiencies in the solar permitting process. The bill will save homeowners and businesses installation costs for solar and make the installation process more efficient. In doing so, the bill would lead to a more generation resources, resulting in a more stable grid with fewer blackouts while also lowering the State's carbon emissions from buildings.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Please support HB2614 HD1.

Respectfully,

Citizens Climate Lobby Hawai'i

Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy organization focused on national policies to address climate change solutions. CCL Hawaii's 1000+ members are part of a 180,000+ global organization. For more information, visit citizensclimatelobby.org.



Green Power Projects LLC
Alan Lennard, Managing Director
P.O. Box 818
Haleiwa, HI 96712
T 808.381.3447
E. alan.lennard@greenpowerprojects.com

www.greenpowerprojects.com

Testimony of Alan Lennard
Managing Director of Green Power Projects LLC
e-mail: alan.lennard@greenpowerprojects.com

In Strong Support for HB2614 HD1 On Solar Permitting

THE SENATE
KA 'AHA KENEKOA

THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Thursday, March 14, 2024
TIME: 3:45 PM
PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
TIMESLOT: GVO

Aloha Chairs DeCoite and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Wakai and Gabbard, and esteemed committee members:

My name is Alan Lennard. I am the Managing director of Green Power Projects LLC. Green Power Projects LLC is a Solar project facilitation company working towards 100% Renewable Energy capacity in Hawaii. Our vision is a Hawaiian energy economy based 100% on renewable sources indigenous to Hawaii.

I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2614 HD1**, which presents a series of pragmatic measures to address longstanding issues with permitting. The bill:

- Requires the adoption of SolarAPP+ or an equivalent platform to facilitate efficient online permitting for smaller-scale, residential solar and energy storage projects.
- Eliminates the cumbersome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems.
- Establishes a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not meet the criteria for SolarAPP+ (or its equivalent).

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to testify in **strong support of HB2614 HD1**.

Respectfully,

Alan Lennard –dig signature

Alan Lennard
Managing Director
Green Power Projects LLC
P.O. Box 818
Haleiwa, HI 96712-0818

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 3:39:38 AM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Hamilton	Testifying for Inception Financial LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs DeCoite and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Wakai and Gabbard, and esteemed committee members:

I am writing to express my ***strong support for HB2614 HD1***, which presents a series of pragmatic measures to address longstanding issues with permitting. The bill:

- Requires the adoption of SolarAPP+ or an equivalent platform to facilitate efficient online permitting for smaller-scale, residential solar and energy storage projects.

- Eliminates the cumbersome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems.

- Establishes a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not meet the criteria for SolarAPP+ (or its equivalent).

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to testify in ***strong support of HB2614 HD1***.

Respectfully,

Ryan Hamilton

Managing Partner

Inception Financial LLC



**Hawaii
Legislative
Council
Members**

Joell Edwards
Wainiha Country
Market
Hanalei

Russell Ruderman
Island Naturals
Hilo/Kona

Dr. Andrew Johnson
Niko Niko Family
Dentistry
Honolulu

Robert H. Pahia
Hawaii Taro Farm
Wailuku

Maile Meyer
Na Mea Hawaii
Honolulu

Tina Wildberger
Kihei Ice
Kihei

L. Malu Shizue Miki
Abundant Life
Natural Foods
Hilo

Kim Coco Iwamoto
Enlightened Energy
Honolulu

Chamber of
Sustainable
Commerce
P.O. Box 22394
Honolulu, HI
96823

Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Comm. on Government Operations

Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Comm. on Energy, Economic Development & Tourism

Thursday, March 14, 2024
3:45 PM, Room 225

RE: **HB2614 HD1** Automated Permitting for Solar Systems - **Support**

Dear Chairs McKelvy & DeCoite, Vice Chairs Gabbard & Wakai & Members of both Committees,

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce represents over 100 small businesses across the State that strive for a triple bottom line: people, planet and prosperity; we know Hawaii can strengthen its economy without hurting workers, consumers, communities or the environment.

This is why we support HB2614 HD1, which requires government entities in the State that issue building permits to implement, by 1/1/2025, SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform that verifies code compliance and issues permits to licensed contractors for solar distributed energy resource systems in real time, and requires government entities in the State that issue building permits in areas served by an investor-owned electric utility to adopt a self-certification process for solar distributed energy resource systems that are not SolarAPP+ compatible.

HB2614 HD1 will address longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. Currently families are often waiting more than a year to receive their permit. This is unacceptable and must be remedied. By implementing provisions in HB2614 HD1, there will be auto-approval, proceed-to-build for all solar and storage projects that qualify for the online submittal.

HB2614 HD1 contains common-sense measures that will streamline solar permitting. This is an important step to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient. Rooftop solar power is a key tool in the fight against climate breakdown. HB2614 HD1 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its goal to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 3:31:26 PM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steve Parsons	Testifying for Kauai Climate ACTION Coalition, Small Biz Owner	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Trusted Hawaii Lawmakers,

We strongly support this bill! This should be a no-brainer yes! If there's opposition, I would be very suspicious of that or they are not informed on the important solutions like this that we have to implement ASAP to fight climate change!

Steve parsons, Hanapepe Kauai

KCAC, Surfrider foundation member, Hawaii EV member, Sm Biz owner.

**Building Decarbonization Task Force
Hawai'i Environmental Change Agents**

HawaiiChangeAgents@gmail.com
hawaiichangeagents.org

March 12, 2024

SUPPORT FOR HB2614 HD1 – Relating to Renewable Energy

Aloha Chairs DeCoite and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Wakai and Gabbard, and Committee Members,

The Building Decarbonization Task Force of the Hawai'i Environmental Change Agents supports HB2614 HD1, which “Requires government entities in the State that issue building permits to implement, by 1/1/2025, SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform that verifies code compliance and issues permits to licensed contractors for solar distributed energy resource systems in real time. Requires government entities in the State that issue building permits in areas served by an investor-owned electric utility to adopt a self-certification process for solar distributed energy resource systems that are not SolarAPP+ compatible.”

Hawai'i Environmental Change Agents (HECA) consists of ten task forces; one of which is the Building Decarbonization Task Force. This task force supports **HB2614 HD1** because it would address existing red tape and inefficiencies in the solar permitting process. Thus the bill will save homeowners and businesses installation costs for solar and make the installation process more efficient. In doing so, the bill would lead to a more generation resources, resulting in a more stable grid with fewer blackouts while also lowering the State's carbon emissions from buildings.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Please support HB2614 HD1.

Mahalo,
Building Decarbonization Task Force of HECA (by Paul Bernstein)

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 1:06:59 PM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
P Kuromoto	Testifying for Sunaru Inc dba Solar Help Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs DeCoite and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Wakai and Gabbard, and esteemed committee members:

Sunaru Inc dba Solar Help Hawaii stands in ***strong support of HB2614 HD1***, which presents a series of pragmatic measures to address longstanding issues with permitting. The bill:

- Requires the adoption of SolarAPP+ or an equivalent platform to facilitate efficient online permitting for smaller-scale, residential solar and energy storage projects.
- Eliminates the cumbersome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems.
- Establishes a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not meet the criteria for SolarAPP+ (or its equivalent).

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to testify in ***strong support of HB2614 HD1***.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

Testimony in Support of HB 2614 HD1: RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

TO: Senate Committees on Government Operations, and Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism
FROM: Rob Van Tassell, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawai'i
Hearing: **Thursday, 3/14/24; 3:45 pm; CR 225 and Videoconference**

Chair McKelvey, Chair, DeCoite, Vice Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members, Committees on Government Operations, and Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **support for HB 2614 HD1**, which requires government entities that issue building permits to implement Solar APP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform to verify code compliance and issue permits. It creates a self-certification pathway for solar projects that are not SolarAPP+ compatible. I am Rob Van Tassell with Catholic Charities Hawai'i.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawai'i for over 75 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, families, homeless and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy to the most vulnerable of the people in Hawai'i.

We already see the impacts of climate change in Hawai'i—historic flooding, droughts, wildfires, etc. As climate change continues, it will often impact on the most vulnerable of our citizens, as we saw in the Lahaina fire. Financial instability increases which impacts both on residents and businesses. **Catholic Charities Hawai'i is gravely concerned about these impacts on the low-come, ALICE, and special need populations that we serve.**

We need to take action now to streamline processes to promote the equitable development of renewal energy infrastructure. This bill would help Hawaii to achieve its goal of 100% renewable energy by December 31, 2045. It would lower the administrative barriers that have limited the development of residential and commercial-scale distributed energy resources. It would encourage more timely development of lower cost renewal energy systems. Implementing SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent would streamline the permit process and greatly reduce the wait time for a permit

We urge your support of this bill to expand renewable energy options that will ensure greater energy resilience in the face of the heightened risk of climate change-related extreme weather events in the future. We need to plan now to promote options that will give our local residents hope for the future.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i deeply appreciates your attention to ways to combat climate change. We urge your support of this bill. If you have any questions, please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson at (808) 527-4813.



CLARENCE T. C. CHING CAMPUS • 1822 Ke'eaumoku Street, Honolulu, HI 96822
Phone (808) 527-4813 •



HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 10:05:04 AM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julian Kahumana	Testifying for Alternate Energy Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Legislators,

I am writing in strong support of HB2614 HD1, which would require all government entities in Hawaii that issue building permits to implement an online automated permitting platform like SolarAPP+ by January 1, 2025. As an engineer at Alternate Energy Inc., a leading solar energy company in Hawaii, I have seen firsthand how crucial it is to streamline the permitting process to accelerate the adoption of clean energy in our state.

Hawaii has set an ambitious goal of achieving 100% renewable energy by 2045. To meet this target, we must dramatically increase the deployment of distributed solar energy systems on homes and businesses across the islands. However, the current permitting process often adds substantial time, cost and frustration to these projects. Manually processing permits can take weeks or even months, significantly delaying installations.

By requiring the use of instant online permitting solutions like SolarAPP+, HB2614 would eliminate this bottleneck. These tools can verify code compliance and issue permits to licensed contractors in real-time. Hundreds of jurisdictions across the nation have already implemented SolarAPP+ with great success. The legislation smartly includes a self-certification process for any systems not currently compatible with SolarAPP+. This bill will make it faster, easier and more affordable for Hawaii residents and businesses to go solar.

Accelerating clean energy adoption is critical for Hawaii's environment, economy and energy security. Rooftop solar reduces greenhouse gas emissions, creates good local jobs, and makes our grid more resilient. HB2614 removes red tape to help us reap these benefits faster.

I urge you to pass this important bill. Let's use technology and common sense to cut through bureaucracy and unleash Hawaii's renewable energy potential. Our climate and our communities cannot wait.

Sincerely,

Julian Kahumana Engineer, Alternate Energy Inc.

March 14, 2024

TO: Chair Angus L.K. McKelvey
Vice Chair Mike Gabbard
Members of the Committee on Government Operations

Chair Lynn DeCoite
Vice Chair Glenn Wakai
Members of the Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism

FR: Noelani Derrickson
Public Policy & Business Development

RE: HB2614 HD1 Relating to Renewable Energy - **SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding HB2614 HD1, which requires government entities to implement online automated platforms and streamline permitting processes for residential solar and storage.

Tesla **strongly supports HB2614 HD1**, as it addresses the key obstacles for continued solar and storage growth in Hawaii – the time it takes to permit and install residential solar and storage systems.

Across the country, local permitting processes can be complex and costly for contractors and consumers alike, sometimes taking many months for a simple solar permit. Although we acknowledge and appreciate recent improvements in residential solar and storage permitting review in Hawaii, additional process improvements as proposed in HB2614 HD1 are important to ensure Hawaii can meet its climate goals and support residential resilience and reliability.

HB2614 HD1 requires local government adoption of an automatic and online permitting system, such as [SolarAPP+](#), which can review 14 times more solar permits than traditional over-the-

counter processes and is free to use. SolarAPP+ was developed for local governments by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), in coordination with Underwriters Laboratory, the International Code Council, the National Fire Protection Association, and local governments. According to NREL, projects submitted through SolarAPP+ are permitted, installed, and inspected on average 13 business days faster than projects using the conventional process. As of 2024, SolarApp+ has been adopted in 167 local jurisdictions, in 11 states.

HB2614 HD1 also requires local government adoption of a self-certification process for solar generation systems that deems a permit application approved and allows applicants to proceed to build, provided that, (1) the local government receives written notice from the project owner confirming ability to pay permitting fees, (2) the solar generation system is installed by a licensed architect or engineer, and (3) the installation of the system complies with all applicable codes and laws. Several major cities, such as Chicago and San Diego, offer self-certification processes, which help reduce permitting delays, particularly for systems that may be outside of the scope of SolarAPP+ or equivalent automatic and online permitting systems.

Thank you,

Noelani Derrickson



Before the Senate Committees on Government Operations, and Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism

Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 3:45 p.m.

Testimony in Support of HB2614 HD1: Relating to Renewable Energy

Chairs McKelvey and DeCoite, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Wakai, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support and provide comments on House Bill 2614 HD1.

Hawai'i Energy works to empower island families and businesses on behalf of the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to make smart energy choices to reduce energy consumption, save money, and pursue a 100% clean energy future. Energy efficiency – the energy we do not use – is the cheapest option to help us achieve our 100% clean energy goal by eliminating waste and being more efficient.

Hawai'i Energy applauds the legislature's efforts to support the continued pursuit of the clean energy targets included in the State's Clean Energy Initiative, which calls for Hawai'i to achieve 100% clean energy by 2045. This bill improves the permitting process for solar and energy storage projects – projects that are imperative to Hawai'i's ability to achieve its clean energy goals.

Projects that help the state progress toward its renewable energy, energy efficiency, and climate resiliency goals can run into delays for a variety of reasons – something Hawai'i Energy is certainly familiar with – and permitting issues are a longstanding obstacle. HB2614 HD1 addresses solar and energy storage project permitting issues by establishing a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects; removing the burdensome materials and methods requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems; and creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent).

We support common sense efforts to address permitting issues that cause delays for solar and energy storage projects that are important to Hawai'i's clean energy future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2614 HD1.

Sincerely,
Caroline Carl
Executive Director
Hawai'i Energy

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 10:25:50 AM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tod C. Aeby	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings.

I live on the windward side and have been trying to install solar panels, for several years. The permitting process has frequently caused me to miss construction windows, forcing me to start over and again face long delays. I strongly support HB2614 HD1 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. HB2614 HD1 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline permitting. This is an important step to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.

Lets move Hawaii into the 21st century and help make solar permitting a reasonably simple and quick process.

thank you

Tod C. Aeby, MD

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 6:22:01 PM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The time has come for online automated permitting to overcome permitting which takes a year or more. Permitting should not be a roadblock. Please support.

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 12:01:48 AM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
L. Osterer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Rooftop solar power is a key tool in the fight against climate change. HB2614 HD1 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals! I strongly support HB2614 HD1 to streamline permitting. This is an important step to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.

Solar energy is most accessible in Hawaii as an important role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating climate change. Coupled with battery storage, it also provides resiliency with a backup energy source for power failures due to storms or other emergencies. We must remove the unnecessary delays and burdens to installing solar plus storage systems so that all may access and benefits from solar energy! Currently families are often waiting more than a year to receive their permit. This is unacceptable and must be remedied.

HB2614 HD1 establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects. By implementing provisions in HB2614 HD1, there would be auto-approval for all solar and storage projects that qualify for the online submittal.

Thank you for your careful consideration.

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 2:52:42 AM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

When i first read about the Calif GREAT bill which was a game-changer from what was a very broken permitting system. Installing Solar could take up to a year but after the passage of a similar bill people could get their solar permits in a day! Hawaii could have been finding the benefits of the bill last year but the bill died because of one Senator who let it die in Committee.. **HB2614 HD1 directly addresses ongoing permitting challenges** with installing solar panels. As some of you may already be aware, permit approvals in some cases have been delayed for more than a year! HB2614 HD1 will change that. In jurisdictions on the continent that have already begun using the solarAPP+, wait times for permits have decreased from months to a single day!

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 6:33:42 AM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kate Thompson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear hard working Legislators,

Mahalo for your service during this busy legislative session.

This bill is about down to earth, practical.

I strongly **SUPPORT** HB 2614 HD1 and I hope you will support this bill too.

HB2614 HD1 directly addresses ongoing permitting challenges with installing solar panels. As some of you may already be aware, permit approvals in some cases have been delayed for more than a year! HB2614 HD1 will change that. In jurisdictions on the continent that have already begun using the solarAPP+, wait times for permits have decreased from months to a single day

Mahalo,

Kate Thompson

350.org member

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 6:41:42 AM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Camp	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB2614 HD1 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals.

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 8:02:02 AM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Culbertson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representatives!

This is ***HUGE!*** I am so glad to help HB2614 make it all the way through and hopefully become law. It will be a complete game-changer from what is now, a very broken permitting system that is jeopardizing our ability to move to truly clean renewable energy at the pace that is needed to meaningfully address climate breakdown.

Let's all benefit from Hawaii's abundant sunshine!

R A Culbertson

Honokaa

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 8:04:34 AM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Barker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members,

I am writing to respectfully as that you support HB2614 HD1 which will streamline permitting for soloar and storage.

Thank you for your attnetion and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 8:39:31 AM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniela Escontrela	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB2614 HD1 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. HB2614 HD1 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline permitting. This is an important step to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 11:17:05 AM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glenn Choy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm Glenn Choy of Honolulu. I strongly support this bill.

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 12:34:48 PM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Georgia L Hoopes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB2614 HD1 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. HB2614 HD1 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline permitting. This is an important step to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 12:42:53 PM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Having seen the incredible delays and frustration that friends and neighbors have gone through trying to get their solar energy systems permitted and connected, and the financial burden they have suffered from being unable to use their systems for many months after paying for the panels and the installation, I offer my unqualified support for HB2614.

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 2:17:43 PM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I'm born and raised in the Hawaiian Kingdom. I live in Mō'ili'ili. I'm writing in **STRONG SUPPORT HB2614 HD1**.

- I strongly support HB2614 HD1 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. HB2614 HD1 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline permitting. This is an important step to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.

- As a renewable source of power, solar energy has an important role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating climate change, which is critical to protecting humans, wildlife, and ecosystems. Solar coupled with battery storage also provides resiliency by providing a backup energy source when storms or other emergencies cause a power failure. We must remove the unnecessary roadblocks and burdens to installing solar plus storage systems so that all may access and benefits from solar energy!

- HB2614 HD1 establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects. Currently families are often waiting more than a year to receive their permit. This is unacceptable and must be remedied. By implementing provisions in HB2614 HD1, there will be auto-approval, proceed-to-build for all solar and storage projects that qualify for the online submittal.

- Rooftop solar power is a key tool in the fight against climate change. HB2614 HD1 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals!

me ke aloha 'āina,
Nanea Lo, Mō'ili'ili, O'ahu

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 2:41:27 PM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roy Skaggs	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chairs DeCoite and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Wakai and Gabbard, and esteemed committee members,

I am writing to express my ***strong support for HB2614 HD1***, which presents a series of pragmatic measures to address longstanding issues with permitting. The bill:

- Requires the adoption of SolarAPP+ or an equivalent platform to facilitate efficient online permitting for smaller-scale, residential solar and energy storage projects.
- Eliminates the cumbersome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems.
- Establishes a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not meet the criteria for SolarAPP+ (or its equivalent).

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to testify in ***strong support of HB2614 HD1***.

Mahalo!

Roy Skaggs

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 2:44:40 PM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill and ask you to as well. Since the accelerated climate crisis needs immediate attention, streamlining permitting for renewable energy as in this bill, will help Hawaii meet its climate goals. We need to implement solar projects for anyone willing to install it asap. Mahalo,

Bobbie Best, Wailuku

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 2:50:28 PM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
wei lun lian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs DeCoite and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Wakai and Gabbard, and esteemed committee members:

I am writing to express my ***strong support for HB2614 HD1***, which presents a series of pragmatic measures to address longstanding issues with permitting. The bill:

- Requires the adoption of SolarAPP+ or an equivalent platform to facilitate efficient online permitting for smaller-scale, residential solar and energy storage projects.
- Eliminates the cumbersome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems.
- Establishes a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not meet the criteria for SolarAPP+ (or its equivalent).

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to testify in ***strong support of HB2614 HD1***.

Respectfully,

Weilun lian

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 3:02:28 PM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeffrey Lum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs DeCoite and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Wakai and Gabbard, and esteemed committee members:

I am writing to express my ***strong support for HB2614 HD1***, which presents a series of pragmatic measures to address longstanding issues with permitting. The bill:

- Requires the adoption of SolarAPP+ or an equivalent platform to facilitate efficient online permitting for smaller-scale, residential solar and energy storage projects.
- Eliminates the cumbersome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems.
- Establishes a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not meet the criteria for SolarAPP+ (or its equivalent).

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to testify in ***strong support of HB2614 HD1***.

aloha, Jeff Lum

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 3:23:18 PM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yuko Ahina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs DeCoite and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Wakai and Gabbard, and esteemed committee members:

I am writing to express my ***strong support for HB2614 HD1***, which presents a series of pragmatic measures to address longstanding issues with permitting. The bill:

- Requires the adoption of SolarAPP+ or an equivalent platform to facilitate efficient online permitting for smaller-scale, residential solar and energy storage projects.
- Eliminates the cumbersome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems.
- Establishes a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not meet the criteria for SolarAPP+ (or its equivalent).

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to testify in ***strong support of HB2614 HD1***.

Respectfully, Yuko Ahina

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 3:35:50 PM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Radford Nakamura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs DeCoite and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Wakai and Gabbard, and esteemed committee members:

I am writing to express my *strong support for HB2614 HD1*, which presents a series of pragmatic measures to address longstanding issues with permitting. The bill:

- Requires the adoption of SolarAPP+ or an equivalent platform to facilitate efficient online permitting for smaller-scale, residential solar and energy storage projects.
- Eliminates the cumbersome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems.
- Establishes a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not meet the criteria for SolarAPP+ (or its equivalent).

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to testify in *strong support of HB2614 HD1*.

Respectfully,

Radford Nakamura

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 4:39:19 PM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Grandinetti	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB 2614

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 6:00:06 PM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB2614 HD1 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. HB2614 HD1 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline permitting. This is an important step to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.

- As a renewable source of power, solar energy has an important role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating climate change, which is critical to protecting humans, wildlife, and ecosystems. Solar coupled with battery storage also provides resiliency by providing a backup energy source when storms or other emergencies cause a power failure. We must remove the unnecessary roadblocks and burdens to installing solar plus storage systems so that all may access and benefits from solar energy!

- HB2614 HD1 establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects. Currently families are often waiting more than a year to receive their permit. This is unacceptable and must be remedied. By implementing provisions in HB2614 HD1, there will be auto-approval, proceed-to-build for all solar and storage projects that qualify for the online submittal.

- Rooftop solar power is a key tool in the fight against climate change. HB2614 HD1 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals!

Thank you for your consideration,

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 9:50:13 PM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Miles	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs DeCoite and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Wakai and Gabbard, and esteemed committee members:

I am writing to express my ***strong support for HB2614 HD1***, which presents a series of pragmatic measures to address longstanding issues with permitting. The bill:

- Requires the adoption of SolarAPP+ or an equivalent platform to facilitate efficient online permitting for smaller-scale, residential solar and energy storage projects.
- Eliminates the cumbersome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems.
- Establishes a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not meet the criteria for SolarAPP+ (or its equivalent).

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to testify in ***strong support of HB2614 HD1***.

Sincerely,

Miles Yoshimoto

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 11:23:36 PM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dylan Ramos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a taxpayer and voter born and raised in Hawai'i, I support this bill.

Mahalo,
Dylan Ramos
96816

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 6:43:25 AM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leilani Schultz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs DeCoite and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Wakai and Gabbard, and esteemed committee members:

I am writing to express my ***strong support for HB2614 HD1***, which presents a series of pragmatic measures to address longstanding issues with permitting. The bill:

- Requires the adoption of SolarAPP+ or an equivalent platform to facilitate efficient online permitting for smaller-scale, residential solar and energy storage projects.
- Eliminates the cumbersome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems.
- Establishes a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not meet the criteria for SolarAPP+ (or its equivalent).

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to testify in ***strong support of HB2614 HD1***.

Respectfully,

Leilani Schultz

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 7:26:46 AM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Furuta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs DeCoite and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Wakai and Gabbard, and esteemed committee members:

I am writing to express my ***strong support for HB2614 HD1***, which presents a series of pragmatic measures to address longstanding issues with permitting. The bill:

- Requires the adoption of SolarAPP+ or an equivalent platform to facilitate efficient online permitting for smaller-scale, residential solar and energy storage projects.
- Eliminates the cumbersome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems.
- Establishes a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not meet the criteria for SolarAPP+ (or its equivalent).

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to testify in ***strong support of HB2614 HD1***.

Respectfully,

Justin Furuta

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 7:38:11 AM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacy K. Tang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2614 HD1. To vote against it will only further impede progress on Hawai'i's renewable energy and climate resilience goals, which are seriously behind where they need to be. We need to reduce costs for Hawai'i's residents and this streamlining of permitting will help that. Our family installed a PV system with powerwall batteries a few years back and it took us over a year to get the permission to install them! Ridiculous! Rooftop solar power, should be on every building in the state. It is vital to fighting climate change and the red tape to get it done, needs to be cut, ASAP.

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 7:49:20 AM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Faith Texeira	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support HB2614

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 9:25:00 AM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nadine Ferraro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB2614!

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 9:06:28 AM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Micha'el Leventhal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I trust this message finds you well.

I strongly support HB2614 HD1, which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. HB2614 HD1 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline permitting. This is an important step to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.

As a renewable source of power, solar energy has an important role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating climate change, which is critical to protecting humans, wildlife, and ecosystems. Solar coupled with battery storage also provides resiliency by providing a backup energy source when storms or other emergencies cause a power failure.

We must remove the unnecessary roadblocks and burdens to installing solar plus storage systems so that all may access and benefits from solar energy!Mahalo nui for protecting the health of our community.

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 11:19:44 AM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Gregory	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 1:38:51 PM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lori Ann Saunders	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs DeCoite and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Wakai and Gabbard, and esteemed committee members:

I am writing to express my *strong support for HB2614 HD1*, which presents a series of pragmatic measures to address longstanding issues with permitting. The bill:

- Requires the adoption of SolarAPP+ or an equivalent platform to facilitate efficient online permitting for smaller-scale, residential solar and energy storage projects.
- Eliminates the cumbersome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems.
- Establishes a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not meet the criteria for SolarAPP+ (or its equivalent).

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to testify in *strong support of HB2614 HD1*.

Respectfully,

Lori Ann Saunders

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 2:08:19 PM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolyn Eaton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Löwenstein-Jensen, Vice Chair Cochran, and members of the Committee,

My name is Carolyn Eaton and I am a Honolulu resident. This measure should safely streamline the processing of permits to install solar. If we as island communities, in such peril from climate warming, are to keep pace with our targets, we should take advantage of this opportunity.

Mahalo for your hard work and for your support of HB2614.

LATE

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 6:59:44 PM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANDREW ISODA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB2614 HD1 directly addresses ongoing permitting challenges with installing solar panels. As some of you may already be aware, permit approvals in some cases have been delayed for more than a year! HB2614 HD1 will change that. In jurisdictions on the continent that have already begun using the solarAPP+, wait times for permits have decreased from months to a single day!

Pass this bill!

Mahalo,

Andrew Isoda
Lahaina, Mau'i

LATE

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 11:26:34 AM

Testimony for EET on 3/14/2024 3:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vivien Lee and Charlie Reppun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We support this bill because it will speed up the permitting process for installing solar panels. This is an important step to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient. The climate crisis is REAL. As members of the national Elders Climate Action, we know that this could be too little, too late, but that we must make an attempt to slow climate change! Thank you.

Vivien Lee and Charles Reppun

Waiahole Valley