

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Before the
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Tuesday, January 28, 2025
9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 325

On the following measure:
H.B. 340, RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

Chair Lowen and Members of the Committee:

My name is Michael Angelo, and I am the Executive Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (Department) Division of Consumer Advocacy. The Department offers comments on this bill.

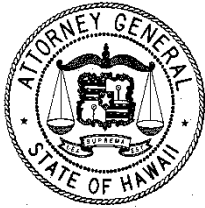
The purpose of this bill is to: (1) require the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) to establish a streamlined grid-ready homes interconnection process; (2) authorize the use of the Hawaii electricity reliability surcharge for cost recovery of certain expenses of the Hawaii electricity reliability administrator associated with the grid-ready homes interconnection process; and (3) require a report to the Legislature on the grid-ready homes interconnection process.

The Department appreciates the bill's intent to facilitate the State's transition to renewable energy and fully supports the commitment to achieve the clean energy goals and renewable energy requirements of Act 97, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015. While the Department agrees that a customer friendly process to enable widespread adoption of

distributed energy resources (DER) and electrification technologies could facilitate the transition to a clean energy economy, the Department offers that many of the elements set forth in the measure are complicated and that these issues would best be addressed in the Commission's on-going proceeding regarding DER, Docket No. 2019-0323.

The Department offers has equity concerns with using ratepayer funds to cover costs of infrastructure upgrades that would allow customers with the financial means to cover the significant upfront costs of purchasing customer-sited renewable energy and storage systems.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2025**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 340, RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

DATE: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 **TIME:** 9:00 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325 and Videoconference

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Ian Robertson, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Lowen and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

This bill (1) requires the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to establish a streamlined grid-ready home interconnection process for grid-tied renewable energy generation and storage systems; (2) authorizes the use of the Hawaii electricity reliability surcharge to cover certain costs incurred by the Hawaii electricity reliability administrator for the implementation and operation of grid-ready homes interconnection process; and (3) requires the Hawaii electricity reliability administrator to submit an annual report to the PUC on the status, effectiveness, and outcomes of the grid-ready home interconnection process.

Page 4, lines 18-19 require the PUC to establish the streamlined grid-ready home interconnection process “[w]ithin one hundred eighty days of the effective date of this Act[.]” Because this wording will be codified into Hawaii Revised Statutes section 269-142, the reference to “this Act” may be vague and confusing. To avoid this issue, we respectfully suggest replacing this wording with “[n]o later than” followed by a specific date.

We respectfully ask the Committee to consider our comments. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



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Testimony of the Public Utilities Commission

To the
House Committee on
Energy & Environmental Protection

January 28, 2025
9:00 a.m.

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee:

Measure: H.B. No. 340
Title: RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

Position:

The Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") offers comments on this measure for consideration.

Comments:

The Commission appreciates the intent of this measure to establish streamlined and transparent interconnection processes for residential customers.

This measure would task the Commission to establish a streamlined "grid-ready home" interconnection process for grid-tied renewable energy generation and storage systems within 180 days of the effective date of this legislation. The process includes a list of specific requirements, such as establishing a cost-sharing fee to address service upgrades where necessary and requiring the regulated electric utilities to process notifications and grant interconnection to grid-ready homes within two weeks for applicable systems. While the Commission supports efforts to expedite the interconnection of distributed energy resources, to establish the prescribed process in this measure would require considerable time and resources among various parties and stakeholders. Furthermore, this measure contemplates the role of a Hawaii Electricity Reliability Administrator ("HERA") to facilitate the implementation of this interconnection process. Currently, the Commission is in the process of acquiring the HERA who would assist in this effort.

The Commission suggests that the legislature allow the Commission and stakeholders an opportunity to fully examine and collaborate on establishing a streamlined grid-ready

homes interconnection process. Within 180 days of the effective date of this legislation, the Commission would report back to the legislature with detailed steps and a timeline on how to best achieve the objectives and requirements outlined in this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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

In Strong Support for HB340 Grid Ready Homes

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2025

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa Rep. Sean Quinlan
Rep. Matthias Kusch Rep. Gene Ward

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Tuesday, January 28, 2025
TIME: 9:00 AM
PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chair Lowen and Vice Chair Perruso, 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.

As an invested stakeholder in Hawaii's clean energy transition, I strongly support the "Grid Ready Homes" initiative.

This legislation will streamline the interconnection process, enabling faster and more affordable deployment of advanced distributed energy resources (DERs) like solar, energy storage and electric vehicle charging (with the appropriate amendments). By reducing interconnection bottlenecks and costly infrastructure upgrades, the bill will help stabilize and lower electricity rates for all ratepayers.

Additionally, it will drive economic growth by creating jobs in the solar and energy storage sectors, positioning Hawaii as a leader in the clean energy transition.

Please include amendments to add electric vehicle charging, vehicle-to-grid (V2G) and vehicle-to-home functionalities to the bill.

Respectfully,

Alan Lennard -dig. signature

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



To: The House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025, 9am

In support of HB340

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Energy and Environmental Protection Committee members,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org **supports HB340** that requires the Public Utilities Commission to establish a streamlined grid-ready homes interconnection process.

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 facilitate our clean energy transition, help families lower their electricity bills, and at the same time make us more resilient. This bill will help to do all of that.

Establishing a grid—ready home interconnection process that supports the rapid adoption of clean energy technologies is a much-needed common sense solution and an important step toward Hawaii meeting our clean energy goals. Bottom line, Hawaii will not be able to reach its carbon reduction goals if we do not enact policies that support these outcomes. Removing unnecessary obstacles that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals is critical.

Climate change is happening now, we are causing it, and the longer we wait to act, the more we lose.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

January 28, 2025

Representative Nicole Lowen
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

RE: HB340 - Relating to Renewable Energy
Hearing: Tuesday January 28, 9:00 a.m.
Position: **STRONG SUPPORT**

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Peruso, and members of the committee:

My name is Will Giese. I am the Senior Director of Government Affairs of The Solaray Corporation. Solaray was founded in 1975 and does business in Hawai'i as Inter-Island Solar Supply. Solaray also wholly owns Pacific Panel Cleaners ("PPC"), Generator & Power Systems ("GPS"), both Hawai'i Corporations, SunEarth, Inc., a California Corporation, and Alternate Energy Technologies (AET), a Florida Corporation. SunEarth & AET are domestic manufacturing companies producing American made clean energy products, much of which is installed and operated throughout Hawaii for 50 years. GPS is the Generac Industrial generator distributor for Hawai'i. Solaray Corp., and its wholly owned subsidiaries, are proudly 100% employee owned.

I am testifying **IN STRONG SUPPORT to HB340** relating to Renewable Energy.

This bill requires the Public Utilities Commission to establish a streamlined grid-ready homes interconnection process. Authorizes the use of the Hawai'i electricity reliability surcharge for cost recovery of certain expenses of the Hawai'i electricity reliability administrator associated with the grid-ready homes interconnection process. Requires report to the Legislature on the grid-ready homes interconnection process.

As an invested stakeholder in Hawaii's clean energy transition, we strongly support the "Grid Ready Homes" initiative. This legislation will streamline the interconnection process, enabling faster and more affordable deployment of advanced distributed energy resources (DERs) like solar, energy storage and electric vehicle charging (with the appropriate amendments). By reducing interconnection bottlenecks and costly infrastructure upgrades, the bill will help stabilize and lower electricity rates for all ratepayers. Additionally, it will drive economic growth by creating jobs in the solar and energy storage sectors, positioning Hawaii as a leader in the clean energy transition.

Interconnection and permitting costs are one of the main drivers of total installation costs for solar energy, representing anywhere from 20-30% of the total cost to install the system. By expediting the interconnection process for systems that have demonstrated a grid benefit,

this bill not only lowers costs but allows for beneficial technology to be installed that helps all electric customers.

This bill could be further improved by streamlining the interconnection process for two way and one way EV chargers, allowing these assets to be deployed in a way that increases resilience in homes and communities. We ask that you include amendments to add electric vehicle charging, vehicle-to-grid (V2G) and vehicle-to-home functionalities to the bill.

As a local, employee-owned solar business owned and operated in Hawaii for over 50 years, we are in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB340** and urge the committee to pass this measure.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Will Giese
Senior Director, Government Affairs
Inter-Island Solar Supply

HB-340

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 6:56:54 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Rudolph	Independent Energy	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen; Vice Chair Perruso, and committee members:

I am writing as an invested stakeholder in Hawai'i's clean energy transition; I strongly support the "Grid Ready Homes" initiative. This legislation will streamline the interconnection process, enabling faster and more affordable deployment of advanced distributed energy resources (DERs) like solar, energy storage, and electric vehicle charging (with the appropriate amendments). The bill will help stabilize and lower electricity rates for all ratepayers by reducing interconnection bottlenecks and costly infrastructure upgrades. Additionally, it will drive economic growth by creating jobs in the solar and energy storage sectors, positioning Hawai'i as a leader in the clean energy transition. Please include amendments to add electric vehicle charging, vehicle-to-grid (V2G), and vehicle-to-home functionalities to the bill.

Mahalo for hearing this critically essential and innovative bill and allowing me to testify. Please advance HB340.

*Respectfully,**James Rudolph*



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

**Testimony of the Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) Regarding HB340, Relating
Renewable Energy, Before the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection**

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and committee members,

The Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) **strongly supports HB340**, which establishes a grid-ready home interconnection process to accelerate the adoption of advanced distributed energy resources (DERs) and electrification technologies. ***We also offer amendments to add electric vehicle charging, vehicle-to-home, and vehicle-to-grid (V2G) technologies to the bill.***

Hawaii's transition to a 100% renewable energy future, as mandated by Act 97 (2015), is a vital step toward energy independence and affordability, economic sustainability, and environmental resilience. The "Grid Ready Homes" initiative addresses key barriers to this transition by streamlining interconnection processes, minimizing delays, and enabling proactive utility planning—all of which are essential to meeting our state's clean energy, affordability, and resilience goals.

Supporting DER Adoption to Reduce Energy Costs for All Ratepayers

Grid-ready homes represent a low-cost, high-impact solution to expedite the deployment of advanced DERs, such as paired solar and energy storage, electric vehicle charging, and vehicle-to-grid technologies. By reducing interconnection bottlenecks and costly infrastructure upgrades, this bill enables customers to install grid-interactive clean energy technologies rapidly and affordably. More widespread adoption of these advanced DERs helps stabilize and ultimately reduce electricity rates for all ratepayers by:

1. **Reducing Dependence on Fossil Fuels:** Rapidly transitioning to locally available renewable energy sources will lessen Hawaii's vulnerability to global fuel price volatility and the aging and increasingly unreliable electricity grid dependent on those fossil fuels.
2. **Lowering Infrastructure Costs:** By empowering customer-sited generation and storage, and other electrification technologies, we can avoid or defer costly utility-scale investments in transmission and distribution infrastructure.

Driving Economic Growth and Innovation



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

The "Grid Ready Homes" initiative will stimulate Hawaii's clean energy economy by creating jobs in the solar, energy storage, and electrification industries. Local contractors, electricians, and energy companies will benefit from the streamlined permitting and interconnection processes, driving investment in innovative technologies and services. Furthermore, incorporating advanced grid modernization standards, such as V2G functionality, further solidifies Hawaii as a leader in the clean energy transition and builds resilience into our energy systems.

Building Resilience and Reliability in the Face of Climate Change

With an aging and costly fossil fuel-based energy infrastructure, Hawaii faces increased risks of outages and power quality issues. Grid-ready homes with integrated DERs enhance resilience by decentralizing energy generation and enabling communities to maintain power during disruptions. The bill's focus on smart inverter functionality and managed power export/import ensures that grid reliability is maintained while accommodating increased customer demand.

A Pragmatic and Cost-Effective Solution

This legislation offers a pragmatic pathway to achieving Hawaii's clean energy and resilience goals. Key provisions, such as the \$350 cost-sharing fee for necessary upgrades and the streamlined interconnection timeline, balance customer affordability with utility operational needs. By enabling virtual commissioning and expediting interconnection processes, this bill ensures that customers can adopt clean energy technologies without unnecessary delays or costs.

Adding Electric Vehicle Charging, Vehicle-to-Grid, and Vehicle-to-Home Functionalities

We offer the following amendments to ensure that Hawaii is at the forefront of integrating electric vehicles and related functionalities:

Under Section 3 (d) add subpart 5:

5. Requirements obligating regulated utilities to update their interconnection rules by July 1, 2025, to incorporate V2G compliance requirements to allow for the interconnection and utilization of vehicle-to-grid capabilities, including vehicle to home and vehicle to grid services.



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Updates to the interconnection rules pursuant to this section should include recognition of UL 1741 SC and the UL 1741 QIKP certification.

Under Section 5 (c) subpart 1 add “electric vehicle charging”:

(c) The grid-ready home interconnection process aligns with principles of advanced grid modernization technology by:

1. Streamlining customer access to renewable energy, **electric vehicle charging**, and storage resources.
2. Enhancing customer participation in resilience enhancing energy programs through rapid integration.
3. Optimizing grid operations to accommodate increased electrification while minimizing infrastructure costs.

Conclusion

HB340 aligns with Hawaii’s commitment to a 100% renewable and affordable energy future, while simultaneously addressing current barriers to DER adoption. It is a low-cost, effective solution that reduces energy costs for ratepayers, drives economic growth and innovation, and builds resilience and reliability into our energy systems. I urge this committee to advance this measure and take a critical step toward securing a low-cost, resilient, and clean energy future for the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

/s/ Rocky Mould

Executive Director

About HSEA

Since 1977, HSEA has been advocating for policies that help Hawaii achieve critical climate, energy security, and resilience goals by enabling residents and businesses to invest in and benefit from the transition to clean energy. These investments provide reliable and affordable



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

power, reducing energy cost burdens and contributing to Hawaii's economic sustainability as we decarbonize our economy and electric grid.

HSEA's membership includes the majority of locally owned and operated solar and energy storage companies doing business in Hawaii, along with leading global cleantech manufacturers and service providers active in our market. Together, we employ thousands of Hawaii residents in diverse green economy jobs that drive innovation, design, and construction of Hawaii's renewable energy infrastructure.

Hawaii is a global leader in renewable energy deployment, particularly in customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage. Customer-sited rooftop solar accounts for 47% of renewable energy added to grids in Hawaiian Electric service areas (Oahu, Maui County, and the Big Island) and 21% in the Kauai Island Utility Cooperative area. Additionally, Hawaii leads the nation in pairing rooftop solar with battery storage, with 96% of new residential installations including storage. These achievements underscore Hawaii's role as a pioneer in clean energy transformation.



**Hawaiian
Electric**

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**HB 340
Relating to Renewable Energy**

Tuesday, January 28, 2025
9:00 am
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Kaiulani Shinsato
Director, Customer Energy Resources
Hawaiian Electric

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kaiulani Shinsato, and I am testifying on behalf of Hawaiian Electric (“Company”) **in opposition** to HB 340.

Hawaiian Electric supports the intent of this bill -- to continue to grow Distributed Energy Resources (“DER”) in Hawai‘i, and develop a streamlined interconnection process for “grid-ready homes.” Hawai‘i leads the nation in the adoption of DERs, yet the Company fully understands that we need to continue to grow DERs going forward. DERs are a critical piece of our resource portfolio. They are necessary to achieve our clean energy goals and to provide options to our customers to better manage their electric bills, have resiliency at their homes and businesses, and contribute to Hawai‘i’s clean energy future.

However, this bill appears to require a streamlined approval process solely based on the DERs using UL 1741 or equivalent certified functionality. While these types of equipment certifications are important and provide confirmation that inverters meet stringent technical and safety standards, the utility needs to review more information

about the system to safely interconnect the system to the Company's grid. Specifically, in Hawaiian Electric's interconnection process, the Company reviews the advanced inverter qualifications and whether the total electric grid (system-level) and the neighboring area (distribution-level) can accept the proposed size of the DER. This bill would appear to undermine the interconnection review and approval process that is needed for the Company to ensure safe interconnections and reliable service to all customers. It is worth noting that the Company has continued to perform exceptionally well in this area as evidenced by its continued achievement for the past four years of performance incentives designed by the Public Utilities Commission and stakeholders to improve DER interconnection approval timelines.

In addition, this bill appears to focus on streamlining the Company's service upgrade process. On this issue, the Company has multiple questions about the proposals in the bill. It is not clear how the \$350 cost for upgrades was based, and which entity would receive those funds. The bill would require that upgrades be made within three months, but it does not clarify when the starting point of that timeframe would be. The Company has had multiple discussions with the solar industry on the service upgrade process. The Company submits that improvements to the process are better made through the collaborative process rather than through legislation.

HB 340 would also allow the use of the Hawai'i electricity reliability surcharge to recover costs related to the streamlined interconnection process and the work of the Hawai'i Electricity Reliability Administrator ("HERA"). As mentioned above, while the Company supports the intent of this bill, it opposes the process proposed by the bill and submits that HERA is not needed to oversee such a process. The Company further notes that any use of the Hawai'i electricity reliability surcharge and HERA would result

in additional costs to Hawaiian Electric customers and is not the most cost-effective way to achieve the goals stated in this bill.

For all these reasons, Hawaiian Electric opposes HB 340. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

HB-340

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:15:43 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
PAUL OREM	Photonworks Engineering	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen; Vice Chair Perruso, and committee members:

As an invested stakeholder in Hawaii's clean energy transition, I strongly support the "Grid Ready Homes" initiative. This legislation will streamline the interconnection process, enabling faster and more affordable deployment of advanced distributed energy resources (DERs) like solar, energy storage and electric vehicle charging (with the appropriate amendments). By reducing interconnection bottlenecks and costly infrastructure upgrades, the bill will help stabilize and lower electricity rates for all ratepayers. Additionally, it will drive economic growth by creating jobs in the solar and energy storage sectors, positioning Hawaii as a leader in the clean energy transition. Please include amendments to add electric vehicle charging, vehicle-to-grid (V2G) and vehicle-to-home functionalities to the bill.

Mahalo for hearing this critically important and innovative bill and providing me the opportunity to testify. Please advance HB340.

Respectfully,

Paul Orem

CEO Photonworks Engineering LLP

January 28, 2025

TO: Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Representative Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

FR: *Noelani Derrickson*
Noelani Derrickson
Public Policy & Business Development

RE: HB340 Relating to Renewable Energy. - **SUPPORT**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding H.B. 340, which requires the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission to establish a streamlined grid-ready homes interconnection process.

Tesla **strongly supports HB340**, as it addresses a key obstacle for Hawaii residents to adopt innovative technologies in their homes. Simplifying the interconnection process for grid-interactive technologies directly supports residential energy cost savings, homeowner resilience, and grid reliability.

Tesla also proposes specific amendments which expand the bill to include electric vehicle charging technologies that can provide additive grid benefits. Vehicle-to-grid systems, which can provide backup power to a home and valuable energy services to the electric grid, have broad benefits and are an important future component of grid-ready homes.

Suggested Language:

Section 3. §269-142

(e) Within one hundred eighty days of the effective date of this Act, the commission shall open a proceeding to evaluate the readiness of the electric utility's interconnection requirements to support vehicle-to-grid systems. The Commission shall direct the electric utility to file updates to address identified interconnection gaps, including codification of standards to allow vehicle-to-grid systems to interconnect to the electric utility's system."

HB-340

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 7:27:49 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/28/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dason Fujimoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen; Vice Chair Perruso, and committee members:

I strongly support the "Grid Ready Homes" initiative. As a long-standing member of the renewable energy community, I believe this initiative will streamline the interconnection process to enable rapid advancement of renewable energy distribution by reducing the projected roadblocks through the existing process.

This initiative will drive economic growth by creating jobs in the solar and energy storage sectors, positioning Hawaii as a leader in the clean energy transition. Please include amendments to add electric vehicle charging, vehicle-to-grid (V2G), and vehicle-to-home functionalities to the bill.

I appreciate you taking the time to hear my testimony on this incredibly important bill. Please move forward with HB340!

Mahalo,
Dason Fujimoto