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GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



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Testimony of the Public Utilities Commission

To the
Senate Committee on
Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs

March 11, 2025
3:02 p.m.

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee:

Measure: H.B. No. 977, H.D.1
Title: RELATING TO ENERGY FINANCING.

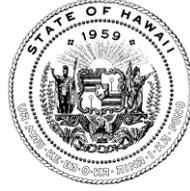
Position:

The Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") supports this measure and offers the following comments for consideration.

Comments:

The Commission appreciates the intent of this measure to enhance energy financing in Hawaii by providing a capital infusion into the Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund. The Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority anticipates the current applications in process will be awarded the remaining funds available for the Green Energy Money Saver on-bill financing program. Without additional funding, this program will be unable to support new applications, potentially leaving many underserved groups, especially those excluded from the federal Solar-for-All funds, without access to the clean energy financing they need.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

NADINE Y. ANDO
DIRECTOR | KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA
SYLVIA LUKE
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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs
Tuesday, March 11, 2025
3:02 p.m.
Conference Room 016**

**On the following measure:
H.B. 977, H.D. 1, RELATING TO ENERGY FINANCING**

Chair Wakai 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 supports this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to: (1) authorize the Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund to be used to provide financial assistance to underserved ratepayers, in addition to other eligible borrowers; and (2) appropriate funds into and out of the Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund.

The Department supports this bill since it would infuse funds into the clean energy and energy efficiency revolving loan fund to provide financing opportunities for “underserved ratepayers” which is defined to including low- and moderate-income homeowners, renters, nonprofits, and other entities to take advantage of renewable energy technology and reduce their energy burden. Low- to moderate-income households pay a disproportionately higher percentage of their income towards energy

bills and do not have the financial means to pursue the installation of renewable energy technologies. This measure seeks to address the financial barrier that has prevented many struggling households and other underserved ratepayers from reducing their energy burdens and moving towards energy independence.

The Department especially appreciates that the funds for the clean energy and energy efficiency revolving loan fund will be infused with monies from the general fund and not through fees assessed on utility customers through their monthly bills. Other programs that seek funding through utility rates do not adequately consider that utility rates are regressive and will increase utility bills for all customers, especially low to moderate income households whose energy burden will only increase. Additional fees to pay for the loan fund through utility rates would further increase the energy bills that many customers have struggled to pay, especially during the pandemic and over the last year when significant bill increases occurred. As currently drafted, this measure avoids placing an additional financial burden on those households that this bill attempts to support.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



**Testimony of
Gwen Yamamoto Lau
Executive Director
Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority
before the
Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs
Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 3:02 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016
in consideration of
House Bill No. 977, HD1
RELATING TO ENERGY FINANCING**

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and provide comments on House Bill No. 977, HD1 relating to energy financing. The Hawai'i Green Infrastructure Authority (HGIA) **strongly supports** this bill which will provide a capital infusion to HGIA's Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Revolving loan fund to continue to provide solar and storage financing for ALICE households and other underserved ratepayers.

While the 2024 ALICE report¹ indicates the percentage of ALICE households decreased slightly from 2022 to 41% (from 44%), the "Electricity Burdens on Hawaii Households: 2022 Update" recently published by DBEDT's Research & Economic Analysis Division, indicates that Hawaii's electricity costs are still the highest in the nation resulting in an average electricity burden per household of 2.1%, as compared to the national average of 1.5%. Further, lower income households spend a disproportionate amount of their income on electricity bills.

The Legislature's approval of loan capital for solar+storage loans in 2023, coupled with the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission approval of HGIA's request to eliminate all credit barriers for underserved ratepayers under its Green Energy Money Saver On-Bill (GEM\$ OB) financing program resulted in a significant spike in demand. The number of applications received in 2017 (pre-GEM\$ OB) aggregated 224. In 2019, with the launch of GEM\$ OB, the number of applications received doubled to 482. However, for the 11-month period ended 11/30/24, with loan capital to finance both solar+storage, as well as the elimination of all credit barriers for underserved ratepayers, HGIA received 1,564 applications - more than 3x the amount received in 2019 and a 598% increase from pre-GEM\$ OB numbers, demonstrating the pent-up demand.

This measure is in direct alignment with the Governor's Executive Order 25-01, accelerating Hawaii's transition toward 100% renewable energy by maximizing distributed solar energy paired with battery storage to low and moderate-income residents.

Additionally, this bill will allow HGIA to finance solar systems for state and local governments, helping Hawaii access an additional 30% in Federal funds under the Inflation Reduction Act's Direct Pay program while lowering electricity costs for Hawaii's taxpayers.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and provide comments in strong support of HB977, HD1.

¹ Published by Aloha United Way in partnership with Bank of Hawaii.

OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY
KE KE'ENA LOLI ANIAU MĀLAMA 'ĀINA A ME KE OLA LOA
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA



BENJAMIN SULLIVAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR &
CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER
PO'O HO'OKO & KAHU OLA LOA

KEALOHA FOX
DEPUTY DIRECTOR &
CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER
HOPE PO'O & HOPE KAHU OLA LOA

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025, 3:02 P.M.

STATE OF HAWAII
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 977, HD1
RELATING TO ENERGY FINANCING**

BY,

BENJAMIN SULLIVAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER
OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

Dear Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee:

The City and County of Honolulu ("City") Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency ("Resilience Office") **supports** HB977, HD1, which authorizes the Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund to be used to provide financial assistance to underserved ratepayers.

The City is committed to achieving 100% renewable energy by 2045 and recognizes that widespread adoption of clean energy solutions is critical to meeting this goal. The City's Climate Action Plan prioritizes strategies to expand renewable energy access and affordability in alignment with the utility's Power Supply Improvement Plan, which assumes a need for more than triple the amount of distributed solar PV than currently exists on O'ahu. This will require PV deployment on the vast majority of rooftops.

However, low- to moderate-income households face significant financial barriers to installing solar and energy efficiency technologies, despite the long-term cost savings they provide. Without targeted financing solutions, many residents and small businesses are unable to participate in and benefit from the clean energy transition. This measure directly addresses this gap by increasing access to capital for underserved ratepayers, helping to lower energy costs, improve energy resilience, and support a more equitable clean energy future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB977, HD1.



HOLU HOU ENERGY

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair

Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, March 11, 2025

TIME: 3:02pm

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE & Conference Room 016

Theodore (Ted) Peck

President, Holu Hou Energy

99-1026 Iwaena Street

Aiea, HI 96701

RE: HB 977 RELATING TO ENERGY FINANCING.

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang and Members of the Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **strongly supporting testimony** on this bill. My name is Ted Peck. I am the former Energy Administrator for the State of Hawaii, and have been working in the energy space for the last 16 years. I have 40 years of education and experience with energy and technology. My company, Holu Hou Energy, develops solar energy projects in Hawaii, focusing on low income, difficult to serve customers, especially in multi-dwelling projects such as rentals (low income and market) and condominium developments.

Since my departure from government service in 2011, I have been spending a great deal of time in clean energy finance. In the last 8 years, I have had a hand in closing over 80 power purchase agreements for commercial, industrial, and multifamily projects, as well as hundreds of single family projects, both low income and otherwise. I am grateful to have been a part of helping make the GEMS Financing Program successful as an investor, borrower, and contractor. We have used local investors to a great extent, contributing to the Hawai'i economy as both participants and consumers and through their investments increase the benefits that remain within the state.

I am in strong support of this measure, as HGIA is a key champion in providing rooftop solar to low and medium income residents. Of Hawaii's ~494,000 households in 2022, 11% earned below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), and 33% were ALICE (in households that earned above the FPL but not enough to afford the basics in the communities where they live) – together, 44% of households in Hawaii were below the ALICE threshold. Households below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) spend 20% of their income on energy, which is over ~9x higher than the state-wide average. HGIA and the **loan** money it provides directly targets these families. HGIA has become a center of excellence nationally and internationally, with agencies across the world looking to replicate the processes and structures built here in Hawaii. Their excellence has been recognized locally as well, to the point that the State Government during the Pandemic asked them to manage the debit card program for the unemployed, a task out of their scope of work but entrusted to them due to their excellence and competence.

This bill also contemplates expanding the scope of markets which HGIA can serve. This would be wise to do, as long as HGIA continues to receive adequate support from the State in terms of available funding and staffing. HGIA is a Center of Excellence, looked upon nationally and internationally for expertise in green banking.

HGIA is a key leader for the state of Hawaii in changing the mantra that solar is only for rich people.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your time in considering my comments.

Respectfully,
Ted Peck
President, Holu Hou Energy



HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 9:08:09 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurel brier	Testifying for Kauai Climate Action Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In the dynamic State push toward clean, renewable energy it is critical to provide support to families who might otherwise not be able to afford converting to and /or storing solar energy. The solar industry contributes to the local community, installing energy saving devices helps the individual or family save money through the years, and most importantly giving wide support for the transition to renewable energy is needed to address the climate crisis. The clean energy and energy efficiency revolving loan fund helps remove financial barriers and increase access to affordable renewable energy Strong support for HB977 HD1

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 9:33:38 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

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

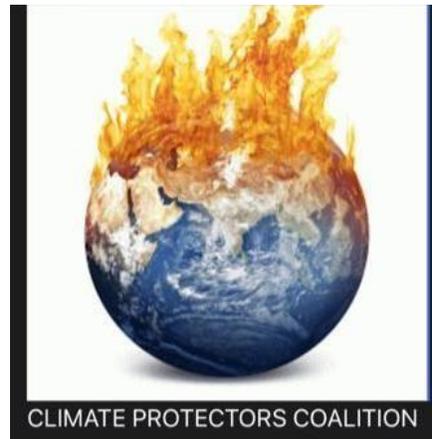
Comments:

Aloha. Hair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of Committee,

My name is Susan RobertsEmery , and I am Co-chair of the Green Party of Hawai'i. Today we reach out to ask that you pass HB977 HD1 to help level the playing field and allow low interest loans to underserved ratepayers. The Green Party supports social equity policies that strengthen climate resilience and help to ensure access to affordable renewable energy. Win win !

Green Party of Hawai'i, humbly requests that you pass HB977 HD1.
Sincerely,

Susan RobertsEmery
Green Party of Hawai'i
Paauilo



To: The Honorable Chair Glenn Wakai, the Honorable Vice Chair Stanley Chang, and Members of the Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee.

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

Re: **Hearing HB977 HD1 RELATING TO ENERGY FINANCING**

Hearing: Tuesday March 11, 2025, 3:02 p.m., room 016

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee.

The mission of the Climate Protectors Hawai'i is to educate and engage the local community in climate change action.

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB977 HD1!

Many moderate-income households and other underserved ratepayers, including State and local governments, some low and moderate income homeowners, renters, non-profits, small businesses and multi-family rental projects, would like to install rooftop solar photovoltaic systems with storage systems but are unable to finance such systems.

This bill would help these folks finance rooftop solar plus storage systems. It would provide an infusion of capital for the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority to finance low interest loans for underserved ratepayers from the Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund. The loans would be repaid using on-bill financing.

This capital infusion to the loan fund not only will **help underserved ratepayers save money by installing rooftop solar plus storage**, but will also **provide resiliency for our electrical system through additional distributed generation**.

Please pass this bill!

Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 1:12:45 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isidro Villaflor	Testifying for PV Tech	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha.

I strongly support HB977! For hundreds and thousands of underserved ALICE families, the GEMS program is their only vehicle to be able to get solar PV for their homes. Keep in mind that most of the dollars saved through solar stays within our state to further help our economy. Please support this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Isidro Villaflor

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 3:35:07 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tepua Ho	Testifying for Church of the Crossroads	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

-- I strongly support HB977 HD1. Hawai‘i will not be able to reach its carbon reduction goals if we do not enact policies that support these outcomes. I fully support efforts by the legislature to establish social equity in the State’s efforts to strengthen climate resilience, including low-interest loan programs.

-- Lower income households spend a disproportionate amount of their income on electricity bills. Without this program, capital constrained households will be unable to switch to lower, cleaner sources of electricity. Furthermore, as solar energy is currently about one-half the cost of oil-fired electricity, underserved ratepayers, including ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households would directly benefit from a program that helps overcome financial challenges such as high electricity costs and inflation.

-- This measure is in direct alignment with the Governor’s Executive Order 25-01, accelerating Hawai‘i’s transition toward 100% renewable energy by maximizing distributed solar energy paired with battery storage to low and moderate-income residents.

-- A Just Transition means leaving no one behind. That includes efforts such as the Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund that help to remove barriers and increase access to affordable renewable energy.

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 6:02:42 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hello Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nanea Lo, and **I am writing in strong support of HB977 HD1**. This bill is an important step toward ensuring that Hawai‘i can meet its carbon reduction goals while prioritizing equity and community resilience.

Hawai‘i will not achieve its climate targets without policies that actively support social equity and access to clean energy. HB977 HD1 does just that by establishing low-interest loan programs that will help underserved households switch to lower-cost, cleaner sources of electricity.

Lower-income households spend a disproportionate amount of their income on electricity bills, and without this program, these capital-constrained families will continue to face financial barriers to accessing affordable renewable energy. Solar energy is currently about half the cost of oil-fired electricity, and this bill will directly benefit ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households by providing the financial tools needed to transition to cleaner, more cost-effective energy sources.

This measure aligns with the Governor’s Executive Order 25-01, which accelerates Hawai‘i’s shift toward 100% renewable energy by maximizing solar energy paired with battery storage for low and moderate-income residents.

A Just Transition means leaving no one behind. By supporting the Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund, we can remove financial barriers and increase access to renewable energy for those who need it most.

I urge you to pass HB977 HD1 to ensure a more just, resilient, and sustainable future for Hawai‘i.

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nanea Lo, and I am writing in strong support of HB977 HD1. This bill is an important step toward ensuring that Hawai‘i can meet its carbon reduction goals while prioritizing equity and community resilience.

Hawai‘i will not achieve its climate targets without policies that actively support social equity and access to clean energy. HB977 HD1 does just that by establishing low-interest loan programs that will help underserved households switch to lower-cost, cleaner sources of electricity.

Lower-income households spend a disproportionate amount of their income on electricity bills, and without this program, these capital-constrained families will continue to face financial barriers to accessing affordable renewable energy. Solar energy is currently about half the cost of oil-fired electricity, and this bill will directly benefit ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households by providing the financial tools needed to transition to cleaner, more cost-effective energy sources.

This measure aligns with the Governor’s Executive Order 25-01, which accelerates Hawai‘i’s shift toward 100% renewable energy by maximizing solar energy paired with battery storage for low and moderate-income residents.

A Just Transition means leaving no one behind. By supporting the Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund, we can remove financial barriers and increase access to renewable energy for those who need it most.

I urge you to pass HB977 HD1 to ensure a more just, resilient, and sustainable future for Hawai‘i.

me ke aloha ‘āina,
Nanea Lo
Mō‘ili‘ili, HI 96826
Sierra Club of Hawai‘i Executive Committee Member
Board Member, Hawai‘i Workers Center
Kanaka Maoli/Lineal Descendant of the Hawaiian Kingdom



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

Testimony of the Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) Regarding HB977 HD1, Relating to Energy Financing, Before the Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, and committee members,

The Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) **strongly supports HB977 HD1**, which seeks to provide a critical capital infusion to the clean energy and energy efficiency revolving loan fund. This funding will ensure the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority (HGIA) can continue financing rooftop solar plus storage systems for underserved ratepayers and other eligible borrowers, including low-to-moderate-income households, nonprofits, and small businesses.

As an organization dedicated to increasing access to rooftop solar and energy storage, we believe this bill is essential to expanding opportunities for underserved communities and supporting an equitable clean energy transition while accelerating Hawaii's progress toward its 100% renewable energy goal by 2045.

Rooftop solar plus storage systems provide tremendous benefits for Hawaii, including:

- **Lower Energy Costs for Residents:** Underserved ratepayers, including low- and moderate-income households, are disproportionately impacted by high energy costs. Expanding financing opportunities will enable these households to lower their energy bills, reducing their energy burden and freeing up income for other essential needs.
- **Increased Resilience:** Solar plus storage systems enhance resilience against power outages caused by storms or other grid disruptions. For underserved communities, access to resilient energy systems is vital to protecting their homes, businesses, and livelihoods.
- **Advancing Renewable Energy Goals:** Rooftop solar plus storage supports grid stability and reduces reliance on imported fossil fuels, lowering costs for all, cutting greenhouse gas emissions, and bringing us closer to Hawaii's renewable energy portfolio standard goals.

While the Green Energy Money Saver (GEM\$) on-bill financing program has successfully expanded access to rooftop solar plus storage systems for low-income households, as of



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

January 2025, HGIA anticipates that its remaining funds will be fully committed. This creates an urgent need for additional capital to continue meeting the financing demand from underserved ratepayers.

Furthermore, federal “Solar-for-All” loan funds are restricted to low-income households and specific disadvantaged census tracts, leaving moderate-income families, nonprofits, and small businesses without options. These underserved groups often fall through the cracks of traditional financing programs, despite facing significant barriers to adopting clean energy systems. By expanding the definition of “underserved ratepayer” and appropriating additional funds, this bill ensures these critical groups can access affordable financing.

Key Benefits of the Proposed Amendments

1. **Broadening Access:** Expanding the definition of "underserved ratepayer" to include state and local governments, moderate-income households, nonprofits, and small businesses ensures that a wider range of beneficiaries can access financing. This is vital to creating equitable opportunities in the clean energy transition.
2. **Sustainable Funding:** Appropriating funds to the revolving loan fund will allow HGIA to continue offering low-cost loans, addressing financial barriers for those most in need.
3. **Supporting Nonprofits and Small Businesses:** Nonprofits and small businesses are the backbone of our community and economy. This bill recognizes their critical role by including them as eligible borrowers for clean energy financing.

This bill aligns with Hawaii’s values of sustainability, equity, and resilience. By expanding access to rooftop solar and energy storage, we can empower underserved communities, strengthen the grid, and move closer to our shared vision of a 100% renewable energy future.

HSEA urges this committee to pass HB977 HD1 to ensure all Hawaii residents—regardless of income level—can participate in and benefit from the clean energy transition.

Thank you for considering our testimony, and for your continued leadership in advancing Hawaii’s renewable energy goals.



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

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 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.



SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

MARCH 11, 2025

HB 977, HD1, RELATING TO ENERGY FINANCING

POSITION: SUPPORT

Coalition Earth **supports** HB 977, HD1, relating to energy financing, which authorizes the Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund to be used to provide financial assistance to underserved ratepayers, in addition to other eligible borrowers; and appropriates funds into and out of the Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund.

According to a report produced by the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, global sea levels could rise more than three feet by 2100, with more recent projections showing this occurring as early as 2060. In turn, over the next 30 to 70 years, approximately 6,500 structures and 19,800 people statewide will be exposed to chronic flooding. Additionally, an estimated \$19 billion in economic loss would result from chronic flooding of land and structures located in exposure areas. Finally, approximately 38 miles of coastal roads and 550 cultural sites would be chronically flooded, on top of the 13 miles of beaches that have already been lost on Kaua'i, O'ahu, and Maui to erosion fronting shoreline armoring.

As we work to reduce carbon emissions and stave off the worst consequences of climate change, we must begin preparing for the adverse impact of sea level rise on our shores. We are now quantifying the speed at which we must act. We cannot continue to develop the 25,800-acre statewide sea level rise exposure area—one-third of which is designated for urban use—without risking massive structural damage and, potentially, great loss of life.

Just two years ago, we witnessed the impact of the climate emergency on our shores. On August 8, 2023, wildfires swept across Maui and killed at least 100 people, making it one of the nation's deadliest natural disasters. The spread of the fires has been attributed to climate change conditions, such as unusually dry landscapes and the confluence of a strong high-pressure system to the north and Hurricane Dora to the south. The wildfires destroyed over 2,200 structures, including numerous residential buildings, historic landmarks, and school facilities. In September 2023, a report from the United States Department of Commerce estimated the total economic damage of the wildfires to be roughly \$5.5 billion. Investing in renewable energy generation could not be more urgent, given the growing threat of climate catastrophes to our island home.

Therefore, **our state should take steps to accelerate our transition to a clean energy economy and continue our fight against climate change, including by strengthening clean energy financing mechanisms.** Photovoltaic systems have significantly advanced in their energy savings and storage capacity in recent years, and remain a primary component of our state's path toward 100 percent renewable energy generation. Moreover, the green energy money Saver on-bill financing program has delivered accessible and affordable financing of rooftop solar plus storage systems to reduce energy-burdened, underserved ratepayers.

Equity must continue to be a cornerstone of our clean energy investments. As of January 2025, the Hawai'i Green Infrastructure Authority (HGIA) had roughly 1,200 applications in process, which are anticipated to consume remaining all available funding. HGIA was awarded \$62,000,000 in federal solar-for-all loan funds, but these funds are restricted to financing only low-income households and a limited number of disadvantaged census tracts, as this bill's preamble states, leaving moderate-income households and other underserved ratepayers, including nonprofits and small businesses, without access to financing for essential energy efficiency upgrades.

In June of last year, the state reached a settlement agreement in the landmark case of *Navahine v. Hawai'i Department of Transportation*, in which Gov. Josh Green acknowledged the constitutional rights of Hawai'i's youth to a life-sustaining climate and confirmed the commitment by HDOT to plan and implement transformative changes to Hawai'i's transportation system to achieve the state's goal of net-negative emissions by 2045. Additionally, on January 28th, Gov. Green issued an executive order to promote and expedite the development of renewable energy across our state.

Amidst uncertainty regarding renewable energy policy created by the Trump administration and concerns over grid stability across the state, the order accelerates

renewable development for neighbor island communities to hit 100 percent renewable portfolio standards from 2045 to 2035, sets a statewide goal of 50,000 distributed renewable energy installations (such as rooftop solar and battery systems) by 2030, and directs state departments to streamline the permitting of renewable developments to reduce energy costs. We must take action to shore up green financing at the state level, so that federal instability does not imperil our ability to meet our clean economy goals or jeopardize our society's future.

Sincerely,

Kris Coffield

Kris Coffield, Chairperson, Board of Directors

Coalition Earth is a nongovernmental organization that works to preserve the well-being of people and our planet. We champion policies that advance climate resilience, clean energy, public health, and economic fairness for working families. Contact us at info@coalitionearth.org.



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION
COMMISSION
POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Co-Chairs:
Chair, DLNR
Director, OPSD

Commissioners:
Chair, Senate AEN
Chair, Senate WTL
Chair, House EEP
Chair, House WAL
Chairperson, HTA
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Director, DOH
Chairperson, DOE
Director, C+C DPP
Director, Maui DP
Director, Hawaii DP
Director, Kauai DP
The Adjutant General
Manager, CZM

**Testimony of
LEAH LARAMEE
Climate Change Coordinator on behalf of
Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission Co-Chair Mary Alice Evans and
Co-Chair Dawn N.S. Chang**

**Before the Senate Committee on
ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

**Tuesday, March 11, 2025
3:02 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016 & Videoconference**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 977 HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO ENERGY FINANCING**

HB 977 HD1 authorizes the Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund to be used to provide financial assistance to underserved ratepayers, in addition to other eligible borrowers. Appropriates funds into and out of the Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund.

The Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) **supports** this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request and offers the following comments. The Commission is a multi-jurisdictional effort between 20 different State and county departments, and Legislative committees to reduce greenhouse gas and adapt to climate hazards.

Rooftop solar is a key component in reaching our legislated climate goals. If approved, this bill will provide additional funding to support underserved ratepayers into HGIA's special fund so that repayments can be recycled, re-lent and re-invested into more Solar + Storage systems for ALICE households. With the highest energy costs and ambitious climate goals this is a win-win for the state and its communities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 8:44:46 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Forest Frizzell	Testifying for Shifted Energy	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair

Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

We stand in full support of this important bill. Financing solar+storage and energy options for lower income families is crucial to the state reaching its 2045 clean energy mandate. This bill also helps to democratize clean energy for all.

Thank you,

Forest Frizzell

CEO

Shifted Energy

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 10:19:06 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathryn Troyan	Testifying for Alternate Energy Inc.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, and committee members,
I strongly support HB977 HD1, which will provide critical funding to expand financing opportunities for rooftop solar plus storage systems through the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority (HGIA). This bill ensures that underserved ratepayers—including low- and moderate-income households, nonprofits, and small businesses—can access affordable clean energy financing.

Expanding financing will lower energy costs, enhance resilience, and accelerate Hawaii’s transition to 100% renewable energy. Without additional funding, many underserved residents will be left without options to invest in clean energy solutions. I urge you to pass HB977 HD1 to ensure that all communities in Hawaii can participate in and benefit from the clean energy transition.

Mahalo for your leadership and consideration.

Kathryn Troyan
Interconnection Specialist

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 10:19:35 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenn Miguel	Testifying for PV TECH & STAR ENERGY SYSTEMS	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony for HB977 HD1

Committee on Energy & Intergovernmental Affairs

Hawai'i State Legislature

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of HB977 HD1, which ensures that the Green Energy Market Securitization (GEMS) program functions as a revolving fund to provide continued financing for renewable energy projects in Hawai'i. Governor Green's Executive Order to promote and expedite renewable energy is a critical step toward reducing energy costs and meeting our clean energy goals. However, without sustained funding, these efforts will face significant setbacks. HB977 HD1 is essential to ensuring that GEMS funding remains available to support families and businesses in transitioning to solar energy and battery storage, particularly those in underserved communities who rely on financial assistance to make clean energy affordable.

By passing HB977 HD1, we can keep the momentum toward achieving 100% renewable energy by 2045 while ensuring that energy savings reach more residents across the state. Establishing GEMS as a true revolving fund allows reinvestment in future projects, rather than letting financial support diminish over time. Without this mechanism, funding will dry up, making it harder for homeowners and businesses to adopt clean energy solutions. This bill is not just about hitting energy targets—it's about securing a sustainable, reliable, and cost-effective energy future for Hawai'i. I respectfully urge the committee to pass HB977 HD1 and help ensure that our renewable energy goals remain within reach.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Jenn Miguel

PV TECH

&

STAR ENERGY SYSTEMS



March 10, 2025

Support HB977 HD1

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, and committee members:

I strongly support HB977 HD1, which will provide critical funding to expand financing opportunities for rooftop solar plus storage systems through the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority (HGIA). This bill ensures that underserved ratepayers—including low- and moderate-income households, nonprofits, and small businesses—can access affordable clean energy financing.

Expanding financing will lower energy costs, enhance resilience, and accelerate Hawaii’s transition to 100% renewable energy. Without additional funding, many underserved residents will be left without options to invest in clean energy solutions. I urge you to pass HB977 HD1 to ensure that all communities in Hawaii can participate in and benefit from the clean energy transition.

Mahalo for your leadership and consideration.

Respectfully,

 ENERGY ADVISORS	 (808) 688 3216  (480) 510 9197
Anthony Amendola President/CEO	 aa@energyadvrs.com
	 energyadvisorshawaii.com

"Making Sustainability Profitable"

Energy Advisors provides turn-key building improvement solutions through the development and funding of renewable energy, energy efficiency, EV Charging, and capital improvements in Hawai'i.



To: The Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs (EIG)
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 3:02pm

In strong support of HB977 HD1

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the EIG committee,

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 HB977 HD1** that authorizes the Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund to be used to provide financial assistance to underserved ratepayers, in addition to other eligible borrowers.

Hawaii will not be able to reach its carbon reduction goals if we do not enact policies that support these outcomes. 350Hawaii fully supports efforts by the legislature to establish social equity as a foundational principle in the State's efforts to strengthen climate resilience, including low-interest loan programs. Lower income households spend a disproportionate amount of their income on electricity bills. Without this program, capital constrained households will be unable to switch to lower, cleaner sources of electricity. Furthermore, as solar energy is currently about one-half the cost of oil-fired electricity, underserved ratepayers, including ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households would directly benefit from a program that helps overcome financial challenges such as high electricity costs and inflation.

Importantly, this measure aligns with the Governor's Executive Order 25-01, accelerating Hawaii's transition toward 100% renewable energy by maximizing distributed solar energy paired with battery storage to low and moderate-income residents. A Just Transition means leaving no one behind. That includes efforts such as the Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund that help to remove barriers and increase access to affordable renewable energy.

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

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 11:39:13 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Saville	Testifying for LegaSea Energy	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, and committee members,

I strongly support HB977 HD1, which will provide critical funding to expand financing opportunities for rooftop solar plus storage systems through the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority (HGIA). This bill ensures that underserved ratepayers—including low- and moderate-income households, nonprofits, and small businesses—can access affordable clean energy financing.

Expanding financing will lower energy costs, enhance resilience, and accelerate Hawaii’s transition to 100% renewable energy. Without additional funding, many underserved residents will be left without options to invest in clean energy solutions. I urge you to pass HB977 HD1 to ensure that all communities in Hawaii can participate in and benefit from the clean energy transition.

Thank you,

Scott Saville

LegaSea Energy

**Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement
91-1270 Kinoiki St., Bldg. 1
Kapolei, HI 96707**

**Hawai'i State Senate Committee on
Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs**
HB977 – Relating to Energy Financing

RE: Strong Support of HB977

March 11, 2025

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA) writes in **strong support of HB977** authorizing the Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund to be used for underserved ratepayers. As the effects of climate change can already be felt more and more every day, we must act quickly and do everything in our power to reduce our carbon footprint through a coordinated effort among a wide range of stakeholders. By providing individuals, nonprofits, and governments access to low-interest loans to invest in renewable energy infrastructure, we can increase resiliency while also providing greater access to the lower energy costs of renewable energy.

For the past year CNHA has been working with state and community partners to build Kalāhiki, a new program to directly connect low-income and Native Hawaiian families to the benefits of solar energy and efficiency at the household level. The financial model for Kalāhiki leverages a combination of private, state, county, and federal capital for communities to access affordable household solar energy. HB977 could become a cornerstone to furthering as the federal landscape shifts away from environmental equity initiatives. By including not only low-income households but also moderate-income families, nonprofits, small businesses, and state and local governments in its definition of “underserved ratepayers,” this bill ensures that a wider range of communities can participate in the clean energy transition.

The Legislature continues to be a champion and national leader in facilitating the State’s transition away from fossil-based fuels. For low-income households, this bill may help to free up income for other essential needs like housing, food, and healthcare. For nonprofits and small businesses, it means reducing operational costs and strengthening their ability to serve our communities. And for Hawai’i as a whole, HB977 represents a step forward in achieving climate resilience and energy independence.

With our high energy costs and lagging transition to renewable energy, this bill is a lifeline for underserved communities. For these reasons, we humbly ask that you **PASS HB977**.

Me ka ha’aha’a,

Madelyn McKeague
Director of Advocacy, CNHA

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 12:14:36 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

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

Comments:

KCAC strongly support HB977 HD1. Hawaii will not be able to reach its carbon reduction goals if we do not enact policies that support these outcomes. I fully support efforts by the legislature to establish social equity in the State's efforts to strengthen climate resilience, including low-interest loan programs.

-- Lower income households spend a disproportionate amount of their income on electricity bills. Without this program, capital constrained households will be unable to switch to lower, cleaner sources of electricity. Furthermore, as solar energy is currently about one-half the cost of oil-fired electricity, underserved ratepayers, including ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households would directly benefit from a program that helps overcome financial challenges such as high electricity costs and inflation.

Steve Parsons



Before the Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs
Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 3:02 p.m.

Testimony in Support of HB 977 HD1: Relating to Energy Financing

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of and provide comments on House Bill 977 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.

This bill will provide an infusion of capital to the Hawai'i Green Infrastructure Authority's (HGIA) Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund to continue to provide solar and energy storage financing for underserved ratepayers.

The significant recent spike in the number of applications HGIA has received demonstrates clearly both the pent-up demand for its Green Energy Money Saver On-Bill program and the need for additional funding.

Hawai'i Energy's mission is closely aligned with that of HGIA, as we're both working to improve access to clean energy technologies and lower utility bills for Hawai'i's hardworking families. Importantly, HB 977 HD1 also expands the definition of "underserved ratepayers." By including not only low-income households but also moderate-income families, nonprofits, small businesses, and state and local governments, the bill ensures that a wider range of communities can participate in the clean energy transition.

Given that our residents still face the highest electricity rates in the country, now more than ever HGIA is a critical tool to lower energy costs for underserved communities while making meaningful progress towards the state's climate targets.

Thank you for the opportunity to support House Bill 977 HD1.

Sincerely,
Caroline Carl
Executive Director
Hawai'i Energy

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 2:18:37 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, and committee members, I strongly support HB977 HD1, which will provide critical funding to expand financing opportunities for rooftop solar plus storage systems through the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority (HGIA). This bill ensures that underserved ratepayers—including low- and moderate-income households, nonprofits, and small businesses—can access affordable clean energy financing.

Expanding financing will lower energy costs, enhance resilience, and accelerate Hawaii’s transition to 100% renewable energy. Without additional funding, many underserved residents will be left without options to invest in clean energy solutions. I urge you to pass HB977 HD1 to ensure that all communities in Hawaii can participate in and benefit from the clean energy transition. We have used this funding to provide many residents clean reliable low cost solar energy and hope to continue to do so in the future.

Mahalo for your leadership and consideration.

Paul Orem- CEO

Photonworks Engineering LLP

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 11:55:51 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Low interest loans are important for our citizens.

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 12:07:50 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

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

Comments:

Honorable Members,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you support HB977 HD1 which authorizes the Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund to be used to provide financial assistance to underserved ratepayers, in addition to other eligible borrowers.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 12:16:00 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support. Thank you.

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 12:28:34 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB977 HD1. Hawaii will not be able to reach its carbon reduction goals if we do not enact policies that support these outcomes. I fully support efforts by the legislature to establish social equity in the State’s efforts to strengthen climate resilience, including low-interest loan programs.

-- Lower income households spend a disproportionate amount of their income on electricity bills. Without this program, capital constrained households will be unable to switch to lower, cleaner sources of electricity. Furthermore, as solar energy is currently about one-half the cost of oil-fired electricity, underserved ratepayers, including ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households would directly benefit from a program that helps overcome financial challenges such as high electricity costs and inflation.

-- This measure is in direct alignment with the Governor’s Executive Order 25-01, accelerating Hawaii’s transition toward 100% renewable energy by maximizing distributed solar energy paired with battery storage to low and moderate-income residents.

-- A Just Transition means leaving no one behind. That includes efforts such as the Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund that help to remove barriers and increase access to affordable renewable energy.

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 1:16:04 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeremy Kalan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB977 HD1. Hawaii will not be able to reach its carbon reduction goals if we do not enact policies that support these outcomes. I fully support efforts by the legislature to establish social equity in the State’s efforts to strengthen climate resilience, including low-interest loan programs.

-- Lower income households spend a disproportionate amount of their income on electricity bills. Without this program, capital constrained households will be unable to switch to lower, cleaner sources of electricity. Furthermore, as solar energy is currently about one-half the cost of oil-fired electricity, underserved ratepayers, including ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households would directly benefit from a program that helps overcome financial challenges such as high electricity costs and inflation.

-- This measure is in direct alignment with the Governor’s Executive Order 25-01, accelerating Hawaii’s transition toward 100% renewable energy by maximizing distributed solar energy paired with battery storage to low and moderate-income residents.

-- A Just Transition means leaving no one behind. That includes efforts such as the Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund that help to remove barriers and increase access to affordable renewable energy.

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 3:25:58 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Muftiah Martin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support the energy financing bill so that low and moderate income families can be part of the climate solutions!

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 4:40:37 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doug Kroll	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Solar is by far the best and long lasting investment in our future to make....and GEMS additional funds will continue assist the low and middle income struggling families, that need it most.

Doug Kroll

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 5:30:52 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Ho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs and Members of the EIG Committee:

I strongly support HB977 HD1. Hawaii will not be able to reach its carbon reduction goals if we do not enact policies that support these outcomes. I fully support efforts by the legislature to establish social equity in the State’s efforts to strengthen climate resilience, including low-interest loan programs.

Lower income households spend a disproportionate amount of their income on electricity bills. Without this program, capital constrained households will be unable to switch to lower, cleaner sources of electricity. Furthermore, as solar energy is currently about one-half the cost of oil-fired electricity, underserved ratepayers, including ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households would directly benefit from a program that helps overcome financial challenges such as high electricity costs and inflation.

This measure also aligns with lignment with the Governor’s Executive Order 25-01, accelerating Hawaii’s transition toward 100% renewable energy by maximizing distributed solar energy paired with battery storage to low and moderate-income residents.

Please pass HB977!!

Mahalo nui loa!

Cheryl Ho, Nu‘uanu

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 7:28:27 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Fryer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB977 HD1. It is critical for the legislature to establish and support social equity policies that strengthen climate resilience and help increase access to affordable renewable energy, including low-interest loan programs as described in this measure. Hawaii will not be able to reach its carbon reduction goals if we do not enact policies that support these outcomes.

Lower income households spend a disproportionate amount of their income on electricity bills. Without this program, capital constrained households will be unable to switch to lower, cleaner sources of electricity. Furthermore, as solar energy is currently about one-half the cost of oil-fired electricity, underserved ratepayers would directly benefit from a program that helps overcome financial challenges such as high electricity costs and inflation.

A Just Transition means leaving no one behind. That includes efforts such as the Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund that help to remove barriers and increase access to affordable renewable energy.

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 1:15:31 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
robin knox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Heat kills. High temperatures Our increasingly hot summers means people need airconditioning. The only affordable or sustainable way to provided that is to enable everyone to access solar technology. This bill will enable local families who dont have a lot of weathh or financialr esources to be able to survive climate change.

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 2:14:43 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jotis Russell-Christian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

-- I strongly support HB977 HD1. Hawaii will not be able to reach its carbon reduction goals if we do not enact policies that support these outcomes. I fully support efforts by the legislature to establish social equity in the State's efforts to strengthen climate resilience, including low-interest loan programs.

-- Lower income households spend a disproportionate amount of their income on electricity bills. Without this program, capital constrained households will be unable to switch to lower, cleaner sources of electricity. Furthermore, as solar energy is currently about one-half the cost of oil-fired electricity, underserved ratepayers, including ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households would directly benefit from a program that helps overcome financial challenges such as high electricity costs and inflation.

-- This measure is in direct alignment with the Governor's Executive Order 25-01, accelerating Hawaii's transition toward 100% renewable energy by maximizing distributed solar energy paired with battery storage to low and moderate-income residents.

-- A Just Transition means leaving no one behind. That includes efforts such as the Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund that help to remove barriers and increase access to affordable renewable energy.

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 6:59:44 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB977.

Hawaii needs to support providing financial assistance to underserved ratepayers in order for the state to reach its carbon reduction goals and help lower income families access cleaner sources of electricity.

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 6:59:48 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sally Lambert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a constituent of Kailua Kona, HI and I approve of House Bill 977 HD 1, to help provide loans for energy payment assistance to ALICE or lower income homes. This assistance will also help Hawai'i meet the Governor's Executive Order 25-01 to move Hawai'i toward 100% renewable energy. All of Hawai'i's people, regardless of income, should be included in our effort to achieve our Green Energy Future. Mahalo for your support to pass this bill.

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 8:39:37 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen M Kimbrell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We must pass this bill to advance Hawaii's climate goals, and to decrease the burden of high electricity costs for many of our citizens who can't afford their electricity bills.

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 7:25:06 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kevin comcowich	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of bill HB 977

I am writing to express my support for HB 977 which provides additional funding for the Hawai'i green infrastructure authority to continue to meet the needs of underserved rate payers.

It should be noted that this program has been incredibly successful to date. I am sure in your collective legislative experiences you have funded more problem programs than ones which exceed expectations. The expanded funding of the Hawai'i green infrastructure authority should be a very easy decision.

This source of funding is critical to continue to allow underserved ratepayers to benefit from solar energy. This is also a critical program to expand solar and battery storage to help meet the State of Hawai'i's goal of reaching fossil fuel independence.

Best,

Kevin Comcowich

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 8:17:39 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roseann Michaud	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB977 HD1. Establishing social equity programs to strengthen climate resilience is key to reaching our state's goal for 100% renewable energy. This measure will help increase access to affordable renewable energy.

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 9:20:32 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruby Pap	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou!

I strongly support HB977 HD1. Hawaii will not be able to reach its carbon reduction goals if we do not enact policies that support these outcomes. I fully support efforts by the legislature to establish social equity in the State's efforts to strengthen climate resilience, including low-interest loan programs. Lower income households spend a disproportionate amount of their income on electricity bills. Without this program, capital constrained households will be unable to switch to lower, cleaner sources of electricity.

Please vote yes!

Mahalo, -Ruby Pap (testifying as an individual)

Līhu'e, HI

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 9:45:03 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cameron Davidson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please... support the bill HB977! For a great amount of residence in Hawai‘i; GEMS is the only route that homeowners can take to get solar PV for their homes in the present-day economy. When I say that possibly thousands of underserved families could be positively impacted by the program, that statement is made without exaggeration. Plus, most of the dollars saved by solar will stay within our state. This could further help our economy and possibly assist in finishing longtime projects like the rail.

I appreciate you taking the time to hear what I have to say.

Cameron Lee Davidson

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 9:57:20 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, and committee members, I strongly support HB977 HD1, which will provide critical funding to expand financing opportunities for rooftop solar plus storage systems through the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority (HGIA). This bill ensures that underserved ratepayers—including low- and moderate-income households, nonprofits, and small businesses—can access affordable clean energy financing.

Expanding financing will lower energy costs, enhance resilience, and accelerate Hawaii’s transition to 100% renewable energy. Without additional funding, many underserved residents will be left without options to invest in clean energy solutions. I urge you to pass HB977 HD1 to ensure that all communities in Hawaii can participate in and benefit from the clean energy transition.

Mahalo for your leadership and consideration.

aloha, Jeff Lum

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 10:27:53 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, and committee members, I strongly support HB977 HD1, which will provide critical funding to expand financing opportunities for rooftop solar plus storage systems through the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority (HGIA). This bill ensures that underserved ratepayers—including low- and moderate-income households, nonprofits, and small businesses—can access affordable clean energy financing.

Expanding financing will lower energy costs, enhance resilience, and accelerate Hawaii’s transition to 100% renewable energy. Without additional funding, many underserved residents will be left without options to invest in clean energy solutions. I urge you to pass HB977 HD1 to ensure that all communities in Hawaii can participate in and benefit from the clean energy transition.

Mahalo for your leadership and consideration.

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 11:13:30 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elena Vorm	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB977 HD1. Hawaii will not be able to reach its carbon reduction goals if we do not enact policies that support these outcomes. I fully support efforts by the legislature to establish social equity in the State's efforts to strengthen climate resilience, including low-interest loan programs.

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 11:49:11 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, and committee members, I strongly support HB977 HD1, which will provide critical funding to expand financing opportunities for rooftop solar plus storage systems through the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority (HGIA). This bill ensures that underserved ratepayers—including low- and moderate-income households, nonprofits, and small businesses—can access affordable clean energy financing.

Expanding financing will lower energy costs, enhance resilience, and accelerate Hawaii’s transition to 100% renewable energy. Without additional funding, many underserved residents will be left without options to invest in clean energy solutions. I urge you to pass HB977 HD1 to ensure that all communities in Hawaii can participate in and benefit from the clean energy transition.

Mahalo for your leadership and consideration.

Radford Nakamura

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 12:12:00 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. Thank you

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 12:29:45 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Nelson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I strongly support this bill. I fully support efforts by the legislature to establish social equity in the State's efforts to strengthen climate resilience, including low-interest loans.

Lower income households spend a disproportionate amount of their income on electricity bills. Without this program, capital constrained households will be unable to switch to lower, cleaner sources of electricity. Furthermore, as solar energy is currently about 1/2 the cost of oil-fired electricity, underserved ratepayers, including ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households would directly benefit from a program that helps overcome financial challenges such as high electricity costs and inflation.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Nelson , Kaneohe

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 12:41:48 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, and committee members,

I strongly support HB977 HD1, which will provide critical funding to expand financing opportunities for rooftop solar plus storage systems through the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority (HGIA). This bill ensures that underserved ratepayers—including low- and moderate-income households, nonprofits, and small businesses—can access affordable clean energy financing.

Expanding financing will lower energy costs, enhance resilience, and accelerate Hawaii’s transition to 100% renewable energy. Without additional funding, many underserved residents will be left without options to invest in clean energy solutions. I urge you to pass HB977 HD1 to ensure that all communities in Hawaii can participate in and benefit from the clean energy transition.

Mahalo for your leadership and consideration.

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 1:08:19 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, and committee members, I strongly support HB977 HD1, which will provide critical funding to expand financing opportunities for rooftop solar plus storage systems through the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority (HGIA). This bill ensures that underserved ratepayers—including low- and moderate-income households, nonprofits, and small businesses—can access affordable clean energy financing.

Expanding financing will lower energy costs, enhance resilience, and accelerate Hawaii’s transition to 100% renewable energy. Without additional funding, many underserved residents will be left without options to invest in clean energy solutions. I urge you to pass HB977 HD1 to ensure that all communities in Hawaii can participate in and benefit from the clean energy transition.

Mahalo for your leadership and consideration.

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 1:09:47 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Latham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in strong support of HB977. This action will help those who are limited by their lower income and who currently spend a disproportionate amount of their income on electricity bills. Helping them switch to lower cost and cleaner sources of electricity is essential to meet the goal of 100% renewable energy. It is important to leave no one behind in the shift toward renewable and clean energy.

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 1:25:46 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lana Brodziak	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill as an important part of our State's strategy to meet carbon reduction goals and achieve 100% renewable energy.

Everyone needs to be able to participate in achieving these goals, even if limited by financial means to participate in Hawaii's Green Economy.

Everyone needs to have the support they need to reduce their dependence on petroleum derived electricity to reduce thier energy bills.

Everyone deserves to live in accordance to the values that we, as a Hawaii have deemed important by our legislative actions.

Please support this bill. Mahalo!

LATE

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 3:50:45 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hawaii will not be able to reach its carbon reduction goals if we do not enact policies that support these outcomes. I fully support efforts by the legislature to establish social equity in the State's efforts to strengthen climate resilience, including low-interest loan programs.

This measure is in direct alignment with the Governor's Executive Order 25-01, accelerating Hawaii's transition toward 100% renewable energy by maximizing distributed solar energy paired with battery storage to low and moderate-income residents. A Just Transition means leaving no one behind. That includes efforts such as the Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund that help to remove barriers and increase access to affordable renewable energy.

Mahalo, Barbara Best, Wailuku

LATE

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 3:55:38 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, and committee members,

I strongly support HB977 HD1, which will provide critical funding to expand financing opportunities for rooftop solar plus storage systems through the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority (HGIA). This bill ensures that underserved ratepayers—including low- and moderate-income households, nonprofits, and small businesses—can access affordable clean energy financing.

Expanding financing will lower energy costs, enhance resilience, and accelerate Hawaii’s transition to 100% renewable energy. Without additional funding, many underserved residents will be left without options to invest in clean energy solutions. I urge you to pass HB977 HD1 to ensure that all communities in Hawaii can participate in and benefit from the clean energy transition.

Mahalo for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerley,

Miles Yoshimoto

Project Developer

Alternate Energy Inc. 96-1276 Waihona Street Unit 114 Pearl City HI 96782

LATE

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 4:42:04 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Ah Sue	Testifying for Malama Solar	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, and committee members,

My name is Rachel Ah Sue, and I am writing in strong support of HB977 HD1, which provides essential funding for the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority (HGIA) to expand financing opportunities for rooftop solar and battery storage.

Access to affordable clean energy financing is critical for ensuring that low-to-moderate-income households, nonprofits, and small businesses can participate in Hawaii’s clean energy transition. The Green Energy Money Saver (GEM\$) program has been a successful tool in making clean energy more equitable and accessible. Without additional funding, many underserved ratepayers will lose the opportunity to reduce their energy costs and strengthen resilience through solar and storage solutions.

HB977 HD1 is a necessary step toward ensuring that all communities—regardless of income—can take advantage of renewable energy benefits. By passing this bill, the legislature will help advance Hawaii’s 100% renewable energy goals, create local jobs, and reduce our dependence on imported fossil fuels.

I urge you to pass HB977 HD1 and continue supporting policies that make clean energy financing equitable, inclusive, and accessible to all.

Mahalo for your leadership and consideration.



Green Power Projects LLC
Alan Lennard, Managing Director
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Haleiwa, HI 96712
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Testimony of Alan Lennard
Managing Director of Green Power Projects LLC
e-mail: alan.lennard@greenpowerprojects.com

IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB977 HD1 –
Continue financing rooftop solar plus storage systems for underserved ratepayers

THE SENATE
KA ‘AHA KENEKOA

THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2025

[COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS](#)

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Tuesday, March 11, 2025
TIME: 3:02 PM
PLACE: Conference Room 016 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, and 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 strongly support HB977 HD1, which will provide critical funding to expand financing opportunities for rooftop solar plus storage systems through the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority (HGIA). This bill ensures that underserved ratepayers—including low- and moderate-income households, nonprofits, and small businesses—can access affordable clean energy financing.

Expanding financing will lower energy costs, enhance resilience, and accelerate Hawaii’s transition to 100% renewable energy. Without additional funding, many underserved residents will be left without options to invest in clean energy solutions. I urge you to pass HB977 HD1 to ensure that all communities in Hawaii can participate in and benefit from the clean energy transition.

Mahalo for your leadership and consideration.

Respectfully,

Alan Lennard -dig signature

Alan Lennard
Managing Director
Green Power Projects LLC
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IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB977 HD1 –
Continue financing rooftop solar plus storage systems for underserved ratepayers

THE SENATE
KA ‘AHA KENEKOA

THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2025

[COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS](#)

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Tuesday, March 11, 2025
TIME: 3:02 PM
PLACE: Conference Room 016 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, and committee members,

My name is John Grandinetti. I am President of Grand Solar, Inc. which is a Solar installation company working towards 100% Renewable Energy capacity in Hawaii.

I strongly support HB977 HD1, which will provide critical funding to expand financing opportunities for rooftop solar plus storage systems through the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority (HGIA). This bill ensures that underserved ratepayers—including low- and moderate-income households, nonprofits, and small businesses—can access affordable clean energy financing.

Expanding financing will lower energy costs, enhance resilience, and accelerate Hawaii’s transition to 100% renewable energy. Without additional funding, many underserved residents will be left without options to invest in clean energy solutions. I urge you to pass HB977 HD1 to ensure that all communities in Hawaii can participate in and benefit from the clean energy transition.

Mahalo for your leadership and consideration.

Respectfully,

John Grandinetti – dig signature

John Grandinetti
President, Grand Solar Inc.
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Testimony of Laurence Ponce
RME of Solar Services Hawaii
e-mail: solar.services.hi.testimony@gmail.com

LATE

IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB977 HD1 –
Continue financing rooftop solar plus storage systems for underserved ratepayers

THE SENATE
KA ‘AHA KENEKOA

THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2025

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Tuesday, March 11, 2025
TIME: 3:02 PM
PLACE: Conference Room 016 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, and committee members,

My name is Laurence Ponce. I am RME of Solar Services Hawaii LLP, which is a Solar installation company working towards 100% Renewable Energy capacity in Hawaii.

I strongly support HB977 HD1, which will provide critical funding to expand financing opportunities for rooftop solar plus storage systems through the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority (HGIA). This bill ensures that underserved ratepayers—including low- and moderate-income households, nonprofits, and small businesses—can access affordable clean energy financing.

Expanding financing will lower energy costs, enhance resilience, and accelerate Hawaii’s transition to 100% renewable energy. Without additional funding, many underserved residents will be left without options to invest in clean energy solutions. I urge you to pass HB977 HD1 to ensure that all communities in Hawaii can participate in and benefit from the clean energy transition.

Mahalo for your leadership and consideration.

Respectfully,

Laurence Ponce – dig signature

Laurence Ponce
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solar.services.hi.testimony@gmail.com

LATE

HB-977-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 11:08:52 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/11/2025 3:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian M. Hayashida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii residents need more solar installations to coincide with the high cost of electricity and living. Passing HB 977 will help mightily with that requirement.



Legislative Testimony of Sunrun Inc.
Before the EIG Committee
March 11, 2025



IN SUPPORT of HB977 HD1 – Relating to Energy Financing

Dear Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, and distinguished Members of the Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs,

Sunrun is the nation’s leading home solar, battery storage and energy services company, and has a long and proud history in Hawai‘i with office and warehouse locations on O‘ahu, Maui, and Hawai‘i Islands. We employ more than 350 professions across the islands, including sales/marketers, customer experience professionals, and installation team members including electrical inspectors, technicians, forepersons and warehouse personnel.

Sunrun strongly supports HB977 HD1, which would provide critical funding to expand financing opportunities for rooftop solar plus storage systems through the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority (HGIA) via a Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund. This bill would help Hawai‘i and its residents achieve critical affordability, reliability, resilience and sustainability goals by expanding accessible clean energy financing options for underserved ratepayers—including low- and moderate-income (LMI) households, nonprofits, and small businesses.

Accelerating the installation of rooftop solar and energy storage across our state will advance progress towards Governor Green’s recently signed Executive Order 25-01¹ which sets a target of 50,000 new distributed energy resource (DER) installations in Hawai‘i by 2030. Specifically, HB977 HD1 aligns with the Order’s directive to “establish programs and enact policies to expedite these [DER] installations.” By expanding clean energy financing for underserved households, this bill will enable HGIA to finance more solar and energy storage systems across the state for residents previously unable to access clean energy solutions.

Hawai‘i has a 100% renewable portfolio standard (RPS) by 2045,² and DER systems are critical to achieving the state’s RPS goals. Hawaiian Electric (HECO) recently reported achieving a 36% consolidated RPS in 2024, largely due to continued DER adoption.³ Rooftop solar is the leading contributor to Hawai‘i’s clean energy portfolio, generating around 44% of all renewable energy in the state. Continued implementation of rooftop solar has proven to be a strong component of the state’s renewable energy generation and contributes to a more resilient energy system while lowering energy costs for all ratepayers. HB977 HD1 will enable further progress towards these goals while improving energy affordability and resilience for Hawai‘i’s underserved populations.

Sunrun strongly supports HB977 HD1 and respectfully urges the committee to advance this measure. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this critical legislation. As a national solar, storage and energy services company, Sunrun has a broad view of states’ clean energy policies and stands ready to assist Hawai‘i with its policy goals.

¹ https://governor.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/2501085_Executive-Order-No.-25-01.pdf

² <https://energy.hawaii.gov/what-we-do/clean-energy-vision/>

³ <https://www.hawaiianelectric.com/hawaiian-electric-surges-to-36-renewable-energy-on-grids>