Telephone: (808) 587-3868

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HAWAII GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804 Website: gemshawaii.gov

Testimony of

Gwen Yamamoto Lau

Executive Director

before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 3:15 P.M. State Capitol, Conference Room No. 224 & Videoconference

In consideration of HOUSE BILL NO. 558, HD2 RELATING TO CLEAN ENERGY FINANCING

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Misalucha, and Members of the Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and provide comments on House Bill 558, HD2, relating to clean energy financing. This bill proposes to create a clean energy and energy efficiency revolving loan fund under the administration of the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority (HGIA). HGIA **strongly supports** this bill.

With the state's current fiscal crisis, accessing Federal funds, which can be further leveraged with private capital, will be critical to continue investments in clean energy infrastructure and help kick-start Hawaii's economy. Our collective goal is to reduce energy costs, drive higher paying green job creation/retention and save billions of dollars currently spent on importing petroleum.

This bill would enable HGIA to submit an application to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, under its Rural Energy Savings Program to borrow flexible, low-cost loan capital and facilitate green infrastructure investments in rural areas across the state. Additionally, this bill would also enable both the financing of EV charging stations and the electrification of state vehicles, <u>at no additional cost to the state</u>, by utilizing a new cash flow stream generated from the realized savings of exercising purchase options in existing Power Purchase Agreement(s).

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and provide comments in support of HB 558, HD2.

HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

DAVID Y. IGE GOVERNOR

SCOTT J. GLENN CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

235 South Beretania Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804 Telephone: Fax: Web: (808) 587-3807 (808) 586-2536 energy.hawaii.gov

Testimony of SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer

before the SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 3:15 PM State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

In SUPPORT of HB 558, HD2 RELATING TO CLEAN ENERGY FINANCING.

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Misalucha, and Members of the Committee, the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) supports HB 558 HD2, which would establish the Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund under the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority (HGIA) and repeal the Building Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund under HSEO.

HSEO supports the creation of the new revolving loan fund to provide flexible financing and low-cost capital for clean energy infrastructure. Given the new fiscal constraints from COVID-19, enactment of this bill would allow HGIA to pursue non-state government funds. HGIA would then be in a position to deploy funds to support a broad range of clean energy technologies and infrastructure more expediently as compared to using bond financing. It would also provide more affordable energy options for all ratepayers, which supports the State's clean energy goals while contributing to Hawaii's economy.

Given the State's current fiscal shortfall, opportunities to leverage funds from other sources to invest in green infrastructure must be pursued. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently included green banks as eligible borrowers for its Rural Energy Savings Program. If given the authority to borrow moneys from other funding sources, HGIA could apply to borrow federal funds under the USDA program for green

Hawaii State Energy Office Testimony HB 558, HD2 - Relating to Clean Energy Financing - Support March 17, 2021

infrastructure investments in rural areas across the state. HSEO supports the provisions of this bill that amend HGIA's statute to allow the authority to borrow moneys from the Federal government and other sources.

HSEO supports this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities in the Executive Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

<u>HB-558-HD-2</u> Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:53:16 AM

Testimony for EET on 3/17/2021 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing	
Gail Suzuki-Jones	Individual	Support	No	

Comments:

Representing HSEO

TESTIMONY OF JAMES P. GRIFFIN, Ph.D. CHAIR, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION STATE OF HAWAII

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

March 17, 2021 3:15 p.m.

Chair Wakai and Members of the Committee:

MEASURE: H.B. No. 558 HD2

TITLE: RELATING TO CLEAN ENERGY FINANCING.

DESCRIPTION: Creates the clean energy and energy efficiency revolving loan fund in the Hawaii green infrastructure special fund to be administered by the Hawaii green infrastructure authority. Amends and expands the purpose of the revolving sub-fund for state agencies and also includes the electrification of fleet vehicles. Repeals the building energy efficiency revolving loan fund. Appropriates loan ceiling. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD2)

POSITION:

The Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") offers the following comments for consideration.

COMMENTS:

The Commission appreciates the intent of this measure to strengthen HGIA's ability to support investment in energy efficiency and green energy technology, including solar energy systems and other clean energy equipment, electric vehicles, and electric vehicle charging systems and infrastructure.

The Commission defers to the Hawaii State Energy Office with regard to this measure's policy impacts. It is the Commission's understanding that this measure will not impact HGIA's obligation to repay proceeds from the green energy market securitization loan program that have been guaranteed and funded by Hawaiian Electric's customers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



DAVID Y. IGE GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN

STATE OF HAWAII OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI

335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310 P.O. BOX 541 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809 Phone Number: 586-2850 Fax Number: 586-2856 cca.hawaii.gov

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Before the
Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism
Wednesday, March 17, 2021
3:15 p.m.
Via Videoconference

On the following measure: H.B. 558, H.D. 2, RELATING TO CLEAN ENERGY FINANCING

Chair Wakai and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dean Nishina, and I am the Executive Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Division of Consumer Advocacy. The Department appreciates the intent of and offers comments on this bill.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) create the clean energy and energy efficiency revolving loan fund within the Hawaii green infrastructure special fund under the administration of the Hawaii green infrastructure authority; (2) amend and expand the purpose of the \$50,000,000 revolving sub-fund for state agencies, which also includes existing power purchase agreements and the electrification of fleet vehicles; (3) repeal the building energy efficiency revolving loan fund, and (4) appropriate loan ceiling.

The Department appreciates H.D. 2's intent to seek other forms of financing to supplement and/or complement ratepayer-funded programs that finance clean energy technology and infrastructure. Given the State's high energy costs, the ability of ratepayers to support broad areas of the clean energy technology market, especially technologies that may not be commercially viable or cost-effective, are extremely

Testimony of DCCA H.B. 558, H.D. 2 Page 2 of 2

limited. The proposed language appears to address the concern that "[a]ny fees collected by the authority under this section" do not include monies collected as a result of tariffs approved by the Public Utilities Commission or monies meant for repaying the Public Benefits Fund. Otherwise, the depositing of fees or monies collected by the Authority, as described in Hawaii Revised Statutes section 196-65(a), into the clean energy and energy efficiency revolving loan fund would be inconsistent with the stated intent of this measure: to create a source of funding that does not rely on ratepayer funds and that can be used for a broad range of clean energy technology.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

P.O. BOX 150 HONOLULU. HAWAII 96810-0150 CRAIG K. HIRAI

ROBERT YU
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND
TOURISM
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 558, H.D. 2

March 17, 2021 3:15 p.m. Room 224 and Videoconference

RELATING TO CLEAN ENERGY FINANCING

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on House Bill (H.B.) No. 558, H.D. 2.

H.B. No. 558, H.D. 2, creates a Clean Energy and Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund (CEERLF) within the Hawai'i Green Infrastructure Authority's (HGIA) special fund; allows State agencies to finance their purchase options under existing energy performance contracts and power purchase agreements to further reduce and stabilize future energy costs, with the option to utilize savings to finance the installation of electric vehicle charging systems and lease or purchase electric vehicles; repeals the Building Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund (BEERLF) and provides that any unencumbered balance in the BEERLF shall be transferred to the credit of the CEERLF; and appropriates an unspecified amount of funds out of the CEERLF to make clean energy investment loans or for other approved uses.

Whereas the BEERLF restricts the use of funds to energy efficiency improvements in buildings, the CEERLF would expand the objective and use of funds to

include clean energy investments in addition to buildings. Funds shall be used to provide low-cost loans at below-market rates or other authorized financial assistance to eligible public, private, and nonprofit borrowers for clean energy investments or other authorized uses. The measure provides a loan ceiling of \$50,000,000 for the CEERLF.

As a matter of general policy, B&F does not support the creation of any revolving or special fund which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.4 or Section 37-52.3, HRS. Both revolving and special funds should: 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work and an explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process; 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue; 3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. Regarding H.B. No. 558, H.D. 2, it is difficult to determine whether the proposed CEERLF would be self-sustaining.

In addition, the intent of H.B. No. 558, H.D. 2, appears similar to language in Act 121, SLH 2018, which created a \$50,000,000 sub-fund within HGIA's special fund to serve as a revolving line of credit to finance energy efficient measures. While this sub-fund is also special funded, it is unclear if the fund created in this measure is to be another special-funded sub-fund or a separate revolving fund independent of HGIA's special fund.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NALANI BRUN, DIRECTOR



Testimony of Ben Sullivan

Energy & Sustainability Coordinator, Office of Economic Development

Before the

Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism March 17, 2021; 3:15 pm

Conference Room 224

In consideration of
House Bill 558 HD2
Relating to Clean Energy Financing

Honorable Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Misalucha, and Members of the committee:

The County of Kauai **supports** HB 558 HD2, which creates the clean energy and energy efficiency revolving loan fund in the Hawaii green infrastructure special fund, to be administered by the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority.

Energy efficiency and clean energy retrofits offer significant potential to both grow jobs and to help local households and small businesses reduce costs as we all work to restore economic activity in our communities. Giving HGIA greater flexibility is essential to enable the agency to quickly adapt to market needs and to avoid some of the delays and expenses associated with earlier programs.

Kauai County, who has been excluded from previous on-bill programs due to KIUC's choice to opt-out of the Public Benefits Fund, looks forward to having this option available to our residents and small businesses as soon as possible.

We thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

925 DILLINGHAM BOULEVARD, SUITE 257 • HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96817
PHONE: (808) 768-2277 • EMAIL: resilientoahu@honolulu.gov • INTERNET: www.resilientoahu.org

RICK BLANGIARDI MAYOR



M ATTHEW GONSER, AICP, CFM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2021, 3:15 P.M.

STATE OF HAW AI'I SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 558, HD2 A BILL RELATING TO CLEAN ENERGY FINANCING

BY,

MATTHEW GONSER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER
OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

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

The City and County of Honolulu (City) Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency (CCSR) **supports the intent of and offers comments on** House Bill 558, HD2, which creates a clean energy and energy efficiency revolving loan fund under the administration of the Hawai'i Green Infrastructure Authority (HGIA).

A revolving loan fund is a powerful tool to finance installations or procurements of energy efficiency measures, renewable energy generation, electric vehicles, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure, as well as other projects critical to achieving the State's sustainability and resilience goals. Financing mechanisms such as a revolving loan fund are essential to achieving the City's goal of reaching 100 percent renewable energy and net-negative carbon emissions no later than 2045, as codified via City Ordinance 20-47. Additionally, this bill would empower HGIA to implement and administer loan programs on behalf of other agencies, including City agencies, thereby reducing administrative burden and cost of deployment.

However, the bill includes language that makes it unclear what the City's responsibility will be in contributing to the fund. On page seven, Section 2, the bill reads:

"§196- Clean energy and energy efficiency revolving loan fund. (a) There is created within the Hawaii green infrastructure special fund created in section 196-65 the clean energy and energy efficiency revolving loan fund, similar to a revolving line of credit,

Chair Wakai and Vice Misalucha HB558, HD2 March 17, 2021 Page 2

which shall be administered by the authority. Funds deposited into the clean energy and energy efficiency revolving loan fund shall not be under the jurisdiction of, nor be subject to approval by, the public utilities commission and shall include:

- (1) Any amounts, up to a total amount not to exceed \$50,000,000, of moneys borrowed by the authority, with the approval of the governor, from federal, county, private, or other funding sources, pursuant to part III of chapter 39;
 - (2) Funds from federal, state, county, private, or other funding sources;

Per item (2) above, it appears the bill *requires* funds from county sources to be deposited into the revolving loan fund, rather than *allows* for funding from county sources to be deposited should such funds be available for such purposes. As written, CCSR has concerns about the City's ability to commit unspecified funds. CCSR suggests clarifying the above language to reflect the possibility of depositing county funds rather than the mandate as currently written.

Passage of an amended bill as suggested above supports the City's economic recovery efforts and enhance Hawai'i's ability to take climate action and protect its residents from climate impacts in an equitable and cost-effective manner. By providing the ability to attract and leverage federal and private sources of capital, a revolving loan fund can lower overall costs and provide access to clean energy technologies for those who have not yet been able to afford them. This can be particularly important for O'ahu's residents right now, as many face unprecedented economic and energy burdens as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, this bill will simultaneously act as a powerful economic stimulus and job creation engine in response to the ongoing pandemic.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and provide comments on HB558, HD2.



SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

March 17, 2021, 3:15 P.M. Video Conference

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 558 HD2

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Misalucha, and members of the Committee:

Blue Planet Foundation **supports HB 558 HD2**, which strengthens and expands the state's efforts to ensure an equitable transition to our 100% clean energy future.

This measure contains the following important elements:

- Replacing the dormant and unused building energy efficiency revolving loan fund with a
 "clean energy and energy efficiency revolving loan fund" and moving the governance of
 the fund to the active Hawai'i Green Infrastructure Authority (HGIA);
- Expanding the potential clean energy technologies that the revolving loan fund can support; and
- Allowing state agencies to finance their purchase options under existing energy contracts to further reduce and stabilize future energy costs, with the option to utilize savings to finance the installation of electric vehicle charging systems and lease or purchase electric vehicles.

These policy changes will help to accelerate the adoption of renewable energy, energy efficiency, and electric vehicles and help businesses and families who are currently underserved by existing market-based clean energy solutions. With nearly half of Hawai'i families living paycheck to paycheck even before the COVID-19 pandemic, reverting back to business as usual isn't enough. We need new approaches that protect families by ensuring access to low-cost renewable energy options and affordable monthly energy bills.

The HGIA is an effective entity to implement the clean energy revolving loan fund. The Green Energy Market Securitization (GEMS) loan program—which is governed by the HGIA—was developed as a way to fill underserved gaps and lower the cost of clean energy financing. While the program was initially hampered with regulatory and marketplace challenges, the GEMS program is now successfully achieving this mission, with nearly 80% of residential funds committed to date being deployed as low-interest loans for low-income and moderate-income energy customers.¹ The now-profitable program has helped to create or retain over 1,000 clean

¹ Green Energy Market Securitization Program Quarterly Report (January 1, 2020 – March 31, 2020), Hawai'i Green Infrastructure Authority.

energy jobs and avoid the emission of nearly a quarter million metric tons of carbon emissions.² Moreover, the program's on-bill financing option enables renters and low-income households to install solar and energy-saving equipment with reduced credit barriers and no upfront costs. Rather than using traditional measures of credit, applicants can qualify regardless of credit history, with eligibility based upon on-time payment of their recent electric bills.

Additional program benefits, according to HGIA's 2020 Annual Report, are detailed below.

Excess Revenues over Expenses – Through September 2020 ³	\$5.6 million
Jobs Created / Retained	1,095
State of Hawaii Tax Revenues Generated	\$13.3 million
Total Estimated kWh Production / Reduction Over Lifetime	807,485,440
Total Petroleum Displaced Over Lifetime (Estimated Barrels)	495,784
Total Greenhouse Gas Avoided Over Lifetime (Metric Tons CO ₂)	242,863
Percent Low- and Moderate-income Households Served	78.0%

House Bill 558 would allow HGIA to leverage additional funds to expand this effective loan program. The HGIA has a little over \$60 million of the original bond available to lend for approved clean energy projects. Once the bond is exhausted, however, the GEMS program will not be able to continue its effective work, as the funds returned will go to repaying the bond (unless another bond is sought). This measure proposes to continue the GEMS success by overseeing a revolving clean energy loan program, where the repaid funds can then be reloaned to benefit more businesses and residents. This enables the GEMS loan program—with its requirement to serve at least 51% low- and moderate-income—to continue sustainably.

Finally, the existing, dormant revolving loan fund allows for the receipt of funds from any source, including private sources. This could enable the GEMS program to operate in partnership with philanthropic or other private interests who support accelerating the just transition to 100% clean energy through a proven loan program.

It is also critical that HB 558 contain the appropriate language to allow HGIA to **leverage federal funding available to invest in green infrastructure as Hawai'i recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic**. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, for example, recently expanded its Rural Energy Savings Program to include green banks as eligible borrowers. Clarifying the language in HB 558 to allow for additional federal funding to flow in-state is especially important now amid the state's current budget shortfall.

Blue Planet Foundation supports HB 558 as a smart policy to strengthen and expand Hawai'i's ability to help us all move together toward 100% clean energy.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

² Ibid.

³ Excess Revenue over Expenses <u>before</u> loan repayments returned to the PUC / Public Benefits Fee Administrator per Order No. 34930 Amending Decision and Order No. 32318 By Changing the Priority uses of GEMS Program Loan Repayments.

HB-558-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 3:05:53 PM

Testimony for EET on 3/17/2021 3:15:00 PM

 Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Climate Protectors Hawaiâ€~i	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair, the Honorable Bennette Misalucha, Vice Chair and Energy, Economic Development and Tourism Committee members

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

Re: Hearing HB558 SD2- RELATING TO CLEAN ENERGY FINANCING.

Wednesday March 17, 2021, 3:15 p.m., by videoconference

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Misalucha, and Energy, Economic Development and Tourism Committee members:

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i is a group focused on reversing the climate crisis. **The Climate Protectors Hawai'i STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB558 SD2!**

As a tropical island State, Hawai'i will be among the first places harmed by the global climate crisis, with more intense storms, loss of protective coral reefs, food insecurity, and rising sea levels destroying our shorelines. As a tropical island State, Hawai'i will be among the first places harmed by the global climate crisis, with more intense storms, loss of protective coral reefs, food insecurity, and rising sea levels destroying our shorelines. We must do all we can to reduce our carbon footprint and become carbon negative as soon as possible.

This bill contains the following important elements:

- ï, Replacing the dormant and unused building energy efficiency revolving loan fund with a "clean energy and energy efficiency revolving loan fund" and moving the governance of the fund to the active Hawai'i Green Infrastructure Authority (HGIA);
- ï,· Expanding the potential clean energy technologies that the revolving loan fund can support; and
- ï,· Allowing state agencies to finance their purchase options under existing energy contracts to further reduce and stabilize future energy costs, with the option to utilize

savings to finance the installation of electric vehicle charging systems and lease or purchase electric vehicles. These policy changes will help to accelerate the adoption of renewable energy, energy efficiency, and electric vehicles and help businesses and families who are currently underserved by existing market-based clean energy solutions.

The bill would:

- (1) Create the Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund within the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Special Fund;
- (2) Expand the objective of the \$50,000,000 sub-fund to allow state agencies to finance their purchase options under existing energy performance contracts and power purchase agreements to further reduce and stabilize future energy costs;
- (3) Repeal the Building Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund; and
- (4) Appropriate funds out of the Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund to make clean energy investment loans or for other approved uses.

This bill would enable HGIA to submit an application to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, under its Rural Energy Savings Program to borrow flexible, low-cost loan capital and facilitate green infrastructure investments in rural areas across the state. Additionally, this bill would also enable both the financing of EV charging stations and the electrification of state vehicles, at no additional cost to the state, by utilizing a new cash flow stream generated from the realized savings of exercising purchase options in existing Power Purchase Agreement(s).

This bill would help the State finance its transition to lower carbon emissions.

Please pass this bill! Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

HB-558-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 1:57:39 AM

Testimony for EET on 3/17/2021 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing	
Janet Pappas	Individual	Support	No	

Comments:

Dear EET Chair Wakai, EET Vice Chair Misaluca and EET Committee Members,

I strongly support HB558 to fund green infrastructure projects using private and public financing.

Our planet and humanity's existence are now in grave danger due to ongoing climate change. Scientists tell us we must take immediate steps to stop global warming. Hawaii is a huge consumer of fossil fuels, to the tune of \$5 billion of imported fuel yearly. Transitioning away from carbon-based fuels is critical if we are to reverse global warming.

Why green infrastructure? And why now? Because what is becoming known as "green technology" is often cheaper and more efficient in the long run.

The state of Hawaii has lost and continues to lose money during the COVID pandemic. As we begin to recover, now is a good time to "build back better" where we can. Because our climate issues are forcing a big change in our energy sources, we need to find the most efficient path to the future.

If everyone had rooftop solar, everyone's electric bills would drop. If everyone had an electric car, their costs for car maintenance and operation would drop. If every state and city building/facility were energy efficient, building operation and maintenance costs would drop. So why don't we do all these things? Because we don't have the upfront money.

Bill HB558 sets up a revolving loan fund to be used by public and private interests for clean energy projects.

I support this attempt to fund green infrastructure projects that can make life better and less expensive for all Hawaii residents in the future.

Thank you for listening and for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas - Aiea, Hawaii



<u>HB-558-HD-2</u> Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:35:38 AM Testimony for EET on 3/17/2021 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaikea K. Blakemore	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support