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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

#### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Thursday, March 18, 2021
Time: 9:15 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room No. 325 & Videoconference

In consideration of SENATE BILL NO. 932, SD2
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and provide comments on Senate Bill 932, SD2, relating to the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism. 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 SB 932, SD2.

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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 932, S.D. 2

March 18, 2021 9:15 a.m. Via Videoconference

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on Senate Bill (S.B.) No. 932, S.D. 2.

S.B. No. 932, S.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 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 S.B. No. 932, S.D. 2, it is difficult to determine whether the proposed CEERLF would be self-sustaining.

In addition, the intent of S.B. No. 932, S.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.

## 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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Thursday, March 18, 2021 9:15 AM State Capitol, Conference Room 325

# In SUPPORT of SB 932, SD2 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM.

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports SB 932, SD2, which would establish the Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund under the Hawai'i 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 outside funds. The HGIA would then be in a position to deploy funds to support a broad range of clean energy technologies and infrastructure more efficiently as compared to using bond financing. Providing affordable energy options for all ratepayers would contribute to reaching the State's clean energy goals while also kick-starting Hawai'i's economy.

Given the State's current fiscal shortfall, opportunities to leverage funds from other sources to invest in green infrastructure are appropriate. HSEO supports amending 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 our Executive Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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

## TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

March 18, 2021 9:15 a.m.

Chair Lowen and Members of the Committee:

MEASURE: S.B. No. 932 SD2

**TITLE:** RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.

**DESCRIPTION:** Establishes the clean energy and energy efficiency revolving loan fund. Repeals the building energy efficiency revolving loan fund. Authorizes moneys in the green infrastructure special fund to be used to finance the option to purchase solar energy systems and other clean energy equipment, including the purchase or lease of electric vehicles. Appropriates an unspecified amount out of the clean energy and energy efficiency revolving loan fund. Effective 5/6/2137. (SD2)

#### **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.

S.B. No. 932 SD2 Page 2

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

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

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI

#### **Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs**

Before the
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Thursday, March 18, 2021
9:15 a.m.
Via Videoconference

On the following measure: S.B. 932, S.D. 2 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

#### WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chairs Lowen and Members of the Committees:

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 offers comments on this bill.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) establish the clean energy and energy efficiency revolving loan fund; (2) repeal the building energy efficiency revolving loan fund; (3) authorize moneys in the green infrastructure special fund to be used to finance the option to purchase solar systems and other clean energy equipment, including the purchase or lease of electric vehicles; and (4) appropriate funds out of the clean energy and energy efficiency revolving loan fund.

The Department appreciates S.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

Testimony of DCCA S.B. 932, S.D. 2 Page 2 of 2

ratepayers to support broad areas of the clean energy technology market, especially technologies that may not be commercially viable or cost-effective, are extremely 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.

#### 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

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2021, 9:15 A.M.

### STATE OF HAW AI'I HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

## TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 932, SD2 A BILL RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

BY,

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

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the Committees:

The City and County of Honolulu (City) Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency (CCSR) **supports the intent of and offers comments on** Senate Bill 932, SD2, which establishes the clean energy and energy efficiency revolving loan fund.

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 state and City 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:

<u>"§196- Clean energy and energy efficiency revolving loan fund.</u> (a) There is established within the Hawaii green infrastructure special fund established under section 196-65 the clean energy and energy efficiency revolving loan fund, similar to a revolving

Chair Lowen and Vice Chair Marten SB932, SD2 March 18, 2021 Page 2

line of credit, 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.

Additionally, CCSR would like to suggest that the committee add language to the bill that clarifies that counties—including the City and County of Honolulu—are eligible to receive funding from the clean energy and energy efficiency revolving loan fund to be administered by HGIA.

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 and benefit from them. This can be particularly important for Oʻahu'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 in support of SB932, SD2.

#### OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**NALANI BRUN, DIRECTOR** 



#### **Testimony of Ben Sullivan**

Energy & Sustainability Coordinator, Office of Economic Development

#### Before the

#### **House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection**

March 18, 2021; 9:15 am Conference Room 325

In consideration of
Senate Bill 932 SD2
Relating to Clean Energy Financing

Honorable Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and Members of the committee:

The County of Kauai **supports** SB 932 SD2, 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.

#### SB-932-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 9:58:22 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted Bohlen	Climate Protectors Hawaii	Support	No

#### Comments:

To: The Honorable Nicole Lowen, Chair, the Honorable Lisa Marten, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

From: Climate Protectors Hawaii (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing SB920 SD2 RELATING TO THE STATE LIGHT DUTY VEHICLES.

Hearing: Thursday, March 18, 2021, 9:15 a.m., by videoconference

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection:

Position: **SUPPORT** SB932 SD2

The Climate Protectors Coalition is a group focused on reversing the climate crisis. As a tropical island State, Hawaii 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)



#### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

March 18, 2021, 9:15 A.M. Video Conference

#### **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 932 SD2**

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Marten, and members of the Committee:

Blue Planet Foundation **supports SB 932 SD2**, 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. The now-profitable program has helped to create or retain over 1,000 clean

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Green Energy Market Securitization Program Quarterly Report (July 1, 2020 – September 30, 2020), Hawai'i Green Infrastructure Authority.

energy jobs and avoid the emission of nearly a quarter million metric tons of carbon emissions.<sup>2</sup> 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 <sup>3</sup>	\$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 <sub>2</sub> )	242,863
Percent Low- and Moderate-income Households Served	78.0%

Senate Bill 932 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 SB 932 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 SB 932 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 SB 932 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 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.



#### Hawaii Solar Energy Association Serving Hawaii Since 1977

Testimony of The Hawaii Solar Energy Association Regarding SB932 SD2, Relating to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, Before the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Marten, and members of the Committee, my name is Rocky Mould and I am the Executive Director of the Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA). Our membership includes the majority of locally owned and operated renewable energy companies in the State of Hawaii.

HSEA **supports SB932 SD2**, which establishes a clean energy and energy efficiency revolving loan fund to be administered by the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority for the purpose of providing low-cost financing for "clean energy technology, including energy efficiency measures, green transportation infrastructure, recycling, and renewable energy technology."

This measure would allow the existing Green Energy Market Securitization (GEMS) loan program to tap into additional sources of capital from public, private, and non-profit sources to support its mission-driven investments. This includes, but is not limited to, the potential to utilize federal stimulus funds to support economic recovery investments and jobs targeted to low-to-moderate income (LMI) residents, distressed small businesses, and other disadvantaged communities. These relatively underserved sectors represent an important opportunity to expand rooftop solar, energy storage, electric vehicles, and other technologies that will help the State achieve its critical renewable energy, carbon neutrality, and resilience goals in a more equitable, affordable, and sustainable manner. Adding capacity to GEMS will provide a significant boost to green energy projects for LMI residents, and is particularly beneficial given how the pandemic-induced downturn has affected these communities disproportionately.

The local rooftop renewable energy industry is a true Hawaii-grown success story and has been a main driver keeping Hawaii's economy going throughout the COVID pandemic. Without continued near-term investment in projects and jobs that align with our longer-term priorities, progress may be put at risk, and our economy and the people it serves may take longer to recover. If enacted, this innovative measure will become a powerful tool to assist our community to rise out of this crisis with a more robust, resilient, sustainable, and equitable economy.

The HSEA supports SB932 SD2 and we ask this committee to approve this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



March 17, 2021

Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Chair Representative Lisa Marten, Vice-Chair House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Support of SB 932, SD2, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM (Establishes the clean energy and energy efficiency revolving loan fund. Repeals the building energy efficiency revolving loan fund. Authorizes moneys in the green infrastructure special fund to be used to finance the option to purchase solar energy systems and other clean energy equipment, including the purchase or lease of electric vehicles. Appropriates an unspecified amount out of the clean energy and energy efficiency revolving loan fund. Effective 5/6/2137. [SD2])

EEP Hearing: Thursday, March 18, 2021, 9:15 a.m. VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 325

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers, and utility companies. LURF's mission is to research, educate and advocate for reasonable, rational, and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well- planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources and public health and safety.

For over 100 years, LURF members have been Hawaii's leaders in research, development production, and implementation of clean, green, and renewable energy projects.

SB 932, SD2 proposes to create a new Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund to provide flexible financing that will enable the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority to access Federal funding and leverage private capital to continue to support and facilitate investments in a broad range of clean energy technologies and infrastructure, energy efficiency measures, renewable energy generation, electric vehicles, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

For the reasons stated above, LURF **supports SB 932**, **SD2**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding this matter.

<u>SB-932-SD-2</u> Submitted on: 3/17/2021 3:26:03 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/18/2021 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

Please support SB932.

Thank you,

Andrea Quinn