

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR



Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority

An Agency of the State of Hawaii

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
CHAIR

GWEN S YAMAMOTO LAU
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Testimony of
Gwen Yamamoto Lau
Executive Director
Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority**
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
and
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND
February 6, 2024, 9:45 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325
in consideration of
HOUSE BILL NO. 2614
RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

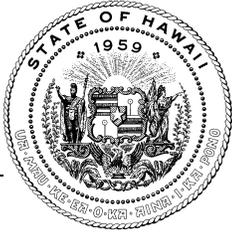
Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama, Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and Members of the Energy & Environmental Protection and Water & Land Committees:

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

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

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

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



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

MARK B. GLICK
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

(808) 451-6648
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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
**HOUSE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AND
WATER & LAND**

Tuesday, February 6, 2024
9:45 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

In Support of
HB 2614

RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.

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

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

HSEO recognizes that individual permitting agencies are taking steps to improve the permitting for solar photovoltaic and battery installations, and it appears that the SolarAPP+ requirement is compatible with those efforts.

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

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

And also

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

Regarding the self-certification section of the bill, HSEO notes the efficiency of the concept and looks forward to supporting the authorities having jurisdiction as they “establish a self-certification process” (page 4, lines 13-14) to allow residential and commercial on-site solar distributed energy resource systems to **begin** construction, with the understanding (based on discussions on a similar bill introduced last year) that final compliance review and approval will take place at the time of final inspection by the authority having jurisdiction (i.e. permitting agency).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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

650 SOUTH KING STREET, 7TH FLOOR • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
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RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA



DAWN TAKEUCHI APUNA
DIRECTOR
PO'O

JIRO A. SUMADA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
HOPE PO'O

February 6, 2024

The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Energy
and Environmental Protection
The Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Water & Land
Hawai'i House of Representatives
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: House Bill No. 2614
Relating to Renewable Energy

Dear Chairs Lowe and Ichiyama, and Committee Members:

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

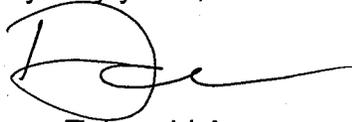
The DPP agrees that online permit processing apps such as SolarAPP+ are a must in order to process solar applications in a timely manner. In 2021, the DPP refined our own automated online permitting system for solar permits. This functionally equivalent system has proven very successful and processes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

The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Energy
and Environmental Protection
The Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Water & Land
Hawai'i House of Representatives
House Bill No. 2614
February 6, 2024
Page 2

The DPP's current system has the same instant online functionality as SolarAPP+ and has proven very effective in reducing our backlog of residential building permit applications. We support House Bill No. 2614, so long as the counties are given the option of using a functionally equivalent automated system.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,

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

Dawn Takeuchi Apuna
Director



**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**

February 6, 2024 at 9:45 AM
Room 325

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2614

Aloha Chair Lowen, Chair Ichiyama, and members of the Committees:

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

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

Hawaiian Electric's current plan for achieving Hawai'i's 100% renewable energy goal includes power generation from the rooftop of nearly every home across the islands. Over 106,000 homes on O'ahu, Maui, and Hawai'i island¹ and 6,000 homes on Kaua'i² have already installed rooftop solar. Residential rooftop solar is a proven tool to help homeowners and renters save money and reduces the need for utility investments in the power grid. When paired with batteries, rooftop solar panels can also increase resiliency in neighborhoods, helping homes keep the lights on and communication powered during a blackout.

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

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

² Per KIUC testimony on SB 781 from 2023, page 12, see: https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2023/Testimony/SB781_TESTIMONY_EET-GVO_02-09-23_.PDF

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-2614

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 3:03:07 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2024 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Dean	Recycle Hawaii, Clean The Pacific	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

HB2614

Streamlining the permitting process for home and commercial solar projects is vital. Everyday that passes, the consequences of our inactions compound. If the fossil fuel industry didn't spend millions of dollars lying about the pollution they were making, this might not be necessary, but because the fossil fuel industry is doing everything in their power to slow or stop the transition to solar energy, we are out of time.

his is an emergency. We need to fast track solar energy in every way we can. This bill is low hanging fruit and easily done. There's no downside to this bill.

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Fight with aloha,



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND WATER & LAND
Tuesday, February 6, 2024 — 9:45 a.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports HB 2614, Relating to Renewable Energy.

Dear Chair Lowen, Chair Ichiyama, and Members of the Committees:

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

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

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

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

**Before the
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
and
House Committee on Water & Land
Tuesday, February 6, 2024
9:45 a.m.
Conference Room 325 and Videoconference**

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

Chair Lowen, Chair Ichiyama, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sheena Choy, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects (Board). The Board will discuss this bill at its next publicly noticed meeting on February 8, 2024, after which it will be able to provide this committee with its position.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

HB-2614

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 9:37:06 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2024 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

To the House committee on Energy& Environmental Protection, as well as the House committee on Water & Land,

The Green Party of Hawai'i supports HB2614.

The world is facing a cascading poly-climate crisis where we need to expedite renewable energy sources, not only for the global population but more importantly for the residents of Hawai'i to prepare us to be as self-sufficient as soon as possible.

I massive influx of investment in infrastructure would allow the reduction of resource consumption that needs to be imported to our archipelago island home in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

Without energy independence, being self-sufficient and secure is an almost impossible goal to meet.

Green Party of Hawai'i supports a ,Yes vote , on HB 2614 .

Mahalo nui,

Susan RobertsEmery

Co chair GPH



To: The Honorable Chairs Nicole Lowen and Linda Ichiyama, the Honorable Vice Chairs Elle Cochran and Mahina Poepoe, and Members of the Committees on Energy and Environmental Protection and Water and Land.

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

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

Hearing: Tuesday February 6, 2023, 9:45 a.m., room 325

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama, Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and Members of the Committees on Energy and Environmental Protection and Water and Land!

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i seeks to educate and engage the local community in climate change action, to help Hawai'i show the world the way back to a safe and stable climate.

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i **STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB2614!**

Distributed energy resource systems, including roof-top solar energy and storage systems, **are proven ways for home owners and others to save on electricity bills.** Currently, slow permitting can delay installation for on-site distributed energy resource systems, including roof-top solar energy systems and storage, for eight months to twelve months. This bill would **streamline permitting, helping**

residents and commercial customers install on-site distributed energy resource systems, including roof-top solar energy and storage systems.

This bill would **lower administrative barriers** that constrain deployment of residential and commercial-scale distributed energy resources. This would open up access to the proven savings of solar energy and battery storage for additional homeowners and renters and possibly avoid some costly utility investments for everyone.

Government entities in the State that issue building permits would be required under this bill to implement, by the beginning of 2024, the SolarAPP+ developed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform that verifies code compliance and issues permits to licensed contractors for solar distributed energy resource systems in real time. This would **save consumers time and up to \$7,000 in red tape**. The bill would also require government entities in the State that issue building permits in areas served by an investor-owned utility (rather than an electric cooperative) to adopt self-certification for solar distributed energy resource systems that are not SolarAPP+ compatible.

Rooftop solar is a critical tool in mitigating climate change. This bill would **streamline Hawaii's permitting for solar distributed energy resources, which would help Hawai'i reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and meet its decarbonization goals.**

Please pass this important bill to **save residents money and reduce greenhouse gas emissions!**

Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

HB-2614

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 1:43:16 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2024 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Helen Cox	Kauai Climate Action Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

I urge you to support HB 2614 to address longstanding permitting issues that have been impeding progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. The measures offered by the bill are common-sense and will streamline permitting. This is an important step not only to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, but also to reduce costs for residents and increase resiliency.

Solar energy plays a critical role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating climate change, which is critical to protecting not only human beings, but wildlife and ecosystems. Battery storage adds a layer of resiliency in case of emergencies that cause a power failure.

Currently, families are often waiting more than a year to receive their permit. My own experience bears this out, and such delay is unacceptable. Please pass HB2614 and move us towards a better future. Mahalo.

Helen Cox, Chair

Kauai Climate Action Coalition



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

Executive Officers

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

TO: Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection and Committee on Water and Land

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 6, 2024
TIME: 9:45am
PLACE: Room 325

RE: HB2614 Relating to Renewable Energy

Position: Support

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

Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committee,

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

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

In a recent meeting many HFIA members were asked, "How would state incentivized solar and batteries positively impact your business, and/or the food industry in Hawaii? What is the main obstacle preventing you from transitioning to renewable energy for your business?"

Overwhelming the answer that received the most votes was, "Simplify permit zoning approval processing." This reply received more than 6 times as many votes as "Money, credits, incentives." Existing and future tax credits and incentives are an important part of creating a sustainable energy future for our state, but right now what businesses need in order to allow them to make the switch is a less onerous permitting process.

Making Essential Industries More Sustainable Makes Our State More Sustainable –

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

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

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

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

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

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



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

February 6, 2024

9:45 AM

Conference Room 325

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

Aloha Chair Lowen, Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Cochran, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committees,

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

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

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

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



To: The House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection (EEP)
and
The House Committee on Water & Land (WAL)
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2024, 9:45am

In strong support of HB2614

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama, Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and members of the EEP and WAL committees,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

February 6, 2024

Representatives Nicole Lowen and Elle Cochran
House Joint Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection and Water & Land

RE: HB2614 – RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY
Hearing: Thursday, February 5, 2024, 9:45 a.m.
Position: **IN STRONG SUPPORT**

Chairs Lowen and Cochran and members of the committee:

My name is Will Giese. I am the Senior Director of Government Affairs for The Solaray Corporation. Solaray was founded in 1975 and does business in Hawai'i as Inter-Island Solar Supply. Solaray also wholly owns Pacific Panel Cleaners ("PPC"), Generator & Power Systems ("GPS"), both Hawai'i Corporations, SunEarth, Inc., a California Corporation, and Alternate Energy Technologies (AET), a Florida Corporation. SunEarth & AET are domestic manufacturing companies producing American made clean energy products, much of which is installed and operated throughout Hawaii for over 40 years. GPS is the Generac Industrial generator distributor for Hawai'i. Solaray Corp., and its wholly owned subsidiaries, are proudly 100% employee owned.

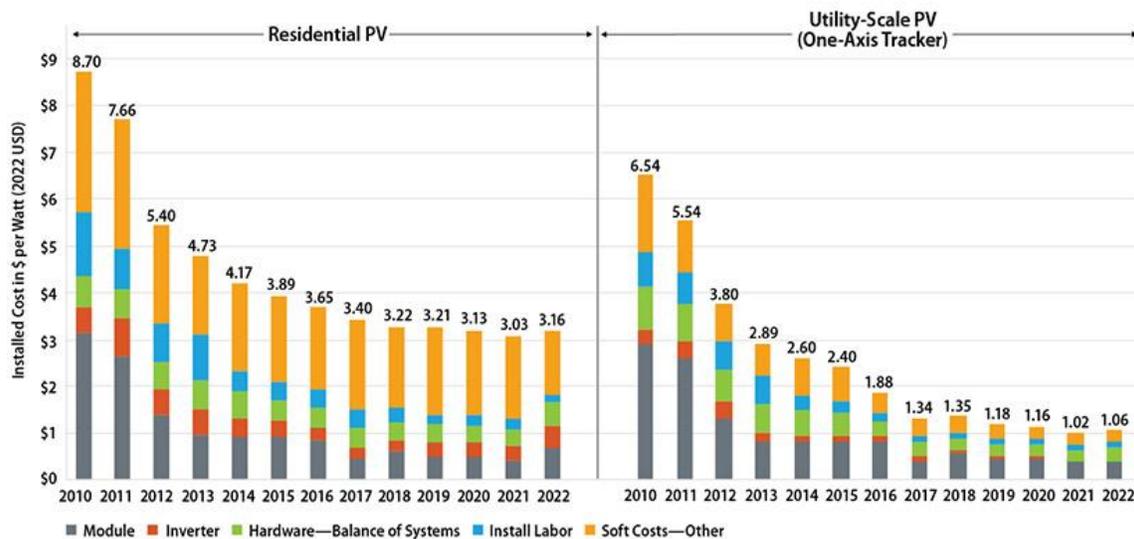
I am testifying **IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2614**, Relating to Renewable Energy

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

COMMENTS

Permitting of solar construction projects are a major driver for the overall \$/watt cost of residential, commercial, and utility scale solar around the United States. Creating efficiencies and cost reductions in the permitting, inspection, and interconnection ("PII") process increases solar adoption and decreases overall solar cost. Nationally PII makes up approximately 25-35% of total system \$/watt. ¹

¹ See <https://www.nrel.gov/solar/market-research-analysis/solar-installed-system-cost.html>



In Hawaii this is even more evident. The City and County of Honolulu leads the nation in permitting times and overall onerous regulation.² While smart and effective permitting process increase safety and lower long-term operations and maintenance costs, Hawaii’s overregulated permitting landscape results in permitting delays that are three times as long as the national average. Every day that a small residential solar project sits in permitting waiting for review is another day of added costs to the customer and the developer.

Tools like SolarApp+, which was developed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory with collaboration by code officials, AHJs and permitting department, and the industry, is an inexpensive and effective way to reduce the cost burden of permit processing, and provide another tool in the toolbox of permitting and inspection professional to rely on when addressing renewable energy development.

HB2614 creates a framework for all counties in Hawaii to follow that, in part:

1. establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;
2. removes the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems in places like Honolulu;
3. creates a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)

² See <https://www.hawaiibusiness.com/hawaii-building-permit-delays-top-nation-uhero-study-real-estate-carl-bonham/#:~:text=%E2%80%9CEven%20when%20you%20look%20at,a%20permit%20and%20getting%20approval.%E2%80%9D>

The legislature and this committee have an opportunity to lower the cost to go solar while preserving an effective and safe permitting structure by passing crucial legislation like HB2614.

As a local, employee-owned solar business owned and operated in Hawaii for over 40 years, we again express our **STONG SUPPORT for HB2614** and urge the committee to pass this important measure.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Will Giese
Senior Director, Government Affairs
The Solaray Corporation

HB-2614

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:00:06 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2024 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama; Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and committee members:

I strongly support HB2614 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that have impeded progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. HB2614 offers a number of common-sense measures such as:

- 1. establishing a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;*
- 2. removing the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;*
- 3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)*

Mahalo for scheduling this critically important bill for Hawaii's clean and resilient energy future and for giving me the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

Ryan Hamilton

Managing Partner

Inception Financial LLC



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

Testimony of The Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) Regarding HB2614, Relating to Renewable Energy, Before the House Committees on Energy and Environmental Protection and Water and Land

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama, Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and committee members:

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

HSEA members include the majority of locally owned and operated renewable energy companies doing business in the state of Hawaii along with leading global cleantech manufacturers and service providers that invest and sell in our market. We employ thousands of residents in diverse green economy jobs that are innovating, designing, and building Hawaii’s pathway to a renewable energy future. We advocate for policies that help Hawaii achieve critical climate and resilience goals by enabling residents and businesses to invest in and benefit from the transition to clean energy. These investments provide reliable and affordable power that reduces energy cost burden and contributes to Hawaii’s energy security as we decarbonize our economy and electric grid.

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

HB2614 addresses ongoing permitting challenges in several important ways:

First, the bill establishes a requirement for building permit issuing authorities to adopt the SolarAPP+ automated online permitting tool, or an equivalent that processes and approves applications in real time. SolarAPP+ was developed by the U.S. Department of



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory and has been successfully deployed for solar PV and battery storage projects in numerous municipalities across the nation. Adoption of SolarAPP+ is a "win" for all participants in the permitting review process. It reduces compliance risks, lowers time and cost, and removes relatively small and simple projects from the manual review queue so that building permit officials can spend more time on larger and more complicated projects and customers can install and benefit from their systems sooner. The investment in SolarAPP+ will reduce administrative burden and taxpayer expense and allow the counties to re-focus resources on other high priorities.

Second, the bill removes the burdensome and time-consuming materials and methods (MM#) review process and replaces it with standardized, peer-reviewed national product safety certification and documentation requirements. In addition to causing delay and extra cost that are ultimately born by residents and businesses that want to install solar and energy storage, this unnecessary requirement stifles innovation and blocks new lower-cost, higher-efficiency technologies from entering our market.

Finally, the bill requires permitting authorities to provide a self-certification pathway for projects that do not qualify for the SolarAPP+ online permitting tool. If a duly licensed design professional certifies that a solar project's plans are compliant with all applicable laws and codes, the project should not be delayed from proceeding to the construction phase if the applicant understands that the project must still pass final inspection. This will speed up the overall process and significantly enhance current efforts at the municipal level.

HSEA and other stakeholders have long collaborated with city and county administrations at the leadership and departmental level to improve permitting processes. While significant progress has been made, there is still room for progress. We are committed to continue working together to fix issues with current systems and help implement internal process changes. This bill provides a clear way to save time and resources for all involved, aiding Hawaii's renewable energy goals and carbon reduction targets.

HSEA **strongly supports HB2614** and urges the committees to pass this measure. Thank you for providing the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

/s/ Rocky Mould, Executive Director

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February 6, 2024

To: Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Rep. Elle Cochran, Vice Chair

Committee on Water & Land
Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Chair
Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

From: Malcolm Barcarse, Jr. ABC Hawaii Board Legislative Committee Chair

Associated Builders and Contractors Hawaii Chapter **COMMENTS** Re HB 2614

Chairs Lowen & Ichiyama, Vice Chairs Cochran & Poepoe and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, my name is Malcolm Barcarse, Jr. I am the Chair of the Legislative Committee of Associated Builders and Contractors, Hawaii Chapter which represents over 150 member companies in the Construction Industry in Hawaii. We also have a State Approved Trade Apprenticeship Program in the trades of Carpentry, Electrical, Painting, Plumbing and Roofing. Our national organization has over 21,000 members across 69 chapters.

Our comments today refer to the provision on Page 3, lines 17-21 that allows tying the issuance of building permits to labor standards. With the State scrambling to meet its renewable energy goals, we believe that adding additional burdens to these projects fails to help the State meet these renewable energy goals. They will potentially add additional costs to these projects along with slowing down the building permit process which is already taking too long in the current environment. Labor standards are covered in other areas of the law and administered by different agencies in the State and Federal Governments that have subject matter expertise in labor standards, so we ask those laws continue to be enforced by the agencies that are actually tasked to enforce those laws.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2614

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:03:24 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2024 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama; Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and committee members:

I strongly support HB2614 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that have impeded progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. HB2614 offers a number of common-sense measures such as:

- establishing a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;
- removing the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;
- creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)

I work in the solar industry and have seen customers who are eager to install solar be delayed for literally years, due to ridiculous and unnecessary permitting requirements and requests that do not support safety, and lack any reasonable justification. The Department of Planning and Permitting's policies are inhibiting the state's clean energy goals and significantly impede the industry's ability to serve customers.

Mahalo for scheduling this critically important bill for Hawaii's clean and resilient energy future and for giving me the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,
Kathryn Troyan
Project Manager
Alternate Energy Inc.

HB-2614

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:06:47 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2024 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama, Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and members of the EEP and WAL committees,

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

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for your kind attention,

Dave Mulinix, CoFounder, Greenpeace Hawai‘i

HB-2614

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:41:00 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2024 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Subject: Support for H.B. NO. 2614 - An Essential Step for Hawaii's Renewable Energy Sector

Dear Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

I am reaching out on behalf of Alternate Energy Hawaii, an active participant in Hawaii's renewable energy landscape, to express our support for House Bill No. 2614. This legislation is crucial for not only facilitating the continued growth of renewable energy in Hawaii but also for addressing some of the immediate challenges our industry faces.

The conclusion of the battery bonus program by HECO has notably impacted our industry, leading to reduced operational capacity and, regrettably, layoffs. This has affected not only our workforce but also the broader community that benefits from our services. Moreover, the extended processing times for permits have further complicated our industry's ability to deliver timely and efficient renewable energy solutions. These delays in permit processing have created additional hurdles, stalling numerous projects and dampening the momentum towards achieving Hawaii's renewable energy goals.

H.B. NO. 2614 offers a practical and forward-looking solution to these challenges. By streamlining the permitting process and reducing administrative barriers, this bill directly supports the renewable energy sector's capacity to innovate and grow. Implementing SolarAPP+, or a similar online automated permitting platform, as mandated by the bill, would significantly reduce the waiting times for permit approvals, enabling faster project completions and contributing to the state's clean energy objectives.

We appreciate the bill's nuanced approach to not only expedite the permitting process but also to ensure that the deployment of renewable energy technologies is done in a manner that is both efficient and responsible. This legislation represents a significant step forward in our collective effort to transition Hawaii towards a more sustainable and resilient energy future.

In light of these considerations, we respectfully urge the Hawaii State Legislature to pass H.B. NO. 2614. This bill is not just important for the recovery and growth of businesses like ours but is also pivotal in ensuring the continued success and sustainability of Hawaii's renewable energy sector.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your ongoing efforts to support renewable energy in Hawaii. We are committed to collaborating with the legislature and other stakeholders to realize the benefits that H.B. NO. 2614 promises for our industry, our communities, and the environment.

Sincerely,

Julian Kahumana
Engineer
Alternate Energy Hawaii
808-380-4664

HB-2614

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:41:35 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2024 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
George Kuo	Canadian Solar	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama; Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and committee members:

We strongly support HB2614. As one of the top 5 PV supplier globally, we want to participate and contribute to Hawaii's interest in renewable energy. HB2614 addresses longstanding permitting issues that have **impeded** progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals, which we are experiencing first-hand. HB2614 offers a number of common-sense measures such as:

1. Establishing a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;
2. Removing the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;
3. Creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)

Thank you for scheduling this critically important bill for Hawaii's clean and resilient energy future and for giving me the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

George Kuo

Sr. Director, Products

Canadian Solar Inc

1(831) 234-6550

HB-2614

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:46:15 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2024 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Josue Velasquez	Alternate Energy Inc.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Support for H.B. NO. 2614 - An Essential Step for Hawaii's Renewable Energy Sector

Dear Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

I am reaching out on behalf of Alternate Energy Inc., an active participant in Hawaii's renewable energy landscape, to express our support for House Bill No. 2614. This legislation is crucial for not only facilitating the continued growth of renewable energy in Hawaii but also for addressing some of the immediate challenges our industry faces.

The conclusion of the battery bonus program by HECO has notably impacted our industry, leading to reduced operational capacity and, regrettably, layoffs. This has affected not only our workforce but also the broader community that benefits from our services. Moreover, the extended processing times for permits have further complicated our industry's ability to deliver timely and efficient renewable energy solutions. These delays in permit processing have created additional hurdles, stalling numerous projects and dampening the momentum towards achieving Hawaii's renewable energy goals.

H.B. NO. 2614 offers a practical and forward-looking solution to these challenges. By streamlining the permitting process and reducing administrative barriers, this bill directly supports the renewable energy sector's capacity to innovate and grow. Implementing SolarAPP+, or a similar online automated permitting platform, as mandated by the bill, would significantly reduce the waiting times for permit approvals, enabling faster project completions and contributing to the state's clean energy objectives.

We appreciate the bill's nuanced approach to not only expedite the permitting process but also to ensure that the deployment of renewable energy technologies is done in a manner that is both efficient and responsible. This legislation represents a significant step forward in our collective effort to transition Hawaii towards a more sustainable and resilient energy future.

In light of these considerations, Alternate Energy Inc. respectfully urges the Hawaii State Legislature to pass H.B. NO. 2614. This bill is not just important for the recovery and growth of businesses like ours but is also pivotal in ensuring the continued success and sustainability of Hawaii's renewable energy sector.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your ongoing efforts to support renewable energy in Hawaii. We are committed to collaborating with the legislature and other stakeholders to realize the benefits that H.B. NO. 2614 promises for our industry, our communities, and the environment.

Sincerely,

Alternate Energy Inc.

Josue Velasquez



ReplyForward



LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

Legislative Testimony of Sunrun Inc.
Before the EEP/WAL Committee
February 6, 2024

IN SUPPORT of HB2614 – Relating to Renewable Energy

Dear Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama, Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and distinguished Members of the Committees on Energy and Environmental Protection and Water and Land,

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 HB2614, which would streamline the permitting process for solar distributed energy resource (DER) and storage projects. Permitting is one of the largest remaining roadblocks to widespread DER adoption, and HB2614 would address longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawai'i's renewable energy and climate resilience goals by offering a number of common-sense measures such as:

1. Requiring implementation of the SolarAPP+ online permitting tool or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;
2. Creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent); and
3. Removing the burdensome materials and methods number (MM#) requirement for solar DER systems.

Hawai'i has a 100% renewable portfolio standard (RPS) by 2045,¹ and DER systems are critical to achieving the state's RPS goals. In 2022, solar power generated nearly 17% of the state's total electricity, largely due to the rapid uptake of small-scale, customer-sites solar systems.² In 2023, Hawaiian Electric (HECO) achieved nearly 43% renewable generation, largely due to continued DER adoption.³ Rooftop solar is the leading contributor to Hawai'i's clean energy portfolio, making up over 46% of all renewable energy in the state.⁴ 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.

SolarAPP+ was developed by the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory and has already been successfully deployed in hundreds of municipalities across the nation. It is now

¹ <https://energy.hawaii.gov/what-we-do/clean-energy-vision/>

² <https://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=HI#tabs-1>

³ <https://www.hawaiianelectric.com/hawaiian-electric-hits-38-renewable-energy-in-2021>

⁴ <https://www.hawaiianelectric.com/about-us/performance-scorecards-and-metrics/renewable-energy>

required by the state of California after legislation passed in 2022.⁵ Further, the Solar Energy Industry Association (SEIA) estimates that soft costs make up about 65% of all residential solar installation costs, up from 58% in 2014.⁶ This bill is a powerful tool to drive down soft costs for residents and businesses looking to install solar equipment.

Adoption of SolarAPP+ is a “win” for all participants in the permitting review process. It reduces compliance risks, lowers time and cost, and removes relatively small and simple projects from the manual review queue so that building permit officials can spend more time on larger and more complicated projects and customers can install and benefit from their systems sooner. The investment in SolarAPP+ will reduce administrative burden and taxpayer expense and allow the counties to re-focus resources where they are needed most.

Sunrun strongly supports HB2614 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.

Sincerely,



Steven Rymsha
Director Grid Solutions, Public Policy
steven.rymsha@sunrun.com
808-220-7377

⁵ S.B. 379, Residential solar energy systems: permitting. C.A. Legis. Assemb. 2021-2022.
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB379

⁶ <https://www.seia.org/research-resources/solar-soft-costs>



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

February 5, 2024

Re: Strong support for HB 2614 Relating to Renewable Energy

Dear Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama; Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and committee members:

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

HB 2614 will facilitate more efficient permitting processes for simple solar projects. When residents invest in solar, including paying application fees, they deserve a streamlined process. Unfortunately, hundreds of our customers have experienced egregious delays with local jurisdictions throughout the permitting process. This is unacceptable. It hurts local businesses (installers), and is also unfair to ratepayers who are doing their part to generate local clean energy. Solar is a simple and safe technology which should be approved instantaneously. Over-the-counter permit approval for solar systems is urgently needed in Hawaii. Clean energy projects should not be stalled by local bureaucracy.

We are asking the State legislature to intervene. We supported a similar bill last year, and were disappointed that it did not advance. Unfortunately, over the last year, permitting with local jurisdictions has not improved. This hurts our customers, our industry, small businesses, and our environment. Please provide the leadership necessary to move this critically needed legislation forward.

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

Thank you for receiving Sunnova's testimony on HB 2614. We believe this bill will help the residents of Hawaii save money and support Hawaii's climate resilience goals.

Respectfully,

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

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



February 6, 2024

TO: Chair Nicole E. Lowen
Vice Chair Elle Cochran
Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Chair Linda Ichiyama
Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe
Members of the House Committee on Water & Land

FR: Noelani Derrickson
Public Policy & Business Development

RE: HB 2614 Relating to Renewable Energy. - Support

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee:

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

Tesla **strongly supports HB2614**, as it addresses the key obstacles for continued solar and storage growth in Hawaii – the time it takes to permit and install residential solar and storage systems. Additionally, we recommend consideration of proposed amendments in Appendix 1.

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

HB2614 requires local government adoption of an automatic and online permitting system, such as [SolarAPP+](#), which can review 14 times more solar permits than traditional over-the-counter processes and is free to use. SolarAPP+ was developed for local governments by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), in coordination with Underwriters Laboratory, the International Code Council, the National Fire Protection Association, and local governments. According to NREL, projects submitted through SolarAPP+ are permitted, installed, and

inspected on average 13 business days faster than projects using the conventional process. As of 2024, SolarApp+ has been adopted in 167 local jurisdictions, in 11 states.

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

HB-2614

Submitted on: 2/2/2024 3:12:32 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2024 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support HB2614, as rooftop solar installations in Hawaii are being unreasonably delayed by a cumbersome permitting process.

HB-2614

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 12:28:34 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2024 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamra Hayden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB2614,

This Bill is so important to Hawai'i, as it will a much needed speed to consumers who are installing, or will be installing solar. For years now we have been encouraged to go "gree" in order that Hawai'i can meet its climate goals and lessen the need for fossil fuels.

Many of us w are feeling frustrated with the long wait times to get their solar installation approved. This bill will aid consumers by stream lining the permitting process, therefore reducing costs for residents and assist the state in reaching out climate goals.

When solar is combined with a battery storage, it helps our resiliency by providing energy backup, when there are disruptions to service, storms and fires come to mind,. After the recent rolling black outs, causing conflict and distress for residence, we need a solution, and this bill will supply a fix.. By removing the permitting delays more people can benefit from this clean energy source, verses adding more problems to an outdated fuel reliance.

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

-Rooftop solar power is a key tool in the fight against climate change. HB2614 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals! Please be sure this bill is forwarded, we are relying on your common sense thinking and hope you will do that right thing for the people of Hawai'i and the earth you will leave behind for our children and their children. Thank you for your time and thoughtful conclusion.

HB-2614

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 5:29:25 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2024 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

HB-2614

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 8:08:40 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2024 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill which would streamline the permitting process for small scale solar and energy storage projects. Rooftop solar is key to helping Hawaii meet its decarbonization goals.

HB-2614

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 8:14:11 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2024 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keith Neal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen and members of the EEP

I support HB2614

Hawaii having a consistent permitting platform will benefit all concerned. Please implement SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform.

Mahalo,

Keith Neal

Waimea

HB-2614

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 9:25:20 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2024 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Honorable Members,

I respectfully ask that you support HB2614 which will streamline permitting for solar and storage.

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

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

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

HB-2614

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 11:05:42 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2024 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I'm born and raised in the Hawaiian Kingdom. I live in Mō'ili'ili. I'm writing in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2614 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. HB2614 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline permitting. This is an important step to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.

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

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

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

me ke aloha 'āina,

Nanea Lo

HB-2614

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 3:43:32 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2024 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

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

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

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

Mahalo,
Lisa Isoda
Lahaina, Maui

HB-2614

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 3:44:23 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2024 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

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

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

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

Mahalo,
Andrew Isoda
Lahaina, Mau'i

HB-2614

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 4:01:06 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2024 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeannette Gurung	WOCAN	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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

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

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

HB-2614

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 8:20:23 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2024 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cory Harden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

I strongly support this bill to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects. With battery backup, solar is a better choice than "firm" centralized power sources that depend on shipping for fuel. With decentralized rooftop solar, we are less likely to have widespread power outages. Let's make it faster and easier to install solar plus storage, to protect our environment, cut electric bills, and make Hawai'i more resilient.

mahalo,

Cory

HB-2614

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 9:27:17 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2024 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Representatives!

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

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

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

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

Mahalo nui loa

R A Culbertson

Honokaa

HB-2614

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 12:05:55 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2024 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tadia Rice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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

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

- Rooftop solar power is a key tool in the fight against climate change.

HB2614 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals!

HB-2614

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 12:35:48 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2024 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Hunt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT..!

Please vote for and pass HB2614

I strongly support HB2614. It resolves permitting issues that have blocked progress on our clean, renewable energy and climate goals. It will also help reduce costs for responsible residents who are trying to do their part!

HECO has, unfortunately, and shamefully been convincing the PUC to make decisions that may help HECO's profits, but will DAMAGE our progress towards truly clean, sustainable, equitable solar policy and our RPS Goals. We need to REMOVE unnecessary roadblocks and disincentives to installing solar (and solar plus storage) systems.

HB2614 establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects.

Currently families are often waiting more than a year to receive their permit. By implementing HB2614, there will be auto-approval, proceed-to-build for solar and storage projects that qualify for online submittal.

Rooftop solar power (especially with storage) is our single most logical, do-able, and important means of;

1 Replacing polluting combustion-sourced power, (fossil fuel, burning waste, and burning "biomass" (trees which scrub and sequester CO2).

2 Slowing climate change, and

3 Achieving our RPS and decarbonization goals

I respectfully ask you to vote FOR HB2614.

HB-2614

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 3:49:01 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2024 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Streamlining permittin will help us meet climate goals to become more resilient. The app is efficient to help us decarbonize, which is vital.

Mahalo

HB-2614

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 8:49:04 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2024 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Permitting for solar energy needs to be made easier, streamlined!

HB-2614

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 10:34:39 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2024 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama; Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and committee members:

I strongly support HB2614 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that have impeded progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. HB2614 offers a number of common-sense measures such as:

- 1. establishing a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;*
- 2. removing the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;*
- 3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)*

Mahalo for scheduling this critically important bill for Hawaii's clean and resilient energy future and for giving me the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

Lori Ann Saunders

HB-2614

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 10:44:38 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2024 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ella Aki	Sol-Ark	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama; Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and committee members:

I strongly support HB2614 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that have impeded progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. HB2614 offers a number of common-sense measures such as:

Establishing a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;
removing the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems; creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)

Mahalo for scheduling this critically important bill for Hawaii's clean and resilient energy future and for giving me the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mahalo piha,

Ella Henanipuakea Aki

HB-2614

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 6:51:55 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2024 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your consideration,

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

HB-2614

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 7:58:08 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2024 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama; Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and committee members,

I strongly support HB2614 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that have impeded progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. HB2614 offers a number of common-sense measures such as:

1. establishing a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;
2. removing the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;
3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)

Mahalo for scheduling this critically important bill for Hawaii's clean and resilient energy future and for giving me the opportunity to provide testimony.

Aloha!

Roy Skaggs

HB-2614

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:03:06 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2024 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

strongly support HB2614 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that have impeded progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. HB2614 offers a number of common-sense measures such as:

- 1. establishing a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;*
- 2. removing the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;*
- 3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)*

Mahalo!

Faith Texeira

HB-2614

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:32:25 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2024 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama; Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and committee members:

I strongly support HB2614 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that have impeded progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. HB2614 offers a number of common-sense measures such as:

- 1. establishing a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;*
- 2. removing the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;*
- 3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)*

Mahalo for scheduling this critically important bill for Hawaii's clean and resilient energy future and for giving me the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

Justin Furuta

HB-2614

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:39:56 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2024 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama; Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and committee members:

I strongly support HB2614 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that have impeded progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. HB2614 offers a number of common-sense measures such as:

- 1. establishing a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;*
- 2. removing the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;*
- 3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)*

Mahalo for scheduling this critically important bill for Hawaii's clean and resilient energy future and for giving me the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mahalo

Sincerely,

Miles Yoshimoto

Project Developer

Alternate Energy Inc.

96-1276 Waihona Street Unit 114

Pearl City HI 96782

HB-2614

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:45:57 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2024 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama; Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and committee members:

I strongly support HB2614 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that have impeded progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. HB2614 offers a number of common-sense measures such as:

- 1. establishing a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;*
- 2. removing the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;*
- 3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)*

Mahalo for scheduling this critically important bill for Hawaii's clean and resilient energy future and for giving me the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

Wei Lun Lian

HB-2614

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 9:08:49 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2024 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terri Rhody	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama; Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and committee members:

I strongly support HB2614 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that have impeded progress on Hawai'i's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. HB2614 offers a number of common-sense measures such as:

- 1. establishing a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;*
- 2. removing the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;*
- 3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)*

Mahalo for scheduling this critically important bill for Hawai'i's clean and resilient energy future and for giving me the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

HB-2614

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 2:19:59 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2024 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama; Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and committee members:

I strongly support HB2614 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that have impeded progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. HB2614 offers a number of common-sense measures such as:

1. establishing a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;
2. removing the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;
3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)

Mahalo for scheduling this critically important bill for Hawaii's clean and resilient energy future and for giving me the opportunity to provide testimony.

Aloha, Jeff Lum

856 Nana Honua St

Honolulu HI 96825