



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

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HAWAII GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY

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Testimony of
Gwen Yamamoto Lau
Executive Director
Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
March 31, 2023, 2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308
in consideration of
SENATE BILL NO. 781, SD2, HD2
RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Finance Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and provide comments on Senate Bill No. 781, SD2, HD2, 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.

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 existing permitting processes, saving ratepayers and contractors time and money while reducing carbon emissions. Removing administrative barriers to the deployment of solar energy systems by leveraging existing technologies will also 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.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and provide comments on Senate Bill No. 781, SD2, HD2.

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

**Before the
House Committee on Finance
Friday, March 31, 2023
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 781, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committees:

My name is Lee Ann Teshima, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects (Board). The Board offers comments expressing its concerns regarding the amendments made to the sections that pertain to licensed architects and engineers.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) 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, 2024; (2) require government entities in the State that issue building permits in territories served by an investor-owned electric utility to adopt self-certification for residential and commercial on-site solar distributed energy resource systems that are not SolarAPP+ compatible; and (3) make the professional engineers, architects, surveyors, and landscape architects licensure law inapplicable to work with respect to residential distributed energy resource systems.

The Board appreciates the bill's intent to streamline the permitting process, but not to the detriment of consumer welfare.

The proposed amendments as outlined on page 5, lines 9 to 16, bypass the requirement for the design of the plans for a solar distributed energy resource system to be sealed or stamped by a licensed architect or engineer, including but not limited, to all plans, specifications, maps, and reports prepared by or under the supervision of a licensed engineer, architect, surveyor, or landscape architect when filed with public officials as required by Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) section 464-11. These

amendments to subsection (2) would subject the licensee to the same responsibilities as required by law, but without the seal or stamp of a licensed architect or engineer. As such, the Board respectfully requests that amendments to HRS chapter 464 as provided in sections 3 and 4 of this bill be deleted. Further, as written, this language appears to address the design of the installation of the system. If this is the intent of this subsection, then the Board recommends the reference to a “duly licensed plumber” be deleted (page 5, line 12).

In addition, section 2, page 6, lines 7 to 10, of the bill appears to circumvent the final inspection process prior to closing a permit, which may impact consumer safety and welfare.

The Board believes that licensed architects and engineers must continue to seal or stamp plans or specifications for the safeguarding of life, health, or property of the consuming public.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 5:50:56 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Currently the permitting process impedes residential & other smaller solar and energy storage projects. Renewable solar energy is an important component in decarbonizing our homes and other buildings and lowering our carbon emissions. Let's make it easier for people to participate and do the right thing. This is low hanging fruit for the state in its efforts to meet its goals in fighting the climate crisis.

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 6:06:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tophers Dean	Clean the Pacific	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

We at Clean The Pacific strongly support this bill. All one needs to do is listen to the speeches from the UN Secretary General or from the IPCC to understand that this is a state of emergency. The situation is so dire, that Scott Pelley did a piece on 60 Minutes about how life on Earth is doomed. You know when the main stream media says we're doomed, the situation is dire. There's no time to take measured steps, we've squandered that opportunity cowering to the fossil fuel industry. Now we have to act decisively. If your house was on fire, you wouldn't take time to think about it. You wouldn't say, let's not be hasty now, let's just see how this fire progresses before we spend money on calling the fire department. Well, our house is on fire, quite literally.

Solar is the future. 1000 square miles meets America's total energy demand. We have ten times that amount of roof space already in existence. All we need to do is to make it easy for home owners to make the switch. I guarantee you, this one bill will do more to boost Hawaii's economy than any piece of legislation in our history. Any champion of this bill will be able to look back at this moment with pride, a true legacy. It's your choice, tell your grandchildren how you helped save planet Earth, or beg them for forgiveness for not doing what needed to be done.



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i

FIN_03-31-23 2pm SB781 solar Permits

TO: COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

CONCERNING: SB 781, SD2, HD2 (HSCR1539) RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Committee

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii joins with the many environmental organizations in Hawaii in asking you to pass this bill.

Our state has made a major commitment to “clean” and renewable energy by 2045 which we can only hope will not be too late to make a difference in our area climate. Our cleanest and most consistent source of energy is solar energy; however we are far behind many other countries in taking full advantage of it.

For many questionable reasons, our state, encouraged by HECO, has not made it easy for home owners to install solar panels, or encouraged the instillation of storage battery options which have been around for over 10 years. Where might we have been today if HECO had moved much faster and sooner in creating battery storage systems for excess solar power feeding into the grid and/or preparing their grid for solar power input?

The least we can do now is speed up the permitting system for private home owners and small businesses so they can install solar power with storage batteries ASAP. Currently there are families who have been waiting as much as a year just to get a permit. This is unacceptable and must be remedied.

By implementing provisions in SB781 SD2 HD2, there will be auto-approval, proceed-to-build for all solar and storage projects that qualify for the online submittal.

Martha E Randolph for the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii
SCC Representative



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

March 31, 2023

2:00 PM

Conference Room 308

In SUPPORT of SB781 SD2 HD2: Relating to Renewable Energy

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS** SB781 SD2 HD2, 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. SB781 SD2 HD2 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 Committee to **PASS** SB781 SD2 HD2. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 10:37:59 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Our Revolution Hawaii's 5,000 members and supporters statewide we stand in STRONG SUPPORT of SB781 SD2 HD2 that 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 1/1/2024. Requires government entities in the State that issue building permits in territories served by an investor-owned electric utility to adopt self-certification for residential and commercial on-site solar distributed energy resource systems that are not SolarAPP+ compatible. Makes the professional engineers, architects, surveyors, and landscape architects licensure law inapplicable to work with respect to residential distributed energy resource systems.

SB781 SD2 HD2 is essential because it addresses the longstanding permitting approval backlog that impedes progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. Currently homeowners have had to wait up to a year to get their permit to install solar panels. Through SB781 SD2 HD2 the State will be able to offer the free online SolarAPP+ that will quicken solar permitting authorization from months to a day.

SolarAPP+ was developed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in a collaborative partnership with industry and the building safety community, with funding from the U.S. Department of Energy. By the State implementing SolarAPP+ there will be auto-approval, proceed-to-build for all solar and storage projects that qualify for the online submission. Jurisdictions in California and Arizona that are already using SolarAPP+, have shortened waits for permits from months to a single day.

Rooftop solar power reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and as such, is a key tool in our fight against the growing climate crisis. We must remove the unnecessary roadblocks and burdens to installing solar plus storage systems so that all may access the benefits from solar energy.

In summation please pass SB781 SD2 HD2 because it will quicken the pace and increase the number solar projects being approved, creating new green jobs, helping Hawaii's economy grow, while helping families lower their energy costs, and Hawaii achieve its renewable energy portfolio standard and carbon reduction goals.

Mahalo,

Dave Mulinix, Cofounder & Hawaii State Organizer

Our Revolution Hawaii



To: The Honorable Chair Kyle Yamashita, the Honorable Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee on Finance

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

Re: **Hearing SB781 SD2 HD2 RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Hearing: Friday March 31, 2023, 2:00 p.m., room 308

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee on Finance:

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 SB781 SD2 HD2!**

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)



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Friday, March 31, 2023 — 2:00 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports SB 781 SD2 HD2, Relating to Renewable Energy.

Dear Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

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 SB 781 SD2 HD2, 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 1/1/2024; requires government entities in the State that issue building permits in territories served by an investor-owned electric utility to adopt self-certification for residential and commercial on-site solar distributed energy resource systems that are not SolarAPP+ compatible; and, makes the professional engineers, architects, surveyors, and landscape architects licensure law inapplicable to work with respect to residential distributed energy resource systems.

Ulupono supports the use of SolarAPP+, or an equivalent platform, to help streamline solar and energy storage project permitting. 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 and may even decrease the workload on already burdened county planning and permitting departments. The self-certifying procedure listed in this bill also supports a streamlined process for renewable energy projects. We also note that, as suggested in the bill, there may be a need to adjust the threshold included in statute to accommodate for inflation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and committee members:

My name is Michael Baldwin, President of Hawaii Unified Industries, LLC. We support the adoption of SolarApp+ as it will allow contractors and homeowners to take advantage of the opportunity and savings of going solar now. Contractors are suffering and cannot conduct viable business with the delays it takes in acquiring permits. Homeowners cannot construct projects and take advantage of savings for months or even a year or more following contracts to acquire solar. The committee can help local businesses and their constituents by adopting this program. This program will also free up a considerable backlog of permits, allowing the DPP and individuals responsible for review to work through a larger volume of delayed projects and permits. This is a win win for everyone involved.

I strongly support SB781 SD2 HD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 HD2 offers 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. 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.); and
4. exempting smaller-scale and simple residential rooftop solar and energy storage projects from overly stringent and costly professional review standards in HRS 464.

I urge you to pass this critically important bill for Hawaii's transition to clean and affordable energy. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Respectfully,



Michael Baldwin
President
Hawaii Unified Industries, LLC
michael.baldwin@hawaiiunified.com
808-798-3476

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 6:23:31 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and committee members:

I James Rudolph of Mililani strongly support SB781 SD2 HD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 HD2 offers 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. 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.); and*
- 4. exempting smaller-scale and simple residential rooftop solar and energy storage projects from overly stringent and costly professional review standards in HRS 464.*

I urge you to pass this critically important bill for Hawaii's transition to clean and affordable energy. This will no doubt help the community and Island be a better and more sustainable place.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Respectfully,

James Rudolph

Owner of Indpenednet Energy

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 7:22:53 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and committee members:

My name is Paul Orem CEO of Photonworks Engineering a locally owned and operated renewable energy contractor operating for the the last 14 years. I have been a hawaii resident for 30 years and I have never seen the permitting situation as bad as it is now. We need your help to fix this our future dedends on it!

I strongly support SB781 SD2 HD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 HD2 offers 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. 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.); and*
- 4. exempting smaller-scale and simple residential rooftop solar and energy storage projects from overly stringent and costly professional review standards in HRS 46*

I urge you to pass this critically important bill for Hawaii's transition to clean and affordable energy. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Respectfully,

Paul Orem - CEO

Photonworks Engineering



**Testimony of Elemental Excelsior to the
FIN Committee
in consideration of SB 781 SD2 HD2, March 31, 2023**

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and distinguished Members of the Committee on Finance:

Elemental Excelsior respectfully submits our **strong support for SB 781 SD2 HD2** (hereafter "SB 781").

Elemental Excelsior is a Honolulu-based non-profit organization that supports climate positive startup companies that help solve Hawai'i's most urgent environmental problems. Each year we select 15-20 companies that advance climate technology and social equity, then fund each company with up to \$1 million in investment and support. To date, we have awarded over \$50 million to 150+ companies, and additionally supported more than 100 new tech demonstration projects right here in Hawai'i & the Asia Pacific.

SB 781 will streamline the permitting process for solar distributed energy resource (DER) and storage projects. Permitting delay is one of the largest remaining roadblocks to widespread DER adoption, and SB 781 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. Removing the burdensome materials and methods requirement for solar DER systems;
3. Creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent); and
4. Exempting smaller-scale and simple residential rooftop solar and energy storage projects from overly stringent and costly professional review standards in HRS 464.

SB 781 is a critical tool to advance equitable climate solutions in Hawai'i and leverage federal funds to help our residents. The federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) have the potential to offer hundreds of millions in federal funding to help Hawai'i residents - particularly those with low- and moderate-income - benefit from the clean energy transition in the short and medium term. Additional benefits from these federal climate funds include less pollution in communities, reduced energy and transportation costs, an

increase in good jobs, investment in the local economy rather than spending on imported oil, and reducing dangerous greenhouse gas emissions.

Enabling state and local policies are necessary, however, to ensure that these federal funds (especially competitive funds) can be secured and expeditiously deployed in Hawai'i versus flowing to other jurisdictions. Most federal funds under the IIJA and IRA will be distributed over the next five years. We are now in the formative period of this deployment, and it is essential to ensure conditions are set for successful competition and implementation here in Hawai'i. The timing is therefore essential - during this legislative session - to address barriers and to prepare for future rounds of funding.

One of the anticipated bottlenecks to maximizing IRA and IIJA federal funding implementation and community benefits include permitting delays and availability of local matching funds. SB 781 is an important enabling policy by ensuring project deployment can happen at the speed and scale to attract and utilize federal energy funding. SB 781 will address these barriers by expediting permitting processes and lowering soft costs for residents who are retrofitting home energy systems.

Hawai'i can fully leverage residential decarbonization technology and minimize the number of large, utility-scale energy projects needed to be built if we:

1. Update our permitting process to clear the path for residential renewable energy, efficiency, and storage projects that lower costs for residents and expand opportunities to renters through sensible measures such as SB 781 and HB 217;
2. Ensure dedicated state and local funding and agency coordination to provide match and compete for the extraordinary climate funding opportunities currently available at the federal level; and,
3. Support the development of new, efficient climate and energy technologies and the accelerators and entrepreneurs that are innovating towards an efficient and clean energy economy.

Elemental Excelerator has helped support dozens of climate tech companies that create solid jobs, transition our economy to 100% clean energy, and accelerate equitable access to zero emission solutions for all residents. By passing this bill, Hawai'i will make it easier, faster, and cheaper for residents to retrofit and install home energy systems, empower entrepreneurs and workers, and dramatically lower the barrier for low- and moderate-income residents to benefit from the clean energy transition.

SB 781 is a key piece of climate and community legislation, and we believe it is critical to pass to ensure we meet the climate and clean economy goals the State has established. **Elemental Excelerator strongly supports the passage of SB 781**, in combination with HB 217, to expedite the permitting process for renewable energy projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Before the House Committee on Finance
Friday, March 31, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

Testimony in Support of SB781 SD2 HD2: Relating to Renewable Energy

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support and provide comments on Senate Bill 781 SD2 HD2.

Hawai'i Energy works to empower island families and businesses on behalf of the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to make smart energy choices to reduce energy consumption, save money, and pursue a 100% clean energy future. Energy efficiency – the energy we do not use – is the cheapest option to help us achieve our 100% clean energy goal by eliminating waste and being more efficient.

Hawai'i Energy applauds the legislature's efforts to support the continued pursuit of the clean energy targets included in the State's Clean Energy Initiative, which calls for Hawai'i to achieve 100% clean energy by 2045. This bill improves the permitting process for solar and energy storage projects – projects that are imperative to Hawai'i's ability to achieve its clean energy goals.

Projects that help the state progress toward its renewable energy, energy efficiency, and climate resiliency goals can run into delays for a variety of reasons – something Hawai'i Energy is certainly familiar with – and permitting issues are a longstanding obstacle. SB781 SD2 HD2 addresses solar and energy storage project permitting issues by 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 materials and methods requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems; and creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent).

We support common sense efforts to address permitting issues that cause delays for solar and energy storage projects that are important to Hawai'i's clean energy future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 781 SD2 HD2.

Sincerely,
Caroline Carl
Executive Director
Hawai'i Energy



Legislative Testimony of Sunrun Inc.
Before the FIN Committee
March 31, 2023

IN SUPPORT of SB781 SD2 HD2 – Relating to Renewable Energy

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and distinguished Members of the Committee on Finance,

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 SB781 SD2 HD2 (“SB781”), 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 SB781 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. Removing the burdensome MM# requirement for solar DER systems;
3. Creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent); and
4. Exempting smaller-scale and simple residential rooftop solar and energy storage projects from overly stringent and costly professional review standards in HRS 464.

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 2020, 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 2021, Hawaiian Electric (HECO) achieved 38% renewable generation, attributed to “a full year of geothermal production and an increase in private rooftop solar.”³ Further, rooftop solar is the leading contributor to Hawai‘i’s clean energy portfolio making up 44.6% 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 last year⁵. Further, the Solar Energy Industry Association (SEIA) estimates that soft costs make up 60-70% of all residential solar installation costs and 50-60% of total commercial solar costs.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 SB781 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.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB379

⁶ <https://pv-magazine-usa.com/2021/08/27/does-solmart-program-targets-solar-soft-cost-reduction/>

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 8:22:13 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

To the Honorable Members of the Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong support for the bill relating to renewable energy, particularly in regards to the implementation of SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform by government entities in the State that issue building permits for solar distributed energy resource systems.

The urgency to transition away from imported fossil fuels and towards locally available renewable energy sources is paramount, and this bill addresses one of the main administrative barriers to achieving the State's one hundred per cent renewable portfolio standard by December 31, 2045. By lowering the cost and time associated with the adoption of residential solar and energy storage projects, we can encourage the timely build-out of a diverse, resilient, and reliable portfolio of low-cost renewable energy generation and storage assets.

Furthermore, the bill ensures that exemptions from permitting requirements for solar distributed energy resource systems are updated to account for inflation, reducing unnecessary impediments to the timely installation of residential distributed energy resources and other real property improvements. The adoption of online permitting tools, such as SolarAPP+, has been successfully implemented by hundreds of government entities that issue building permits throughout the nation, and it is time for Hawaii's permit-issuing government entities to take advantage of these tools to help meet the State's clean energy, reliability, and resilience needs.

I also support the provision in the bill that requires government entities in the State that issue building permits to adopt self-certification for residential and commercial on-site solar distributed energy resource systems that are not SolarAPP+ compatible. This provision will reduce administrative burdens and help accelerate the deployment of solar distributed energy resource systems.

In conclusion, I urge you to pass this bill as it is a critical step towards achieving Hawaii's renewable energy goals and reducing our dependence on fossil fuels.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Julian Kahumana



Hawaii Environmental Change Agents' Decarbonization of Buildings Task Force

March 30, 2023

Position: **Support** of SB781 SD2 HD2

Aloha Chair Yamashita and committee members of FIN:

On behalf of HECA's Decarbonization of Buildings Task Force, I'm testifying in **support** of SB781 SD2 HD2 because it addresses longstanding permitting issues that are the primary roadblock to the installation of more solar energy in Hawai'i. If we are to meet our renewable energy and climate resilience goals, we must reform and improve upon our existing permitting system. SB781 SD2 HD2 includes a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline permitting:

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 materials and methods requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems
3. Raises dollar thresholds in HRS 464-13 that establish exemptions from professional stamp requirements that have not been updated since 1979; and
4. Carves out residential solar DERs from HRS 464 requirements.

Taken together, these adjustments to the current permitting process will ensure a more timely transition to solar energy and battery storage to help us residents save money on their electric bills and help the State meet its clean energy goals. Rooftop solar is a key component of our arsenal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and fight climate change. Additionally, 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.

Respectfully,
Paul Bernstein
Chair of HECA's Decarbonization of Buildings Task Force



**Hawaiian
Electric**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

SB 781, SD 2, HD 2

Relating to Renewable Energy

Friday, March 31, 2023
2:00 pm, Agenda Item #4
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

Kaiulani Shinsato
Director, Customer Energy Resources Programs
Hawaiian Electric

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee Members,

My name is Kaiulani Shinsato, and I am testifying on behalf of Hawaiian Electric **in support of SB 781, SD 2, HD 2.**

SB 781, SD 2, HD 2 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 January 1, 2024. In addition, the bill requires these entities to adopt self-certification for residential and commercial on-site solar distributed energy resource systems that are not SolarApp+ compatible.

Hawaiian Electric supports SB 781, SD 2, HD 2. While Hawai'i already leads the nation in the adoption of customer-sited rooftop solar, the continued growth of customer energy resources, such as rooftop solar and energy storage, is critical to achieving Hawai'i's decarbonization and renewable energy goals. Thus, Hawaiian Electric is continuously seeking ways to expand access of rooftop solar and energy storage

systems to residential and commercial customers. In addition, Hawaiian Electric has made progress, and continues to seek advancements, in improving and streamlining the end-to-end process to safely interconnect customer-sited systems to Hawaiian Electric's electric grids. This process includes the issuance of building permits to residential and commercial customers. Hawaiian Electric supports SB 781, SD 2, HD 2 because it would automate and streamline the building permit process for these customers, which overall improves and accelerates the process for them to interconnect and receive the benefits of their renewable energy systems. Hawaiian Electric, however, defers to the County permitting entities to ultimately choose the online automated permitting platform that works best for them to comply with SB 781, SD 2, HD 2.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 781, SD 2, HD 2.



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

Executive Officers

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Paul Kosasa, ABC Stores, *Advisor*
Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Toby Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Joe Carter, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, Odom, *Advisor*
Charlie Gustafson, Tamura Super Market, *Immediate Past Chair*

TO: Committee on Finance
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: Thursday March 31, 2023
TIME: 2pm

RE: SB781 SD2 HD2 Relating to Renewable Energy

Position: Support

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

HFIA is in support of this measure.

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.

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 9:50:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris Ah Sue	Malama Solar	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and esteemed members of the committee,

As owner of Malama Solar, I am writing to express my strong endorsement for SB781 SD2 HD2. This bill addresses the long-standing permitting challenges that hinder Hawaii's progress towards achieving renewable energy and climate resilience goals.

SB781 SD2 HD2 proposes a range of pragmatic measures, including the implementation of the SolarAPP+ online permitting tool or its equivalent for facilitating online permitting of small-scale solar and energy storage projects. The bill also aims to eliminate the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems, create a self-certification pathway for non-SolarAPP+ qualifying solar DER projects, and exempt smaller-scale residential rooftop solar and energy storage projects from the overly stringent and expensive professional review standards under HRS 464.

I strongly urge you to support this crucial bill to enable Hawaii's transition to clean and affordable energy. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Respectfully,

Chris Ah Sue



March 31, 2023

TO: Honorable Kyle Yamashita, Chair
Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Reid Mizue, AIA
President / Legislative Advocacy Committee Co-Chair
American Institute of Architects, Hawaii State Council

SUBJECT: **Re: Senate Bill 781 SD2 HD2
Relating to Alternate Energy**

The American Institute of Architects

AIA Hawaii State Council
828 Fort Street Mall, Suite 100
Honolulu, HI 96813

T (808) 628-7243
contact@aiahonolulu.org
aiahonolulu.org/AIAHawaiiStateCouncil

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Committee,

My name is Reid Mizue, President, AIA Hawaii Council testifying in **OPPOSITION** to Sections 3 and 4 of SB 781 HD2:

Page 3 lines 6-10

AIA does believe that online process at Honolulu DPP is similar to SolarApp+ and appropriate for standard solar installations. Online permits should be used as often as possible. House Bill 217, which AIA supports, will increase the dollar values exempt from §464-13 HRS; allowing SolarApp+ an available solution.

Page 5 line 11

Building permits not eligible for SolarApp+ require Self-Certification by architect or engineer. However, this conflicts with....

Page 8 lines 1 and 2

Bill 6(23) is currently being advanced by Honolulu City Council for **Self-Certified Professional Program** to expedite DPP building permits:

- New York City, Chicago and Phoenix operate Self-Certified Professional Programs that have been proven to expedite building permits. Honolulu DPP plans to emulate these programs.

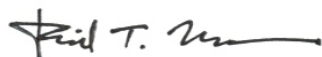
- Checking their websites, all of these county programs rely upon stamp / signature of the architect or structural engineer to self-certify compliance with codes.
- Amending §464-13 HRS with the cited language removes design professional authority over residential solar systems; making Page 5 line 11 impossible under county permit expediting procedures.

Like bill proponents, architects are frustrated with DPP permit delays averaging 300 days

AIA is disappointed that misinformation was spread saying that architects are chiefly to be blamed for permit delays; while we intend to be expeditors of permits. SD2 version wisely deleted all amendments to §464 HRS. Because all county building permit expediting procedures, currently in force or to be enacted, rely on architect pledge and liability insurance policy to the issuer of permits. Our objection will be removed with deletion of Sections 3 and 4 from this bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to **OPPOSE** sections 3 and 4 of **Senate Bill 781 HD2**.

Sincerely,



Reid Mizue, AIA
American Institute of Architects, Hawaii State Council



To: The House Committee on Finance (FIN)
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Friday, March 31, 2023, 2pm

In strong support of SB781 SD2 HD2

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the FIN Committee,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org is in **strong support of SB781 SD2 HD2** 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 1/1/2024. This measure further requires government entities in the State that issue building permits in territories served by an investor-owned electric utility to adopt self-certification for residential and commercial on-site solar distributed energy resource systems that are not SolarAPP+ compatible, and makes the professional engineers, architects, surveyors, and landscape architects licensure law inapplicable to work with respect to residential distributed energy resource systems.

SB781 SD2 HD2 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, SB781 SD2 HD2 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 SB781 SD2 HD2, 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*.

350Hawaii especially appreciates and agrees with the HD1 amendments which restored Section 3 (the definition of "residential distributed energy resource system") and part of Section 4 -- the exemption from HRS 464 for "residential distributed energy resource systems." It is our understanding that the requirements of HRS 464 are resulting in the imposition of overly burdensome permitting requirements for relatively small and simple residential rooftop solar and storage installations. Exempting these simple retrofits makes good sense.

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. **SB781 SD2 HD2 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** of this very important legislation.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 12:19:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ella Aki	Fortress Power	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and committee members:

My name is Ella Aki and I am the Hawaii Regional Sales Manager for Fortress Power, a provider of premium LFP energy storage solutions. I am also a native Hawaiian female representing our indigenous and local communities in our state's transition to 100% renewable energy.

I strongly support SB781 SD2 HD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 HD2 offers 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. 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); and
4. Exempting smaller scale and simple residential rooftop solar and energy storage projects from overly stringent and costly professional review standards in HRS 464.

I urge you to pass this critically important bill for Hawaii's transition to clean and affordable energy. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo piha,

Ella Henanipuakea Aki



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

Testimony of The Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) Regarding SB781 SD2 HD2, Relating to Renewable Energy, Before the House Committee on Finance

Friday, March 31, 2023

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and committee members:

The Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) **strongly supports SB781 SD2 HD2**, 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.

Permitting bottlenecks and backlogs are impeding progress and adding unnecessary cost, time, and risk to Hawaii’s renewable energy transition. This impacts all residents and businesses in Hawaii, 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, permitting delays have emerged as a primary obstacle to progress.

SB781 SD2 HD2 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 a functional equivalent. SolarAPP+ was developed by the U.S. Department of Energy’s National Renewable Energy Laboratory and has been successfully deployed for PV and PV+Storage projects in numerous municipalities across the nation. Adoption of SolarAPP+ is a “win” for all participants in the permitting review



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

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 product documentation requirements. In addition to causing delay and extra cost, this unnecessary requirement stifles innovation and blocks new lower-cost technologies and products from entering our market.

Third, 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 construction. The final compliance review and approval can occur at inspection. Recent amendments to the bill clarify that a duly licensed design professional such as an architect, engineer, electrician, or plumber is responsible for certifying that the project is compliant with all applicable codes and laws. This will speed up the overall process and significantly enhance current efforts at the municipal level.

Finally, the bill exempts "residential distributed energy resource systems" from the requirements of HRS 464, professional standards for architects, engineers, and landscape architects. The great majority of residential rooftop solar and storage installations are simple retrofits on existing structures and therefore should not require the same level of scrutiny and oversight as larger, more complicated, and more expensive new build projects in the design and review phase. Regardless of the scale of a project, a final inspection can and should occur to assure compliance with all codes, standards, and laws; and this provision in no way bars final inspection by building permit authorities from occurring. Moreover, in the self-certification provision of this bill, larger projects that are not eligible for online submission are required to be certified by a duly licensed design professional. We are open to other means of achieving the goals of this subsection and look forward to working with stakeholders to craft an alternative approach, if called for.



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

HSEA and other stakeholders have been working diligently for years with various county administrations at the leadership and departmental level to effect improvements in the permitting process. We continue to offer our assistance and expertise to fix issues with current systems and implement internal process changes. Recently, there have been promising signs of progress, but the existing system still needs improvement and can be overly time-consuming to the detriment of our entire economy and the livelihoods of thousands of residents. In addition, significant federal resources are being made available through the Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and we have an unprecedented opportunity to put these resources to work for the people of Hawaii. Permitting capacity needs to be strengthened to take full advantage of these opportunities. The measures in this bill offer a clear path forward that will save time and resources for all parties in the permitting process and help Hawaii achieve its renewable energy portfolio standard and carbon reduction goals.

HSEA **strongly supports SB781 SD2 HD2** and urges the committee to pass this measure.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Respectfully,

/s/ Rocky Mould

Rocky Mould
Executive Director

Testimony of
Pacific Resource Partnership

House Committee On Finance
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

HB 781, SD2, HD2—Relating To Renewable Energy
Friday, March 31, 2023
2:00 P.M.

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP) is a non-profit market recovery trust fund which represents approximately 7,000 men and women union carpenters and 240 large and small contractors. With our expertise in research, compliance, marketing, and project advocacy, we are committed to building a stronger, more sustainable Hawaii in a way that promotes a vibrant economy, creates jobs, and enhances the quality of life for all residents of Hawaii.

PRP writes in **support** of SB 781, SD2, HD2.

This bill authorizes (not require) the counties to include labor standards in county ordinances related to the issuance of building permits for solar distributed energy resource systems.

Labor standards, including, but not limited to living wages, benefits, and requirements for participation in state-approved apprenticeship programs are vital to attracting and maintaining local workers with the requisite knowledge, skill, training, and experience needed to construct safe renewable energy systems in a timely manner.

Authorizing counties to include labor standards will encourage the timely build-out of diverse, resilient, and reliable portfolio of low-cost renewable energy systems consistent with the purpose of SB 781 and to help meet Hawai'i's 100% renewable energy goal by 2045.

As such, we respectfully request your favorable decision on this measure. Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony.





International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

LOCAL UNION NO. 1186 • Affiliated with AFL-CIO

1935 HAU STREET, ROOM 401 • HONOLULU, HI 96819-5003
TELEPHONE (808) 847-5341 • FAX (808) 847-2224

TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing on Friday, March 31, 2023 at 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 308

RE: TESTIMONY IN **OPPOSITION** OF SB 781 SD2, HD2

Honorable Chair Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and the Members of the Committee on Finance:

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 1186 (IBEW 1186), is comprised of over 3,600 men and women working in electrical and telecom construction, Spectrum, civil service employees, and educator and faculty associations.

IBEW 1186 **OPPOSES** this bill as it goes too far in its attempts to expedite the permitting and certification process of PV and battery systems, also referred to as “residential and commercial distributed energy resource systems”.

The current bill language has entered an area of potential harm to the public and the workers that construct, install, troubleshoot and repair these systems. Other unintended consequences of this bill may create unlicensed activity and violations of other licensing laws and rules in the architect/engineering, contracting, and electrical/plumbing fields.

We **STRONGLY OPPOSE** what appears to be an ongoing trend of placing lowered costs and increased speed of construction over the life, health, and safety of the public, workers, our electrician members, and their properties. Any so called “self-certification” program should adhere to the highest standards of qualified and independent professionals that are not influenced by profits alone.

Such programs should also clearly identify the public’s cause of action or right to recover damages for bad actors submitting falsified documents that they have “self-certified”. If this bill were to move forward, there should be amendments that address this concern.

Section 2, §196-B(c) – requires a County to not only issue the permit, but also “close” the permit within thirty days of submittal. A State statute should not infringe on the rights and responsibility of the Counties to properly inspect and approve the permitted project as installed to approved plans, specifications, and building codes.

Furthermore, proposed section §196-B of this bill mandates action on Counties that may conflict with already adopted ordinances that address the issue of delays.

Current regulations in the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu (ROH) § 18-5.10 allow for “Expedited permit processing for clean energy projects. This ordinance provides a 14-day actionable deadline for smaller projects and a 28-day deadline for larger projects. If the building official fails to meet these deadlines, the remedy allows for the following:

ROH § 18-5.10:

(c) If the building official fails to meet any of the maximum time limits to approve or deny a permit application, the permit application will be deemed approved; provided that:

(1) The building official is notified in writing by the project owner, or an agent of the project owner, that the owner or agent requests issuance of the permit, and is prepared to pay any required fees;

(2) The building official is notified in writing by the duly licensed electrician or duly licensed plumber, as applicable, who installed the subject system that the building official failed to process the permit application in a timely manner, and the duly licensed electrician or duly licensed plumber, as applicable, provides the building official with a declaration certifying that the installation of the clean energy project complies with this code and state laws; and

(3) The declaration is supported by an affidavit with statement, seal, and signature of a duly licensed electrical engineer or duly licensed plumber, as applicable, and an architect or structural engineer.

(d) The licensed design professional providing an affidavit pursuant to subsection (c)(3) must possess commercial general liability insurance with minimum coverage of \$1,000,000 per event.

(e) If the notice, declaration, and affidavit requirements of subsection (c) are satisfied, the building official shall close the permit application. The validity of the permit will be in accordance with § 18-5.3.

The language in this ROH is clearly being used in the proposed SB781 SD2HD2, but it does leave out some of the engineering declarations, and insurance requirements. If this bill were to move forward, IBEW 1186 would prefer it to align more with the existing ordinance, and expand it by detailing defined violations and penalties; however, as a principle, we believe this is a County issue alone and should not have the State Legislature mandating processes without providing funding and allowing significant County input on bill structure and financial needs to implement these requirements.

Bill 6, introduced on February 16, 2023, at the Honolulu City Council, is already attempting to further relieve the backlogs and delays by establishing a “third party reviewer or professional authorized to self-certify...” This proposed bill and process should be allowed to proceed without the possibility of a state statute that could cause further confusion and other unintended consequences.

Regarding the SolarAPP+ system described in section **§196-A** of this proposed bill, IBEW 1186 is not opposed and would be supportive of the bill if all of the contents of §196-B were removed from the bill and allow the Counties to adopt programs that fit their needs, such as Bill 6 for Honolulu.

As far as amendments to Section §464-1 and §464-13, related to architects and engineers, we defer to the License Board and professional associations that have the expertise to evaluate changes to their governing statutes and administrative rules.

IBEW 1186 acknowledges and appreciates that the Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) has been working with us and other stakeholders to address our concerns. What we all agree is the backlog/delays with our current permitting process impedes the productivity of renewable energy projects.

We are not entirely opposed to a system of third-party reviewers or even a self-certification process not dissimilar to many other jurisdictions across several States. However, we urge this Committee to direct the proponents of this bill to continue to engage more closely with all stakeholders, such as IBEW 1186 and the Electrical Contractors Association of Hawaii (ECAH) and its over 100 member contractors, to create bills that will not sacrifice common sense safety and professional standards.

IBEW 1186 wants to be a part of our State's renewable energy goals. We also want all residents to have the opportunity to obtain energy resource systems, but most of all, for these systems to be safe. Only the most qualified persons should be working with and approving these potentially hazardous electrical systems.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Kim', with a horizontal line extending to the left and a flourish at the end.

Damien T.K. Kim
Business Manager/
Financial Secretary



Testimony of:
SUNSPEAR ENERGY LLC, JEFFREY KAEMMERLEN, CEO

For:
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM AND
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

Regarding:
SB 781 RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

Position:
SUPPORT (IN FAVOR OF)

Date:
March 30, 2023

To:
**CHAIRS DECOITE AND MCKELVEY, VICE CHAIRS WAKAI AND GABBARD, AND MEMBERS OF
THE COMMITTEES**

STANCE:

SB 781 is common-sense step toward Hawaii reaching its renewable energy goals by 2045 as well as assisting the citizens of the state of Hawaii and the solar industry during fluctuating economic uncertainty.

Relating to SolarAPP+ Requirement (Section 2 §196-A)

Current timeline for building permit issuance:

Issued using the existing DPP online portal: **< 5 minutes**

Issued using the existing DPP ePlans manual review process: **≥ 6 months**



Currently, a large percentage of homes are disallowed from receiving a permit via the existing DPP online portal. Reasons for this vary, and many are for outdated zoning or unrelated advisories which compound the backlog to DPP.

Implementing a requirement for SolarAPP+ (or equivalent) as required by SB 781, which allows for self-certification of compliance and automated permit issuance, will greatly decrease the time it takes to install solar PV on household dwellings. The benefits of this are:

- Faster implementation of renewable energy across the state
- Faster electricity related money savings for individual homeowners
- Reduced risk of inflation-related cost increases to homeowners and contractors alike
- Reduced risk of interest rate increases to homeowner solar energy loans

Relating to MM# Requirement Removal (Section 2 §196-B 2 . b .)

We have witnessed the process to receive an MM# take many months or even over a year. As new technology is developed at exponential rates, it is impractical to require the manufacturers to continue to struggle through this process, as well as require all new product without an MM# to be only permissible through the many-months-long manual permitting ePlans process even though the individual home would not otherwise be required to do so.

Relating to Cost Provision Exemption (Section 4 §464-13 a . & b .)

Note that with the introduction of batteries, the cost of installing a PV solar system on a household dwelling has risen greatly, and the \$35,000/\$40,000 (section a.) or \$45,000/\$50,000 (section b.) listed for exemption/requirements of certain provisions is extremely low. Requirements of this section such as structural engineer stamps should not be based on the cost of the system itself but the structural nature of the dwelling if safety is indeed the main reasoning.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Kaemmerlen
CEO, SunSpear Energy LLC

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 3:27:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edric Kersey	Hawaii Unified Industries LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and committee members:

I strongly support SB781 SD2 HD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 HD2 offers 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. 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.)
4. exempting smaller-scale and simple residential rooftop solar and energy storage projects from overly stringent and costly professional review standards in HRS 46

I urge you to pass this critically important bill for Hawaii's transition to clean and affordable energy. Thank you for considering my testimony.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

March 31, 2023, 2:00 PM

Room 308

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 781 SD2 HD2

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitawaga, and members of the Committees:

Blue Planet Foundation **supports SB 781 SD2 HD2**, which will streamline permitting for solar panels and battery storage systems. 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 for solar permitting via SB 781, 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 96,900 homes on O'ahu, Maui, and Hawai'i island¹ and 6,000 homes on Kauai² have already installed rooftop solar. However, our state's solar permitting process is an impediment to increased adoption. The existing system places a high administrative burden on government entities, which results in delays and backlogs for approving permits for solar energy and battery storage systems.

SB 781 targets long-standing permitting issues for solar and energy storage projects by:

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 materials and methods requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;

¹ "Cumulative Installed PV - As of December 2022" *Hawaiian Electric Company*. Accessed February 27, 2023. (https://www.hawaiianelectric.com/documents/clean_energy_hawaii/clean_energy_facts/pv_summary_4Q_2022.pdf)

² Per KIUC testimony on SB 781, page 12 see:

https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2023/Testimony/SB781_TESTIMONY_EET-GVO_02-09-23_.PDF

3. raising dollar thresholds in HRS 464-13 that establish exemptions from professional stamp requirements that have not been updated since 1979; and
4. carving out residential solar DERs from HRS 464 requirements.

Taken together, these adjustments to the current permitting process will ensure a more timely transition to solar energy and battery storage 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.

For these reasons, we support SB 781 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.



Green Power Projects LLC
Alan Lennard, Managing Director
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E. alan.lennard@greenpowerprojects.com

www.greenpowerprojects.com

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

In **STRONG SUPPORT** for SB781 SD2 HD1 (HSCR1464)
which addresses longstanding permitting issues

Before the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
Tuesday, March 31, 2023; 2:00 PM
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Alan Lennard. I am the Managing director of Green Power Projects LLC. Green Power Projects LLC is a Solar project facilitation company working towards 100% Renewable Energy capacity in Hawaii. Our vision is a Hawaiian energy economy based 100% on renewable sources indigenous to Hawaii.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB781 SD2 HD1 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 HD2 offers 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. 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.); and
4. exempting smaller-scale and simple residential rooftop solar and energy storage projects from overly stringent and costly professional review standards in HRS 464.

I urge you to pass this critically important bill for Hawaii's transition to clean and affordable energy. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Respectfully,

Thank you for supporting clean solar energy and giving me the opportunity to testify.

Alan Lennard -dig signature

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



Laurence Ponce
Solar Services Hawaii LLP
98-121 Kihale Pl
Aiea, HI 96701
License(s) #C-28234 & #C-26354
(808) 721-3585

Testimony of Laurence Ponce
RME of Solar Services Hawaii
e-mail: solar.services.hi.testimony@gmail.com

In STRONG SUPPORT for SB781 SD2 HD1
which addresses longstanding permitting issues

Before the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
Tuesday, March 31, 2023; 2:00 PM
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Laurence Ponce. I am RME of Solar Services Hawaii. Solar Services Hawaii is a Solar installation company working towards 100% Renewable Energy capacity in Hawaii. Our vision is a Hawaiian energy economy based 100% on renewable sources indigenous to Hawaii.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB781 SD2 HD1 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 HD2 offers 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. 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); and
4. exempting smaller-scale and simple residential rooftop solar and energy storage projects from overly stringent and costly professional review standards in HRS 464.

I urge you to pass this critically important bill for Hawaii's transition to clean and affordable energy. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Respectfully,

Thank you for supporting clean solar energy and giving me the opportunity to testify.

Laurence Ponce - dig signature
Laurence Ponce
Solar Services Hawaii LLP
98-121 Kihale Pl., Aiea, HI 96701
(808) 721-3585
solar.services.hi.testimony@gmail.com



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John Grandinetti
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Testimony of John Grandinetti
President of
Grand Solar Inc.
e-mail: grandsolar808@gmail.com

In STRONG SUPPORT for SB781 SD2 HD1 (HSCR1464)
which addresses longstanding permitting issues

Before the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
Tuesday, March 31, 2023; 2:00 PM
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

My name is John Grandinetti. I am the President of Grand Solar Inc. Grand Solar is a Solar installation company working towards 100% Renewable Energy capacity in Hawaii. Our vision is a Hawaiian energy economy based 100% on renewable sources indigenous to Hawaii.

I strongly support SB781 SD2 HD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 HD2 offers 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. 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.);
and
4. exempting smaller-scale and simple residential rooftop solar and energy storage projects from overly stringent and costly professional review standards in HRS 464.

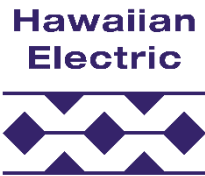
I urge you to pass this critically important bill for Hawaii's transition to clean and affordable energy. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Respectfully,

Thank you for supporting clean solar energy and giving me the opportunity to testify.

John Grandinetti - dig signature

John Grandinetti
President, Grand Solar Inc.
4882-4 Kilauea Ave.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816
Tel: (808) 737-3536
grandsolar808@gmail.com



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Friday, March 31, 2023, 2 P.M.

Room 308 & Videoconference

Testimony in support of SB 781 SD2 HD2

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Finance Committee:

As members of the Hawai'i Executive Collaborative (HEC) Climate Coalition, we support SB 781 SD2 HD2, which seeks to reduce barriers to achieving our 100% clean energy future by streamlining and accelerating the rooftop solar permitting process.

The HEC Climate Coalition was formed in 2022 to address the systemic barriers that impede meaningful climate action in Hawai'i. Our strategy is two-fold: helping organizations work internally on climate initiatives (Climate In) while providing a platform to work collectively with others to drive

systemic climate progress (Climate Out). To date, 32 organizations have signed our Climate Pledge, including businesses, nonprofits, educational institutions, all four of Hawai'i's counties and the Governor. Our Coalition plays a critical role in uniting Hawai'i's business and environmental communities under one mission: building a sustainable, resilient, and safe climate future for ourselves and our children.

Solar energy is one of Hawai'i's lowest cost resources to decarbonize our economy. While over 100,000 rooftop solar systems have been installed across Hawai'i, reaching our climate goals requires that nearly every rooftop statewide tap into the sun's free energy. That means well over 250,000 additional systems need to be deployed. But administrative and permitting bottlenecks are impeding this deployment and adding unnecessary cost, time, and risk to Hawai'i's renewable energy transition. This not only hurts our climate, but particularly impacts low- to moderate-income households, who to date have largely been left out of the rooftop solar opportunity.

Senate Bill 781 SD2 HD2 seeks to effectively address this challenge in a few key ways:

- The measure establishes a requirement for building permit issuing authorities to adopt the SolarAPP+ automated online permitting tool, or a functional equivalent. SolarAPP+ was developed by the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory and has been successfully deployed for PV and PV+Storage projects in numerous municipalities across the nation. The tool 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. National data shows that local governments with instant online permitting for rooftop solar, like SolarAPP+, process 5 – 14 times more volume than jurisdictions with traditional permit processing.
- The measure removes the burdensome and time-consuming "materials and methods" review process and replaces it with standardized, peer-reviewed national product safety certification and product documentation requirements. In addition to causing delay and extra cost, this unnecessary requirement stifles innovation and blocks new, lower-cost technologies and products from entering our market.
- The measure 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 construction. Final compliance review and approval can occur at inspection.

Climate Coalition members have selected solar permit streamlining as a priority for our policy engagement this session. Achieving Hawai'i's 100% renewable energy goal will require that we maximize the amount of solar energy on rooftops statewide.

The measure before you will lower costs and installation timelines for rooftop solar, leading to faster, more cost-effective, and equitable decarbonization of our islands. We urge its passage.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

About Hawai'i Executive Collaborative

The Hawai'i Executive Collaborative (HEC) is a nonprofit organization that serves as a convener and provides backbone support to leaders from different sectors who want to help build a more resilient economy and state. HEC members believe in the power of acting collectively and focus their energies and resources on areas where immediate and systemic changes will benefit Hawai'i and the world. For more information on the HEC Climate Coalition's real-world, high-impact solutions, visit hec.org/climate.

Hawai'i Executive Collaboration Climate Coalition participants supporting this testimony:

- Alexander & Baldwin
- School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology at University of Hawai'i, Manoa
- Hawai'i Energy
- Hawaiian Electric
- Hawai'i Solar Energy Association
- Elemental Excelerator
- Bowers + Kubota
- Merriman's
- Goldwings Supply Service, Inc.
- Zephyr Insurance Company, Inc.

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 10:07:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Park	Hawaii Unified LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and committee members:

My name is Ryan Park, and I oversee the residential and commercial solar sales teams for Hawaii Unified, a local company that employs over 100 individuals who rely upon jobs in the solar industry. Expediting permitting for residential solar projects is of critical importance to saving homeowners on their electric bills sooner, now more than ever. In the current interest rate environment loan rate locks are expiring before residential systems can be installed, in large part due to slow permitting processes, leaving homeowners frustrated and unable to finance their systems, or only able to at higher and less attractive rates.

I strongly support SB781 SD2 HD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede homeowners from taking their electric bills into their own hands, as well as Hawaii from achieving it's renewable energy and climate resilience goals sooner. SB781 SD2 HD2 offers 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. 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.); and
4. exempting smaller-scale and simple residential rooftop solar and energy storage projects from overly stringent and costly professional review standards in HRS 46

I urge you to pass this critically important bill for Hawaii's transition to clean and affordable energy. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Respectfully,

Ryan Park
Vice President Energy Development

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 11:12:34 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Morisa Nakoa	Hawaii Unified Industries, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and committee members:

I strongly support SB781 SD2 HD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 HD2 offers 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. 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.); and*
- 4. exempting smaller-scale and simple residential rooftop solar and energy storage projects from overly stringent and costly professional review standards in HRS 46*

I urge you to pass this critically important bill for Hawaii's transition to clean and affordable energy. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Respectfully,

Morisa Nakoa

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 2:57:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hawaii will not be able to meet its green energy transition goals if the current permitting delays continue. For the future of our aina & our keiki, please pass SB781 to alleviate these delays and allow home owners and business owners to do their share in saving our environment, and allow solar installers to get back to work.

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 5:40:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TOM DIGRAZIA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Very strong support for SB781.

Mahalo!

Tom

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 5:41:30 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Hixon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. Home solar energy units are a critical component of bringing Hawai'i to energy independence. Please support this bill to streamline the solar permitting process. As the recent IPCC report emphasizes, we do not have much time left to turn the tide on climate disruption. Hawai'i can be a showcase for the world regarding energy independence. Please, help us lead the way rather than allowing the powers that be to drag our collective heels. Mahalo.

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 5:47:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samuel M Mitchell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

--I strongly support SB781 SD2 HD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 HD2 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will **streamline permitting without compromising on safety**. 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 benefit from solar energy!

Thank You for your time.

Samuel Mitchell Makiki Nb-10 & NARFE Leg-VP

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 5:57:57 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Lu Kelley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha.

I strongly support SB781 SD2 HD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 HD2 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will **streamline permitting without compromising on safety**. 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!

SB781 SD2 HD2 establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects. Currently some families are waiting up to a year to receive their permit. This is unacceptable and must be remedied. By implementing provisions in SB781 SD2 HD2, 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. SB781 SD2 HD2 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals!

Please pass SB781 SD2 HD2 ASAP!!

Thank you,

Mary Lu Kelley

Kapa'a, HI 96746

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 6:11:13 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beppie Shapiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB781 SD2 HD2! As the bill preamble states, to meet the state goals for renewable energy we must move quickly and decisively to get photovoltaic panels on every possible roof and surface. This bill helps toward that goal.

Please pass SB781 SD2 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 6:11:48 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

My ohana strongly supports SB781 SD2 HD2 to address the longstanding permitting issues that have impeded progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals.

SB781 SD2 HD2 offers common-sense measures that will **streamline permitting without compromising safety**. This is an important step to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.

It will help US, as we have to date been discouraged from applying for a permit due to the delays and horror stories we have heard...

As a clean renewable, solar has an important role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating climate change. Solar coupled with battery storage also provides resiliency by providing a backup energy source when storms or other emergencies cause a power failure.

We do need to remove unnecessary roadblocks and burdens to installing solar plus storage systems so that all may access and benefits from solar energy!

Please pass SB781SD2 HD2 - it is important to me, my family, my community, our state's energy transition goals, our climate and and to the survival of life on earth.

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 6:27:28 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB781 SD2 HD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 HD2 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline permitting without compromising on safety. This is an important step to help Hawaii meet its climate goals and reduce costs for residents.

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 6:31:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB781 SD2 HD2.

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 6:33:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gwendelwyn Cruise	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB781 SD2 HD2. I have been hearing people complain about the slow permitting process for at least 5 years. How has it not been ameliorated yet? Installing solar on the islands is a no-brainer and it will help us reach our climate goals for the state. Please pass this bill.

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 6:53:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kate Thompson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senator,

i strongly SUPPORT SB781 SD2 HD2

Hawaii receives the best sunshine!

Let's speed up the Solar Panel permitting and installation!

--SB781 SD2 HD2 establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects. Currently some families are waiting up to a year to receive their permit. This is unacceptable and must be remedied. By implementing provisions in SB781 SD2 HD2, 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. SB781 SD2 HD2 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals!

Mahalo,

Kate Thompson

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 7:29:56 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Blickley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB781 SD2 HD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 HD2 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will **streamline permitting without compromising on safety**. This is an important step to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 7:30:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I have raised my kids in Hilo and moved to Makaha Valley after they left for graduate school. I love country living and am blessed to do so. I have been working on Federal Climate Action for years now. I am terrified for the future of my grandchildren on the mainland. Someone told me today that signing petitions will not solve Climate Change. That may be correct, but I will do whatever I can to make life better for the world. We can't divide into communities Climate is affecting everyone, everywhere. We must all do what we can For the future. Therefore I strongly support.

SB781, the bill to Streamline Solar Permitting, will break through the bureaucratic backlog for solar projects. Currently homeowners have to wait up to a year to get their permit to install solar panels. Through this bill the State will be able to offer a free online app that will quicken solar permitting authorization from months to a day. This will help families quickly lower their costs while helping the planet!

This bill will address longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 HD2 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline permitting without compromising on safety. Utilization of the SolarAPP+ alone can save the typical solar consumer more than \$7,000 in red tape. SB781 SD2 HD2 is a crucial step to help Hawaii meet its climate goals

--I strongly support SB781 SD2 HD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 HD2 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline permitting without compromising on safety. 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!

--SB781 SD2 HD2 establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects. Currently

some families are waiting up to a year to receive their permit. This is unacceptable and must be remedied. By implementing provisions in SB781 SD2 HD2, 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. SB781 SD2 HD2 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals!

Thank you for your time and hopefully your Actions.

Tamra Hayden

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 7:39:50 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

--I strongly support SB781 SD2 HD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 HD2 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will **streamline permitting without compromising on safety**. 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!

--SB781 SD2 HD2 establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects. Currently some families are waiting up to a year to receive their permit. This is unacceptable and must be remedied. By implementing provisions in SB781 SD2 HD2, 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. SB781 SD2 HD2 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

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 8:09:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Through SB781 the State will be able to offer a free online app that will quicken solar permitting authorization **from months to a day**. This will help families quickly lower their costs while helping the planet!.

Please support SB781!

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 8:14:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raphiell Nolin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong support!

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 8:14:36 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel C. Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB781 SD2 HD2 to streamline solar power permitting without compromising safety.

This is an important measure to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.

Please advance this bill.

Mahalo,

Dan Smith

Pearl City

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 8:47:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support!

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 9:38:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am told the solar app will shorten the time people wait for a permit. This seems like a no brainer.

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 9:55:24 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee on Finance:

I strongly support SB781 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawai'i's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline permitting. This is an important step to help Hawai'i meet its climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.

We need to make the process of permitting as quick and efficient as possible for Hawai'i residents, or we will never reach our resiliency goals!!

Mahalo for your wholehearted support-

Cheryl Ho, Nu'uano

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 10:25:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Gregory	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 11:38:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melanie Tantisira	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairman Yamashita and Comittee Members,

*I am strongly in fovor of this bill that will help streamline solar permitting. Individual homeowners use of rooftop solar energy decreases our dependence on electricity produced by oil, gas and trash burning. This helps protect our climate by decreasing the global warming gasses produced by burning. It will also save the homeowners money. **I am in favor of this Bill SB781 SD2 HD2 as it makes it faster and easier for the homeowner to get the rooftop solar systems installed to achieve the goals above.***

Thank you.

Melanie Tantisira

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 4:48:45 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel G. Chun	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an architect I **STRONGLY OPPOSE** amending HRS 464 with "carve out" for residential solar projects. This will make these projects ineligible for county permit expediting that relies on architect stamp/signature. Bill proponents have initiated and repeated **false information** claiming that architects are chiefly to blame for DPP permit delays.

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 5:25:28 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pam Murphy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB781 SD2 HD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 HD2 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will **streamline permitting without compromising on safety**. 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!

We have a rooftop solar system and I feel it is a key tool in the fight against climate change. SB781 SD2 HD2 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals!

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 6:31:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Senators!

I strongly support SB781 SD2 HD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 HD2 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will **streamline permitting without compromising on safety**. 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!

Mahalo nui loa!

R A Culbertson

Honokaa

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 6:44:15 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maki Morinoue	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Members of this committee,

I am in strong support of SB781 SD2HD1. Currently, homeowners have to wait up to a year to get their permit to install solar panels. Through this bill, the State will be able to offer a free online app that will quicken solar permitting authorization from months to a day. This will help families quickly lower their costs while helping the planet!

This bill will address longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2HD1 offers several critical, common-sense measures that will streamline permitting. Utilization of the SolarAPP+ alone can save the typical solar consumer more than \$7,000 in red tape. SB781 SD2HD1 is an important step to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.

We must not burn trees and increase oil production.

SB781 SD2HD1 will move us in a more regenerative direction.

Mahalo for this opportunity,

Maki Morinoue

Holualoa

96725

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 6:59:01 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha FIN Chair, Vice Chair & Committee,

I support SB781 SD2 HD2 and hope you do too. I live on the Big Island and it often takes over a year to get a permit to place PV on people roofs. This bill is similar to a bill passed in Calif where it now takes 1 day to get a permit. Hawaii leads the nation in energy supplied by renewables and with SB781 we will be a state to emulate! This bill is for our keikis we need to transition to renewable energy if we don't want climate chaos! DO THE RIGHT THING!!! PASS SB781 SD2 HD2

I strongly support SB781 SD2 HD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 HD2 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will **streamline permitting without compromising on safety**. 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!

SB781 SD2 HD2 establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects. Currently some families are waiting up to a year to receive their permit. This is unacceptable and must be remedied. By implementing provisions in SB781 SD2 HD2, 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. SB781 SD2 HD2 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals!

DO THE RIGHT THING,

tlaloc tokuda

Kailua Kona, HI 96740

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 8:05:40 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Patt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support efforts like SB781 to facilitate the installation of solar energy in HI. Thank you.

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 8:11:42 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caitlyn Bradle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and committee members:

My name is Caitlyn Bradle. I have always been an extremely strong supporter of clean and renewable energy and beleive this planet is our only one and we should take care of it.

I strongly support SB781 SD2 HD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 HD2 offers 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. 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.); and*
- 4. exempting smaller-scale and simple residential rooftop solar and energy storage projects from overly stringent and costly professional review standards in HRS 464.*

I urge you to pass this critically important bill for Hawaii's transition to clean and affordable energy. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Respectfully,

Caitlyn Bradle

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 8:14:39 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexis Badayos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and committee members:

I strongly support SB781 SD2 HD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 HD2 offers 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. 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.); and*
- 4. exempting smaller-scale and simple residential rooftop solar and energy storage projects from overly stringent and costly professional review standards in HRS 464.*

I urge you to pass this critically important bill for Hawaii's transition to clean and affordable energy. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Respectfully,

Alexis Badayos

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 8:17:24 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Honorable Legislators,

I am writing to express my support for the bill relating to renewable energy. As a resident of Hawaii, I believe it is important for our state to transition away from imported fossil fuels and towards locally available renewable energy sources.

I fully support the provisions in this bill to lower administrative barriers to the deployment of energy generation and storage technology systems. By requiring government entities in the state to implement SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform, we can help make the process of installing residential and commercial-scale distributed energy resources much simpler and more efficient.

I believe that online permitting tools such as SolarAPP+ have been proven to be effective and efficient in hundreds of government entities throughout the nation, and it is time for Hawaii to adopt these tools as well. By doing so, we can help meet the state's clean energy, reliability, and resilience needs in a timely and cost-effective manner.

I strongly urge you to pass this bill as soon as possible. The future of our state's energy infrastructure depends on it, and I am confident that this bill will play a critical role in helping us achieve our renewable energy goals.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Terri R.

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 8:29:06 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and committee members:

My name is Justin Furuta and I am an employee at Alternate Energy.

I strongly support SB781 SD2 HD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 HD2 offers 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. 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.); and*
- 4. exempting smaller-scale and simple residential rooftop solar and energy storage projects from overly stringent and costly professional review standards in HRS 464.*

I urge you to pass this critically important bill for Hawaii's transition to clean and affordable energy. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Respectfully,

Justin Furuta

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 8:30:32 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and committee members,

My name is Roy Skaggs and I am the Director of Sales at Alternate Energy. We are a 30-year old local company who employs about 100 local people. I am also a solar cusotmer. I strongly support SB781 SD2 HD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 HD2 offers 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. *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.); and*
4. *exempting smaller-scale and simple residential rooftop solar and energy storage projects from overly stringent and costly professional review standards in HRS 464.*

I urge you to pass this critically important bill for Hawaii's transition to clean and affordable energy. Mahalo for considering my testimony!

Roy

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 8:32:47 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB781 SD2 HD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 HD2 offers 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. 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.); and*
- 4. exempting smaller-scale and simple residential rooftop solar and energy storage projects from overly stringent and costly professional review standards in HRS 464.*

I urge you to pass this critically important bill for Hawaii's transition to clean and affordable energy. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Faith Texeira

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 8:34:10 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Keahiolalo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and committee members:

My name is Kim Keahiolalo. I have been working in solar energy on the Big Island since 2012. I have witnessed many adaptations in Hawaii that are very encouraging in the adoption of clean energy. SB781 SD2 makes good business sense for Oahu.

Please support this bill.

I support SB781 SD2 because it addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals.

Mahalo nui,

Kim

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 8:39:04 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark A. Koppel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Mark Koppel, 31-392 Lepolua Rd., Ninole, HI 96773

I am testifying in strongest support of **SB781 SD2 HD2**. This bill is designed to increase our state's Mandated, PUC Approved and Court Approved absolute commitment to Zero-CO2 no burn electricity production.

This is an absolute win-win for our Air, Streams, Oceans And *Consumers (AKA Voters!!!)*

We are all agreed that we need more PV rooftop panels with batteries for *cheaper, more reliable, and more stable* energy production. This helps HELCO until it gets around to firming up its grid.

Efforts by *more expensive tree-burning* power production by Hu Honua have been decisively rejected at all levels **in spite of Senators D, K, K, W** who, obviously, by coincidence (!) received contributions from Hu Honua and other anti-Clean, Burning entities.

Intastalling PV panels provides *guaranteed, good-paying jobs* for near and long term.

So we do need 781?

Because when homeowners AKA *voters* want to install their panels, they run into bureaucratic delays. Everyone, including your Republican colleagues and those certain Senators, agrees that Hawaii has too much and too inefficient bureacracy. It should not take over a year simply to add panels to your existing house! 781 aims to streamline the process.

781 does not involve any existing policy changes. It merely speeds up the process of helping Hawaii homeowners, AKA *voters*, to save our climate and *save money*.

No reasonable person can be against this.

I strongly urge you to do the right thing and vote for the win-win bill, **SB781 SD2 HD2**

Mahalo!!!

Mark Koppel

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 8:42:54 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathryn Troyan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Members of the Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong support for the bill relating to renewable energy, particularly in regards to the implementation of SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform by government entities in the State that issue building permits for solar distributed energy resource systems.

The urgency to transition away from imported fossil fuels and towards locally available renewable energy sources is paramount, and this bill addresses one of the main administrative barriers to achieving the State's one hundred per cent renewable portfolio standard by December 31, 2045. By lowering the cost and time associated with the adoption of residential solar and energy storage projects, we can encourage the timely build-out of a diverse, resilient, and reliable portfolio of low-cost renewable energy generation and storage assets.

Furthermore, the bill ensures that exemptions from permitting requirements for solar distributed energy resource systems are updated to account for inflation, reducing unnecessary impediments to the timely installation of residential distributed energy resources and other real property improvements. The adoption of online permitting tools, such as SolarAPP+, has been successfully implemented by hundreds of government entities that issue building permits throughout the nation, and it is time for Hawaii's permit-issuing government entities to take advantage of these tools to help meet the State's clean energy, reliability, and resilience needs.

I also support the provision in the bill that requires government entities in the State that issue building permits to adopt self-certification for residential and commercial on-site solar distributed energy resource systems that are not SolarAPP+ compatible. This provision will reduce administrative burdens and help accelerate the deployment of solar distributed energy resource systems.

In conclusion, I urge you to pass this bill as it is a critical step towards achieving Hawaii's renewable energy goals and reducing our dependence on fossil fuels.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Kathryn Troyan
Makiki Resident

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 8:59:30 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Eyler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a licensed Hawaii Architect since 1996 I support this bill.

We have had multiple clients not install PV systems due to the lengthy permitting process.

We find this unfortunate and non substantiable to our local infrastructure on Kauai nor the environment.

If this permit process is shortened we will be able to include more PV systems on our project.

Mark Eyler, Architect

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 9:37:02 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and committee members:

I strongly support SB781 SD2 HD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 HD2 offers 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. 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.); and
4. exempting smaller-scale and simple residential rooftop solar and energy storage projects from overly stringent and costly professional review standards in HRS 464.

I urge you to pass this critically important bill for Hawaii's transition to clean and affordable energy. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Aloha, Jeff Lum

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 9:57:24 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Honorable Members,

Please support SB781, the bill to streamline the solar permitting process.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 10:01:47 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pamela burrell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

Why does it have to be so difficult to do something that can be so easy?

please support this bill.

regards,

pamela burrell, Kalihiwai, Kaua'i

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 10:27:40 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joe Ferraro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a practicing architect I am fully aware of the critical need to adapt to climate change especially by reducing our fossil fuel usage. This bill if enacted into law will expedite that adaptation by allowing solar power to proliferate in our state. It will also as a consequence create more jobs.

Thanks you for movng it forward.

Joe Ferraro, FAIA

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 10:28:40 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Keohokalole and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Fukuknaga and Keith-Agaran, and committee members:

My name is Miles and I consider myself environmentally friendly, and committed to Renewable Energy for the past 10 years. I take pride in my work in helping families make the switch in going green clean renewable energy.

I strongly support SB781 SD1 (with key amendments to the Section 196-B self-certification clause) which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD1 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.)***
4. raising dollar thresholds in HRS 464-13 that establish exemptions from professional stamp requirements that have not been updated since 1979; and
5. carving out residential solar DERs from HRS 464 requirements.

***Please note that I concur with the suggested new amendments offered by KIUC and HSEA.

I believe with your support of SB781, together we can make sure that our planet remains sustainable for our keiki and their future.

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,

Miles Yoshimoto

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 10:54:10 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dale Jensen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Finance Committee Members:

I am writing in strong support of SB781 SD2 HD2. To anyone who feels anxious about climate change and worries about lack of action to preserve our precious environment for future generations, the lag time between government action and "on-the-ground" response is extremely frustrating. SB781 provides an opportunity for the legislature to directly address this time lag and allow people willing to convert their residences and businesses to a solar electric system to obtain a permit and move forward almost immediately.

We have all watched with frustration the incredibly long waits to obtain a building permit through the county planning and permitting office. While the counties work through their problems, state action to allow qualified solar projects to jump the line and obtain permitting thought a free online app will be game changer both for families trying to reduce their long term electric bills, and those that want to be part of the solution to our continuing greenhouse gas emissions.

I ask you to please take advantage of your position in this committee and move this climate positive bill forward with unanimous support.

Sincerely,

Dale Jensen

Professional Engineer, Ret'd

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 11:47:08 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Johnson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and committee members:

My name is Michael Johnson and I have been a Hawaii resident for the past 35+ years, having grown up in Hawaii as a keiki, and I've spent last 12+ years of my career focused on renewable clean and affordable energy projects for the community.

I strongly support SB781 SD2 HD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 HD2 offers 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. 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); and
4. exempting smaller-scale and simple residential rooftop solar and energy storage projects from overly stringent and costly professional review standards in HRS 464.

I urge you to pass this critically important bill for Hawaii's transition to clean and affordable energy. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Respectfully,

Michael J. Johnson

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 11:48:03 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and committee members:

My name is Kayley Olson and I work for Hawaii Unified, a solar company based here in Hawaii. I work in the approvals department, so I have seen first-hand how difficult it can be to obtain a permit for solar.

I strongly support SB781 SD2 HD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 HD2 offers 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. 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.); and
4. exempting smaller-scale and simple residential rooftop solar and energy storage projects from overly stringent and costly professional review standards in HRS 464.

I urge you to pass this critically important bill for Hawaii's transition to clean and affordable energy. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Kayley Olson

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 12:43:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Severine Busquet	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear chairs and committee members,

I strongly support SB781 SD2 HD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. Currently some families are waiting up to a year to receive their permit. Solar coupled with battery storage provides non-polluting energy as well as 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! SB781 SD2 HD2 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.

For these reasons, please support SB781 SD2 HD2.

Thank you for your attention.

Severine Busquet

Honolulu, 96825

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 12:56:51 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Virginia Tincher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Members of the Finance Committee,

I strongly support **SB781 SD2 HD2** which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. **SB781 SD2 HD2** 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.

I know people with solar plus battery on Oahu who are now 60% plus self powered saving them money and reducing the load on the grid.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Virginia Tincher, Oahu

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 1:46:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marsha Hee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support SB781 SD2 HD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 HD2 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will **streamline permitting without compromising on safety**. This is an important step to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.

Rooftop solar power is a key tool in the fight against climate change. SB781 SD2 HD2 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals!

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha Hee - House District 5, Volcano, Hawaii Island

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 1:48:50 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Geyer	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Please support any and all measures that will accelerate the adoption of solar electric systems.

Sincerely,

Matthew Geyer

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 1:59:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanette Vinton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB781 SC HD2 which will streamline the permitting process for solar projects

This bill addresses the longstanding permitting challenges hindering Hawaii's progress towards renewable energy and climate resilience goals. It is a crucial step in helping Hawaii achieve its climate targets, minimize expenses for residents, and enhance its resilience.

Sincerely,

Nanette Vinton

Mililani

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 4:09:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JON BRODZIAK	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Finance Committee,

SB781 SD2 HD2 establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or an equivalent to streamline online permitting for small-scale solar and energy storage projects. Right now, some families are waiting for up to a year to receive their permit. These permitting delays are unacceptable and the State must do a better job getting these permits approved in a timely manner. By implementing provisions in SB781 SD2 HD2, there will be auto-approval, proceed-to-build for all solar and storage projects that qualify for the online submittal. This will solve the permitting problem. There are monied interests opposing this bill and I encourage you to do the right thing and take action to ensure that SB781 becomes law.

Thanks for your consideration.

Aloha,

Jon Brodziak

SB-781-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 11:31:49 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Morin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee members,

I am in SUPPORT of SB781 SD2 HD2

Sincerely,

Noel Morin

Climate, Sustainability, and Resilience Advocate

Hilo, Hawai'i