

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

**Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Tuesday, March 21, 2023
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 329 & Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 781, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Chair Nakashima 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 15, 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 5 to 8, 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.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

GWEN S. YAMAMOTO LAU
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HAWAII GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY

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**Testimony of
Gwen Yamamoto Lau
Executive Director
Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority**
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
March 21, 2023, 2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329
in consideration of
**SENATE BILL NO. 781, SD2, HD1
RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and Members of the Consumer Protection & Commerce Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and provide comments on Senate Bill No. 781, SD2, HD1, 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, HD1.

Testimony of
Pacific Resource Partnership

House Committee On Consumer Protection & Commerce
Representative Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
Representative Jackson D. Sayama, Vice Chair

HB 781, SD2, HD1—Relating To Renewable Energy
Tuesday, March 21, 2023
2:00 P.M.

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, 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, HD1.

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, SD2, HD1 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.





HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

March 21, 2023, 2:00 PM

Room 329

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 781 HD1

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and members of the Committees:

Blue Planet Foundation **supports SB 781 HD1**, 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 Kaua'i² 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.



To: The Honorable Chair Mark Nakashima, the Honorable Vice Chair Jackson Sayama, and Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

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

Re: **Hearing SB781 SD2 HD1 RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Hearing: Tuesday March 21, 2023, 2:00 p.m., room 329

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce:

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 HD1!**

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 and more. 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)



To: The House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce (CPC)
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023, 2pm

In strong support of SB781 SD2 HD1

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and Consumer Protection & Commerce Committee members,

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 HD1** 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 HD1 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 HD1 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 HD1, 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 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 HD1 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



Hawaii Environmental Change Agents' Decarbonization of Buildings Task Force

March 18, 2023

Position: **Support** of SB781 SD2 HD1

Aloha Chair Nakashima and committee members of CPP:

On behalf of HECA's Decarbonization of Buildings Task Force, I'm testifying in **support** of SB781 SD2 HD1 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 HD1 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



March 21, 2023

TO: Honorable Mark Nakashima, Chair
Honorable Jackson Sayama, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Consumer Protection and
Commerce

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

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

SUBJECT: **Re: Senate Bill 781 SD2 HD1
Relating to Alternate Energy**

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice-Chair Sayama and Members of the
Committee,

My name is Reid Mizue, President, AIA Hawaii Council
submitting **OPPOSITION** on Senate Bill 781 SD2 HD1, specifically
on the premise that it revises HRS 464 design professional licensing
laws in Sections 3 and 4.

A state mandate on local counties with no funding included

This bill is considered a state mandate on local counties. It
duplicates Section 18-5.10 ROH enacted in 2020 that already
provides for expediting clean energy Honolulu permits using
computer-based application.

Expediting procedures of 196(B) rely on licensed plumbers,
architects or engineers. "Electricians" was removed, we highly
recommend "Electricians" be placed back in 196(B). In addition,
there are C-61 licenses issued under Chapter 444 for clean energy
contracting. AIA Hawaii State Council, recommends that licenses of
C-61, which are held by bill proponents, be utilized instead of
altering the HRS 464 related to architects and engineers' licenses by
a solar industry only "carve-out".

Further, AIA Hawaii State Council, suggests that residential solar /
PV to be treated by counties as time-efficient "trade permits." All of
which would be initiated and monitored by county officials and

administrators. Similar “trade-permits” for residential window repair/replacement, and water heater repair/replacement are already issued by some counties without the architect / engineer licenses.

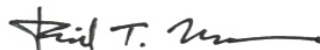
Confusion on how it will benefit the clean energy permitting

- Revising HRS 464-13 may not benefit clean energy permitting as specific exemptions are regulated by various, and broadly differing, ordinances of the four local counties. Exemptions from architect licensing laws are \$ value-based; not construction item based.
- Conflicts with HRS 196.5, which requires licensed architect or mechanical engineer to sign DBEDT variance for solar water heating alternatives for new single-family houses.
- Conflicts with Section 18-5.10 Expedited Permit for Clean Energy Projects / Revised Ordinances of Honolulu where it relies on a signed affidavit by a licensed architect or engineer and upon our professional liability insurance policies.
- AIA Hawaii State is currently working with the City & County of Honolulu Department of Planning & Permitting to enact Self-Certified Professional Program (Bill 6) that has successfully expedited building permits in New York City, Chicago and Phoenix. County expediting relies most importantly on the stamp and signature of the architect and/or engineer. Based on this bill, Section 4 language will make residential solar systems completely ineligible for this Program.

In past testimony, AIA has recommended (for the purpose of expediting building permits) that any revisions to HRS 464 should be removed from SB 781. The Senate WAM/CPN Committees has indicated their support for this recommendation. We are now seeking the House to also support this recommendation. AIA also recommends the reinstatement of the SD2 language into this bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to **OPPOSE** on **Senate Bill 781 SD2 HD1**.

Sincerely,



Reid Mizue, AIA

American Institute of Architects, Hawaii State Council

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 1:20:15 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 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 Consumer Protection and Commerce Committee members,

On behalf of Our Revolution Hawaii's 5,000 members and supporters statewide, we Stand in STRONG SUPPORT of SB781 SD2 HD1 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.

Passage of SB781 SD2 HD1 is essential because it addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. Currently Hawaii families have had to wait up to a year to receive their solar project permit. By implementing SB781 SD2 HD1 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. Note that the National Renewable Energy Laboratory developed SolarAPP+ in a collaborative partnership with industry and the building safety community, with funding from the U.S. Department of Energy.

We are also in full support of HD1 amendments that restored the Section 3 definition of "residential distributed energy resource system" and part of Section 4 exemption from HRS 464 for "residential distributed energy resource systems." 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 is just plain common 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 HD1 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.

Please pass SB781 SD2 HD1 to help Hawaii achieve our clean energy goals.

Mahalo,

Dave Mulnix, Cofounder & Hawaii State Organizer

Our Revolution Hawaii



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

Testimony of The Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) Regarding SB781 SD2 HD1, Relating to Renewable Energy, Before the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and committee members:

The Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) **strongly supports SB781 SD2 HD1**, 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 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 HD1 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. A recent amendment included in the HD1 draft clarifies that a duly licensed design professional such as an architect or engineer is responsible for certifying that the project is compliant with all applicable codes and laws.

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 of the project. 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 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 architect, duly licensed engineer, or duly licensed plumbing (where applicable).

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. Despite these efforts, the existing system still



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

needs improvement, and is under-resourced and 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 that may be utilized to implement SolarAPP+ and other permitting reforms. The measures of 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 HD1** and urges the committee to advance this measure.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Respectfully,

/s/ Rocky Mould

Rocky Mould
Executive Director

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2023 4:07:46 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Latkiewicz	Capture the Carbon	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to expedite permitting of solar systems. SB781 can play a hugh part in that expediting;

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2023 7:40:17 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Logan Lee	Climate Future Forum	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Climate Future Forum

March 18, 2023

Position: **Support** of SB781 SD2 HD1

Aloha Chair Nakashima and Members of the CPC Committee:

On behalf of Climate Future Forum, I'm testifying in **support** of SB781 SD2 HD1 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.

The bill's 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.

The Climate Future Forum is supporting the legislative agenda that about 80 students developed with eight Hawai'i state legislators on December 3rd, 2022. (website: www.climatefuturehawaii.org)

Respectfully,
Logan Lee
Climate Future Forum Steering Committee Member

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2023 11:43:34 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 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.



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i

CPC_03-21-23 SB781

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Jackson D. Sayama, Vice Chair

CONCERNING: SB781 SD2 HD1 (HSCR1326) RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama 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 prepared the 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 SD2HD1, 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

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 8:45:48 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaui Matutino	Hawaii Unified	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and committee members:

My Name is Kaui Matutino. I am employed by Hawaii Unifed Industries.

We are on a mission to educate about the exciting possibilities of sustainable technology and provide our clients with highly scalable solutions. We are motivated because of the respect we have for our earth and responsibility to future generations. We are passionate about improving sustainability on all fronts. Passing this bill will give us the opportunity to expedite and effectively provide our clients with a more sustainable lifestyle.

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 HD1 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.

Sincerely,

Kaui Matutino



Before the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

Testimony in Support of SB781 SD2 HD1: Relating to Renewable Energy

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support and provide comments on Senate Bill 781 SD2 HD1.

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

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 HD1 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 HD1.

Sincerely,
Caroline Carl
Executive Director
Hawai'i Energy



Legislative Testimony of Sunrun Inc.
Before the CPC Committee
March 21, 2023

IN SUPPORT of SB781 SD2 HD1 – Relating to Renewable Energy

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and distinguished Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce,

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 HD1 (“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.

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>

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 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.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB379

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



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

March 21, 2023

2:00 PM

Conference Room 329

In SUPPORT of SB781 SD2 HD1: Relating to Renewable Energy

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

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS** SB781 SD2 HD1, 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 HD1 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 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
Tuesday, March 21, 2023 — 2:00 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports SB 781 SD2 HD1, Relating to Renewable Energy.

Dear Chair Nakashima 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 HD1, 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



Green Power Projects LLC
Alan Lennard, Managing Director
P.O. Box 818
Haleiwa, HI 96712
T 808.381-3447 F 808.381-0547
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 which addresses longstanding permitting issues

Before the

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair, Rep. Jackson D. Sayama, Vice Chair
Tuesday, March 21, 2023; 2:00 PM
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Conference Room 329
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice-Chair Sayama, 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. 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 HD1 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



GRAND SOLAR, INC.
4882-4 Kilauea Ave.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816 USA
V: (808) 737-3536 / F: (808) 737-3536

John Grandinetti
www.grandsolarinc.com

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

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

Before the

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair, Rep. Jackson D. Sayama, Vice Chair
Tuesday, March 21, 2023; 2:00 PM
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Conference Room 329
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice-Chair Sayama, 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 HD1. 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 HD1 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,

John Grandinetti - dig signature

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



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 CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair, Rep. Jackson D. Sayama, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 21, 2023; 2:00 PM

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Conference Room 329

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice-Chair Sayama, 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. 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 HD1 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,

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

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 6:05:53 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris DeBone	Hawaii Energy Connection, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and committee members:

My name is Chris DeBone and represent the 50+ employees at Hawaii Energy Connection (a.k.a. KumuKit Solar). We have been providing affordable and environmentally friendly saolar energy alternatinves since 2007. We are currently scheduling our crews on a month to month basis. This is not due to lack of demand, but due to the whack-a-mole game we are playing in our efforts in receiving permits in time for scheduled installations. We have single family homes that have been waiting over 6 months for a solar PV permit. The permitting struggles are real.

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 HD1 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,

Chris DeBone

Hawaii Energy Connection (a.k.a. Kumukit Solar)

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama, Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, 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 opportunity and savings 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 back log 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 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 HD1 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; and
3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.).***

***Please note that I concur with the suggested amendments offered by HSEA. The first clarifies that a duly licensed architect, engineer, or plumber (where applicable) is responsible for the certification (stamp) in the self-certification pathway. The second reinserts the exemption from HRS 464 requirements for "residential distributed energy resource systems."

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

Respectfully,



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

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 6:31:53 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leilani Schultz	Alternate Energy Inc.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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 HD1 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,

Leilani Schultz

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 7:35:41 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Wyszowski	Sunnova	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Sunnova is a leading residential solar and energy storage service provider, with nearly 245k customers across the U.S. and its territories, including Hawaii. The purpose of this letter is to register our support for SB781 to improve residential solar permitting on the islands. The implementation proposed by SB781, of Solar APP+ or a functionally equivalent, technology for permitting will facilitate more efficient permitting processes and give residents a better experience when going solar and allow the larger community to meet clean energy goals. Supporting efficient and timely installation of rooftop solar is critically important to addressing climate change.

We strongly support SB781, because of the required software implementation and the removal of a professional stamp requirement. Utilizing SolarAPP+ and removing professional stamp requirements will streamline and reduce costs for residents of Hawaii seeking sustainable energy options. SolarAPP+ is free for AHJs to use, has already been introduced in a number of municipalities across the country and has reduced permitting timelines to less than one day. Solar projects that cannot be reviewed under SolarAPP+ will be given a self-certification pathway which will also save time and consumer money. This bill will also improve access to residential solar energy by carving out residential solar DERs from needing a professional stamp requirement. Professional stamp requirements are burdensome and unnecessary for residential scale solar, as they do not increase safety.

Thank you so much for allowing Sunnova to provide testimony on SB781. We believe this bill will help the residents of Hawaii save money and support climate resilience goals.



Environmental Caucus of
The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

To: The Honorable Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
The Honorable Jackson D. Sayama, Vice Chair

Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Re: **SB 781 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Hearing: Tuesday, March 21, 2023, 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

Position: **Strong support**

Aloha, Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama and Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i and its 7,500 members strongly support SB 781 SD2 HD1. This measure would require government entities in the State that issue building permits to implement SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform that verifies code compliance and issues permits to licensed contractors for solar distributed energy resource systems in real time by 1/1/2024. This measure would also 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. It would also make professional engineers, architects, surveyors, and landscape architects licensure law inapplicable to work with respect to residential distributed energy resource systems.

Its provisions would eliminate many of the very serious barriers that homeowners in Hawai'i are experiencing in facilitating and expediting their long-delayed applications for permits for initial construction and renovations in the county-level departments of permitting and planning.

This important reform would be accomplished by exempting solar and battery renewable projects altogether from the permitting requirements of HRS §464-13, and by raising the dollar ceiling for exemptions for other homeowner renovations in the same Code section. Those ceilings were most recently set in 1979, more than 40 years ago! To keep those exemptions at the same effective level, due to inflation, requires that the dollar ceilings on those exemption levels be raised to four times the 1979 figures.

This bill is essential to relieve the huge logjam of these permit applications. Recently, we learned in the news that an official at the Honolulu Department of Planning and Permitting was prosecuted and convicted for receiving a bribe from a homeowner who was greatly frustrated by the very long delays in receiving a building permit. The news reports pointed out that there was nothing substantively wrong with the application for the building permit. The crime was that the homeowner did not want to wait more than a year for his permit, and the official was willing to



Environmental Caucus of
The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

March 21, 2023

Page 2

allow the homeowner to get expedited service. It would help immeasurably in helping the people of the State of Hawai'i to substantially reduce our dependence on environmentally destructive fossil fuels.

On behalf of the Environmental Caucus, we strongly urge you to PASS this bill. We thank you very much in advance for your favorable consideration of this bill.

Very truly yours, Alan B. Burdick and Melodie Aduja, co-
chairs Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of
Hawai'i Burdick808@gmail.com 808-927-1500
legislativepriorities@gmail.com 808-258-8889

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 12:55:47 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Honorable Members of the Legislature,

I am writing in support of the Renewable Energy Bill, which aims to lower administrative barriers to the deployment of energy generation and storage technology systems. As a resident of the State of Hawaii, I strongly believe that this bill is necessary to promote the adoption of locally available renewable energy sources, as well as to ensure the timely build-out of a diverse, resilient, and reliable portfolio of low-cost renewable energy.

The purpose of this bill is commendable and I fully support the implementation of SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform. This will make the permitting process for residential and commercial-scale distributed energy resources much more efficient, reducing the time and cost associated with adoption of residential solar and energy storage projects.

In addition, I believe that the self-certification process for solar and energy storage projects is a critical step in reducing administrative barriers to the deployment of these technologies. This process will allow applicants to proceed with the build-out of their projects without delay, while ensuring compliance with all applicable codes and laws.

In conclusion, I urge you to support this bill, which will play a crucial role in advancing the State of Hawaii's clean energy, reliability, and resilience goals. Thank you for considering my thoughts and views on this matter.

Sincerely,

Julian Kahumana



**Testimony of Elemental Excelsior to the
CPC Committee
in consideration of SB 781 SD2 HD1, March 21, 2023**

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and distinguished Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce:

Elemental Excelsior respectfully submits our **strong support for 781 SD2 HD1** (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 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 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.

SB781 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.

HB 949 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.



ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR'S ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

NECA Hawai'i Chapter
1286 Kalani Street, Suite B-203
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817
PH: (808) 847-7306
FX: (808) 841-8096
Email: ecah@ecahi.com



March 20, 2023

To: Senate Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
Honorable Chairperson Senator Mark Nakashima
Vice Chairman Senator Jackson Sayama

From: Al Itamoto, Executive Director
Electrical Contractors Association of Hawaii
National Electrical Contractors Association, Hawaii Chapter

Subject: SB 78, SD2, HD1 Relating to Renewable Energy

Notice of Hearing

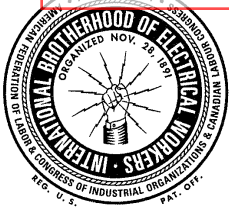
Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023
Time: 2:00 PM
Place: VIA Videoconference
Conference Room 329
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Dear Chair Nakashima and Committee members:

The Electrical Contractors Association of Hawaii (ECAH) is a non-profit association representing over 100 electrical contractors doing business in the State of Hawaii. ECAH would like to provide **comments and concerns** to the intent and purpose of SB 781, SD2, HD1. While we understand the intent and purpose of this measure, there are unintended consequences to consider. First is with paragraph 196-B, (2), with the removal of "duly licensed electrician" from the original version of this measure. What reasonable reason would you exclude licensed electricians from this process. This is also in contradiction of Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 448E-9, Unlicensed Activity (a) that cites, "no person shall act or assume to act as a journey worker electrician". In addition, we have concerns with paragraph 464-13 of this measure, "Work exempted from provisions of chapter". While we understand that the current permitting process can cause delays and unintended costs, we are concerned with the life safety issues involved with all electrical work. The intent to reduce time and costs to this work should not exclude compliance to the National Electrical Code (NEC). The NEC is necessary for the proper performance of all electrical work. With that said, all electrical work should include an electrical inspection to insure that the work is in compliance. Any electrical work involved in solar distributed energy resource system projects still requires a connection to the structure's electrical system and must ensure proper grounding and bonding regardless of the cost. Compliance to the code could also affect insurability of the structure.

Based on the above, ECAH has concerns with the current version of the bill and suggests amendments be made to address these concerns in order to fully support this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this issue.



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 CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
Hearing on Wednesday, March 21, 2023 at 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 329

RE: TESTIMONY IN **OPPOSITION** OF SB 781 SD2, HD1

Honorable Chair Mark M. Nakashima, Vice Chair Jackson D. Sayama, and Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce:

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 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 interpretations that could lead to unlicensed activity and violations of other licensing laws and rules.

We find it curious and alarming that the HD1 version of this bill struck the requirement of certification by a “duly licensed electrician”, yet kept the requirement for a “duly licensed plumber”. Both of these individual trade licenses are not only required by law when installing PV and/or solar water systems, but licensed electricians and plumbers are the properly trained persons with regard to the necessary building codes; such as the National Electric Code (NEC).

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.

While we are not entirely opposed to the SolarAPP+ system and the idea of third-party or self-certification processes, however, this bill is far from acceptable. We urge this Committee to direct the proponents of this bill to engage more closely with 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. Until then, we ask this Committee to **HOLD** this bill.

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 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 long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Damien T.K. Kim
Business Manager/
Financial Secretary

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 3:37:22 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathaniel Kinney	Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters	Support	In Person

Comments:

With the inclusion of potential labor standards we are in support of this bill.

March 21, 2023

Kevin Schmid

Oceanic Companies, Inc.
Chairman

Canaan Shon

Hawaii Geophysical
Services, LLC
Past Chairman

Christine Lanning

Integrated Security
Technologies, Inc.
Chairman Elect

Ross Kawano

ECA, LLP
Treasurer/Secretary

Malcolm Barcarse, Jr.

A&B Electric Co., Inc.

Ralph Sakauye

Bora, Inc.

Paulina Baker

Redhammer LLC

Jarrett Walters

Hawaiian Building
Maintenance



Austin Doherty

Helix Electric
Chairman

Geoffrey Chu

Oceanic Companies, Inc.
Past Chairman

Kathryn Mashima

Mashima Electric
Chairman Elect

David Tsuda

First Hawaiian Bank
Treasurer

Ross Kawano

ECA, LLP
Secretary

Maurice Torigoe

M. Torigoe Plumbing, Inc.

Michelle Taketa

StarCom Builders, Inc.

2023 CEF ETTF Board of Trustees

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Casey Reed

Helix Electric

Jeff Waiblinger

Consolidated Painting LLC

Christopher Lee

Ayko Group, LLC

To: Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
Rep. Jackson D. Sayama, Vice Chair

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

Associated Builders and Contractors Hawaii Chapter **COMMENTS** Re SB781 SD2 HD1.

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama and members of the Committee:

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

Our comments today refer to the amendments that were added into the HD1 version of this bill that allows tying the issuance of building permits to labor standards. With the State scrambling to meet its renewable energy goals, we believe that adding additional burdens to these projects fails to help the State meet these renewable energy goals. They will potentially add additional costs to these projects along with slowing down the building permit process which is already taking too long in the current environment. Labor standards are covered in other areas of the law and administered by different agencies so we ask those laws continue to be enforced by the agencies that are actually tasked to enforce those laws.

For the reasons stated above we ask that the amendments in the HD1 be removed from the bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2023 10:13:06 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Members of Consumer Protection and Commerce Committee,

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 HD1** 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.

Virginia Tincher, Oahu

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2023 3:34:23 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 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 SD2HD1 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 SD1 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 SD2HD1.

Thank you for your attention.

Severine Busquet

Honolulu, 96825

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2023 6:09:15 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support SB781 SD2 HD1.

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2023 7:55:55 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This bill will streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects. The more solar energy is available the less fossil fuels we will be burning. Please support SB 781!

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2023 8:39:56 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

--I strongly support SB781 SD2HD1 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2HD1 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline permitting. This is an important step to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.

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

--SB781 SD2HD1 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 SD2HD1, 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 SD2HD1 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals!

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify,

Jotis Russell-Christian

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2023 10:59:35 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brodie Lockard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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!

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2023 11:44:16 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruth Robison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I live in Hilo and I vote. I strongly support SB781 SD2HD1 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2HD1 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. Thank you.

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2023 1:35:38 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hawaii's once thriving solar energy industry has been crippled by bureaucratic permitting delays that have reduced installations to a trickle that is totally inadequate to meet Hawaii's zero carbon emission goals. I support SB781 as a necessary measure to allow our state to resume progress toward achieving a cleaner environment and toward maintaining some stability in the earth's climate.

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2023 2:27:30 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaia Dunford	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB781 SD2HD1. Rooftop solar power is an important part of Hawaii's transition to renewable energy sources and overall decarbonization/climate action goals. SB781 SD2HD1 will streamline solar permitting, lowering the costs and burden on citizens aiming to contribute to the protection of the environment, fight against climate change, and future of the state and planet by utilizing solar energy.

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2023 9:52:47 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and committee members,

My name is Roy Skaggs and I am the Director of Sales at Alternate Energy. We are a local 30-year old company who employs about 100 local people. I am also a solar customer and truly believe in the freedom of choice and being able to help the environment.

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 HD1 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 Skaggs

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 6:27:53 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tom Halmos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and committee members:

My name is Tom Halmos and I am the Sales Manager for Photonworks Engineering.

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 HD1 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,

Tom Halmos

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 6:46:29 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Honorable Members of the Legislature,

I am writing in support of the Renewable Energy Bill, which aims to lower administrative barriers to the deployment of energy generation and storage technology systems. As a resident of the State of Hawaii, I strongly believe that this bill is necessary to promote the adoption of locally available renewable energy sources, as well as to ensure the timely build-out of a diverse, resilient, and reliable portfolio of low-cost renewable energy.

The purpose of this bill is commendable and I fully support the implementation of SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform. This will make the permitting process for residential and commercial-scale distributed energy resources much more efficient, reducing the time and cost associated with adoption of residential solar and energy storage projects.

In addition, I believe that the self-certification process for solar and energy storage projects is a critical step in reducing administrative barriers to the deployment of these technologies. This process will allow applicants to proceed with the build-out of their projects without delay, while ensuring compliance with all applicable codes and laws.

In conclusion, I urge you to support this bill, which will play a crucial role in advancing the State of Hawaii's clean energy, reliability, and resilience goals. Thank you for considering my thoughts and views on this matter.

Sincerely,

Terri Rhody

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 6:55:44 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and committee members:

My name is Caitlyn Bradle,

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 HD1 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-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 7:14:55 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and committee members:

My name is Michael Johnson and I have been a Hawaii resident for 35+ years now, having grown up in the islands since a keiki. For the past twelve (12) years, I have passionately focused my career on building renewable energy projects in Hawaii, proudly on the front line helping Hawaii towards achieving its established goals to be operating on 100% clean renewable energy by year 2045.

I am writing to let you know that 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 HD1 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 Johnson

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 7:59:19 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and committee members:

I am a Makiki resident and solar company employee, and I work almost daily with city & county permit processes to help our customers obtain permits for their photovoltaic projects.

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 HD1 offers a number of common-sense measures such as:

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

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 8:07:29 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I work in the solar industry and am born and raised in 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 HD1 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,

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 7:24:42 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and committee members:

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

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 HD1 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-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 8:08:32 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Honorable Members,

I respectfully ask that you support SB781 which is the bill to streamline the solar permitting process.

Thank you for your attention and courtesy.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 8:15:22 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB781 SD2HD1 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. Streamline permitting 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 SD2HD1 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals! Thank you

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 8:17:03 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elton Shishido	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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 HD1 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,
Elton Shishido*

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 8:19:08 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Members of the committee,

I am in strong support of SB781 SD2HD1 as 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 a number of 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. This will move us in a more regenerative direction.

Mahalo for this opportunity,

Maki Morinoue
Holualoa
96725

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

My name is Kris Foster, Business Systems Analysis Director at Hawaii Unified Industries. We support the adoption of SolarApp+ as it will allow contractors and homeowners to take advantage of opportunity and savings 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 back log 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 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 HD1 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; and
3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.).***

***Please note that I concur with the suggested amendments offered by HSEA. The first clarifies that a duly licensed architect, engineer, or plumber (where applicable) is responsible for the certification (stamp) in the self-certification pathway. The second reinserts the exemption from HRS 464 requirements for "residential distributed energy resource systems."

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

Respectfully,



Kris Foster
Business Systems Analyst
Hawaii Unified Industries, LLC
kris.foster@hawaiiunified.com
808-953-0532

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 8:29:38 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and committee members:

I'm Kim Keahiolalo. I have been working in solar on the Big Island since 2012. I have witnessed many adaptations in Hawaii that are very encouraging in the adoption of clean energy. Along that theme: SB781 SD2 makes good sense.

I support SB781 SD2 because it addresses longstanding permitting issues which affect solar customers and solar contractors.

Please support this bill

- 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,

Kim Keahiolalo

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 8:45:11 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and committee members:

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 HD1 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-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 8:48:58 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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 HD1 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

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 9:06:27 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 9:22:51 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Xyila Caballero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and committee members:

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 HD1 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,

Xyila Caballero

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

My name is Kayley Olson, a Solar Operations Specialist of Hawaii Unified Industries, LLC. We support the adoption of SolarApp+ as it will allow contractors and homeowners to take advantage of opportunity and savings now. This program will also free up a considerable back log of permits, allowing the DPP and individuals responsible for review to work through a larger volume of delayed projects and permits. Everyone can win.

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 HD1 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.

Respectfully,

Kayley Olson

Kayley Olson
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808-481-7747

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 11:10:22 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I work in the renewable energy field and have seen first hand how permitting issues can impact our community. We need to be able to help more families more efficantly.

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 HD1 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.

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 12:00:27 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason K. Ignacio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and committee members:

I am a local native Hawaiian who has been working in the renewable energy (solar PV) sector for over 12 years.

I strongly support SB781 SD2 HD1 which addresses building permitting issues that befuddle homeowners, frustrate installation companies, and stall the advance of Hawai'i's renewable energy and climate resilience goals.

SB781 SD2 HD1 eliminates permitting backlogs and delays for renewable energy projects by instituting these 4 solutions:

- 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 bill- to cut out some of the red tape and bureaucracy that is holding us back from realizing our Statewide goals.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Respectfully,

Jason Kanani Ignacio

Generac Clean Energy Solutions

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 12:23:24 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am James Rudolph concerned citizen and an electrical contractor.

I strongly support SB781 SD2 HD1 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. I do not see how we will achieve our 100% renewable goal of being off fossil fuels by the end of 2045 if we don't make it easier/quicker to permit projects.

SB781 SD2 HD1 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 help pass this critically important bill for Hawaii's transition to clean and affordable energy. By helping the people we will also help the Aina.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Respectfully,

James B. Rudolph

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 12:38:13 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Helen Cox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

I urge you to pass SB781 SD2 HD1 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. As a renewable source of power, solar energy has a critical role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating climate change, which is imperative 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 HD1 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline permitting. This is an important step to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.

As a owner of rooftop solar and battery storage, I can attest to the fact that it has enhanced my life and saved my family money. I want others to have the ability to join in this critical step to save money and reduce emissions. Rooftop solar power is a key tool in the fight against climate change. SB781 SD2 HD1 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals! We cannot let permitting issues hold us back!

Mahalo for supporting SB781 SD2 HD1

Helen Cox, Kalaheo, Kauai

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 12:53:06 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am also frustrated by long delays in Honolulu building permits, but I **OPPOSE** this bill:

1. Unfunded "top-down mandate" on county agencies who are understaffed.
2. Duplicates existing Section 18-5.10 ROH that is intended for expediting clean energy permits. Passed 3 years ago and apparently not working. If Honolulu county agency hasn't made this work, how will House CPC force them?
3. Section 3 language is inappropriate for HRS 464-1.
4. Section 4 conflicts with DBEDT variance from standard solar water heater in single family residences requiring signature of architect or mechanical engineer licensed under HRS 464. Renders moot ROH 18-5.10 that relies on architect action to expedite clean energy permits.

The bill does not apply to Kauai County and duplicates Honolulu ROH. The state does not issue building permits. So what will be achieved by passing this bill?

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 1:26:14 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

strongly support SB781 SD2 HD1 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 HD1 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.*

Mahalo, Faith Texeira

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 1:52:30 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB781 SD2HD1 which would help clear up longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2HD1 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.

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 2:19:46 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 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 SD2 HD1 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 HD1 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.

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 your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Miles Yoshimoto

SB-781-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 10:16:29 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha.

I strongly support SB781 SD2HD1 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2HD1 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline permitting. This is an important step to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.

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

SB781 SD2HD1 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 SD2HD1, there will be auto-approval, proceed-to-build for all solar and storage projects that qualify for the online submittal.

My family loves our rooftop solar. Rooftop solar power is a key tool in the fight against climate change. SB781 SD2HD1 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals!

Do the right thing and pass SB781 SD2HD1.

Thank you,

Mary Lu Kelley

Kapa'a, HI