

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1326

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 17, 2023

RE: S.B. No. 781  
S.D. 2  
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2023  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Energy & Environmental Protection and Water & Land, to which was referred S.B. No. 781, S.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to require government entities in the State that issue building permits to:

- (1) 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; and
- (2) Adopt self-certification for solar distributed energy resource systems that are not SolarAPP+ compatible, under certain conditions.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority; Citizens' Climate Lobby Hawaii; Sierra Club of Hawai'i; Hawaii Environmental Change Agents' Decarbonization of Buildings Task Force; Hawaii Food Industry Association; Hawaii Unified Industries, LLC; Photonworks

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Engineering LLP; Alternate Energy Hawaii; Independent Energy Hawaii; Green Power Projects LLC; Solar Services Hawaii LLP; Grand Solar, Inc.; Our Revolution Hawaii; Ulupono Initiative; 350Hawaii.org; Climate Protectors Hawai'i; Sunnova; Hawaii Energy Connection, LLC; Sunrun; Hawaii Solar Energy Association; Hawai'i Energy; Tesla; Malama Solar; Kauai Climate Action Coalition; Fortress Power; Pacific Resource Partnership; Blue Planet Foundation; and numerous individuals. Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters.

Your Committees find that in order to transition the State away from imported fossil fuels and toward locally available renewable energy sources, the administrative barriers that constrain deployment of residential and commercial-scale distributed energy resources must be lowered. This measure encourages the adoption of online permitting tools to help meet the State's clean energy, reliability, and resilience needs.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Specifying that applicable government entities in the State may promote the use of certain labor standards in issuing building permits for solar distributed energy resource systems;
- (2) Clarifying that the self-certification process established by applicable government entities applies to residential and commercial on-site solar distributed energy resource systems;
- (3) Specifying that for permit application approval under the self-certification process, a duly licensed architect, duly licensed engineer, or duly licensed plumber is required to notify the applicable government entity in the State that issues building permits that the solar distributed energy resource system complies with all applicable codes and laws;
- (4) Adding a definition for "residential distributed energy resource system";
- (5) Inserting language that makes the professional engineers, architects, surveyors, and landscape

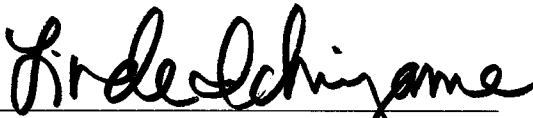


architects licensure law inapplicable to work with respect to residential distributed energy resource systems;

- (6) Changing the effective date to June 30, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (7) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Energy & Environmental Protection and Water & Land that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 781, S.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 781, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committees on Energy & Environmental Protection and Water & Land,

  
LINDA ICHIYAMA, Chair

  
NICOLE E. LOWEN, Chair



HSCR 1326

Record of Votes of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Bill/Resolution No.: <b>SB 781, SD2</b>	Committee Referral: <b>EEP/WALCPC, FIN</b>	Date: <b>03/16/23</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
EEP Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. LOWEN, Nicole E. (C)	✓			
2. COCHRAN, Elle (VC)	✓			
3. GATES, Cedric Asuega				✓
4. KAHALOA, Kirstin	✓			
5. PERRUSO, Amy A.				✓
6. WOODSON, Justin H.	✓			
7. WARD, Gene	✓			
<b>TOTAL (7)</b>	<b>5</b>			<b>2</b>
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation.				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: <u>Elle Cochran</u>				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee           Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office           Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				

