

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR



Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority

An Agency of the State of Hawaii

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
CHAIR

GWEN S YAMAMOTO LAU
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

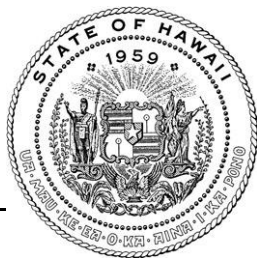
Testimony of
Gwen Yamamoto Lau
Executive Director
Hawai'i Green Infrastructure Authority
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Wednesday, February 21, 2024, 2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308
in consideration of
House Bill No. 2372
RELATING TO THE SOLAR ENERGY STORAGE LOAN PROGRAM

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2372, relating to the solar energy storage loan program. The Hawai'i Green Infrastructure Authority (HGIA) **strongly supports** this bill which clarifies part III in Act 164, SLH 2023 as it pertains to the appropriation for the solar energy storage loan program.

Thanks to the support and approval of last year's Legislature, the \$50.0 million was released by Governor in December 2023, to finance the installation of solar+storage systems for ALICE households. Unfortunately, a proviso was not included in the budget bill (Act 164, SHL 2023) to deposit the funds into HGIA's Clean Energy & Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund. This bill proposes to make this correction, enabling loan repayments to revolve and be recycled and reinvested to help more ALICE families over the next twenty-one years to 2045. Equally important is this is currently the Authority's only funding source that allows energy storage or battery financing. Pairing batteries with solar increases resiliency for our disadvantaged households and communities.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments and testify in strong support of HB 2372.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKA'I

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: dbedt.hawaii.gov

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Wednesday, February 21, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
HB 2372
RELATING TO THE SOLAR ENERGY STORAGE LOAN PROGRAM.

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of HB2372, which inserts a proviso to Act 164, SLH 2023, specifically addressing the appropriation for the Solar Energy Storage Loan Program. This bill transfers \$50.0 million appropriated in 2023 for the solar energy and storage loan program from general funds to the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority's (HGIA) Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund (CEEERLF).

By directing these funds to the CEEERLF, it ensures a continuous and sustainable source of funding to finance solar and storage installations. This not only addresses the immediate financial challenges faced by almost half of Hawaii's families, but it also creates a long-term solution to support underserved ratepayers. The bill recognizes the urgency of the situation, with approximately 44% of households grappling with disproportionate financial burdens due to rising inflation and electricity costs. Moreover, this provision will enable HGIA to continually leverage these funds by re-lending and re-investing that same public dollar, reaching and benefitting more ALICE families over time.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 2372.

TESTIMONY OF
LEODOLOFF R. ASUNCION, JR.
CHAIR, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
STATE OF HAWAII

TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE

Wednesday, February 21, 2024
2:00 p.m.

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

MEASURE: H.B. No. 2372

TITLE: RELATING TO THE SOLAR ENERGY STORAGE LOAN PROGRAM.

DESCRIPTION: Clarifies part III of Act 164, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023, as it pertains to the appropriation for the Solar Energy Storage Loan Program.

POSITION:

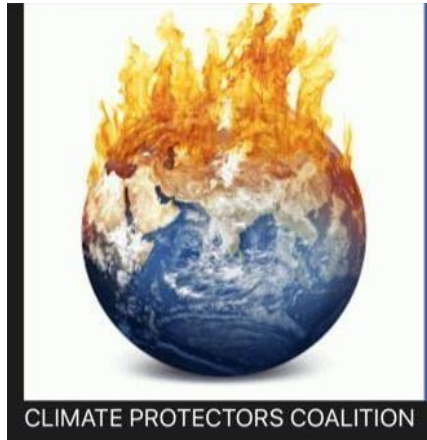
The Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) offers the following comments for consideration.

COMMENTS:

The Commission appreciates the intent of this measure to transfer funds to ensure that the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority can expend funds previously approved for a solar and storage financing program low- and moderate-income households.

The Commission recognizes that such programs align with our state’s renewable energy and decarbonization goals, while also aiming to provide equitable opportunities for economically constrained households facing increased financial energy burden to participate in, and benefit from, Hawaii’s clean energy transition.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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

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

Re: **Hearing HB2372 RELATING TO THE SOLAR ENERGY STORAGE SOLAR LOAN PROGRAM**

Hearing: February 21, 2024, 2:00 p.m., room 308

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

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i seek 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.

Climate Protectors Hawai'i STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB2372!

Funding solar energy and storage systems loans through the clean energy and energy efficiency revolving loan fund will benefit Hawaii immensely! It will increase electric system resiliency for everyone, help Hawaii meet its climate warming carbon negative target by 2045, and enable many owners to participate and reduce their costs of electricity.

Last year, the Governor funded \$50.0 million for solar+storage financing for ALICE households. Unfortunately, a proviso was not included to move the funds into HGIA's Clean Energy & Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund. This bill proposes to transfer the funds so that it can revolve, be re-cycled and reinvested to help more ALICE families to 2045.

This \$50.0 million is currently the **only funding HGIA has to finance energy storage systems**. If this bill does not pass, HGIA will not have the ability to revolve repaid loan capital to finance more PV+Storage systems.

Please pass this bill!

Mahalo for providing the opportunity to testify!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

HB-2372

Submitted on: 2/18/2024 9:26:01 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isidro Villaflor	PV Tech	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to strongly support HB 2372. Our company has assisted with more than 400 homeowners through the GEMS program. These families are so grateful for this program because without it, they would not be able to afford to purchase a solar PV system or qualify for a regular loan. Now they are on their way to eliminating around 60% to 90% of their electric bill. There are thousands more that need this program. For the state to meet its year 2045 goal of being 100% clean energy, the GEMS loan program needs to revolve repaid loan capital to finance more PV+Storage systems. Without revolving this loan, many underserved families will continue to be underserved. We need to help these communities so please support HB 2372.

Mahalo!

Sid Villaflor

HB-2372

Submitted on: 2/19/2024 6:33:36 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB2372 which provides essential funding to further these important programs that will drive renewable energy adoption in Hawaii.

Our company is planning to deploy over 200 million into Hawaii's economy over the next two years, this will not be possible without this important legislation.

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

Respectfully,

Ryan Hamilton

Managing Partner

Inception Financial LLC



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

Testimony of the Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) Regarding HB2372, Relating to the Solar Energy Storage Loan Program, Before the House Committee on Finance

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

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

The Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) **supports HB2372**, which makes an important clarification to Hawaii Session Laws to enable a Solar Energy Storage Loan Program designed for low-to-moderate income families and frontline communities.

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.

HSEA and its members actively support efforts to remove barriers and increase access to affordable renewable energy. This bill will enable a powerful tool to extend the benefits of distributed, rooftop solar and energy storage to underserved low-to-moderate income and frontline communities that are most impacted by high electricity rates. The Solar Energy Storage Loan Program will greatly enhance Hawaii's resilience, sustainability, and affordability as we decarbonize our economy and transition to clean energy.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to testify in **support of HB2372**.

Respectfully,

/s/ Rocky Mould

Executive Director

SHIFTED ENERGY

643 Ilalo St #203 Honolulu, HI 96813
Telephone: +1.808.664.0053 | Email: info@ShiftedEnergy.com

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB2372, which inserts a proviso to Act 164, SLH 2023, specifically addressing the appropriation for the Solar Energy Storage Loan Program. This bill transfers \$50.0 million appropriated in 2023 for the solar energy and storage loan program from general funds to the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority's (HGIA) Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund (CEEERLF).

This bill is critical in directing funds to ensure uninterrupted support for solar and storage financing. This not only addresses the immediate financial challenges faced by almost half of Hawaii's families, but it also creates a long-term solution to support underserved ratepayers. The bill recognizes the urgency of the situation, with approximately 44% of households grappling with disproportionate financial burdens due to rising inflation and electricity costs. Moreover, this provision will enable HGIA to continually leverage these funds by re-lending and re-investing that same public dollar, reaching and benefitting more ALICE families over time. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 3061.

We are Hawaii founded and headquartered clean energy startup. Our mission as a venture backed software company has been to work in communities that have largely been underserved and overlooked in typical energy financing and programs. We have seen firsthand the energy burden for families who have not qualified for solar an storage financing, and thus are paying astronomically high energy bills. We urge the community to pass this bill which will bring utility bill relief to these Hawaii families.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB2372.

Forest Frizzell

Co-founder & CEO



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Wednesday, February 21, 2024 — 2:00 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports HB 2372, Relating to the Solar Energy Storage Loan Program.

Dear Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

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

Ulupono supports HB 2372, which clarifies part III of Act 164, Session Laws of Hawai'i (SLH) 2023, as it pertains to the appropriation for the Solar Energy Storage Loan Program.

Ulupono supports the State's commitment to generate 100% of its electricity from renewable energy sources by 2045. This bill seeks to ensure that Act 164, SLH 2023, is properly funded to support affordable and accessible solar and energy storage systems for those in the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) population. Finding new ways to increase investment in clean energy is essential to Hawai'i's long-term goals. In December 2023, the Hawai'i State Energy Office published its Hawai'i Pathways to Decarbonization Report, which identifies, among other things, the crucial role that energy efficiency will play as one of the most important actions that can be made to reduce energy demand *before* implementing other measures such as developing new renewable generation, reducing vehicle miles traveled, converting to electric transport, and deploying carbon capture technologies.¹ The report also identifies the significant need for additional renewable energy generation to meet broader economy-wide decarbonization goals. As solar energy is currently about one-half the cost of oil-fired electricity, this population would directly benefit from a program that helps them overcome financial challenges such as high electricity costs and inflation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

¹ Hawai'i Pathways to Decarbonization, Act 238, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2022, Report to the 2024 Hawai'i State Legislature December 2023. <https://energy.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Act-238-HSEO-Decarbonization-FinalReport-2023.pdf>



To: The House Committee on Finance (FIN)
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2024, 2pm

In strong support of HB2372

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

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org is in **strong support of HB2372** that clarifies part III of Act 164, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2023, as it pertains to the appropriation for the Solar Energy Storage Loan Program. By directing these funds to the CEEERLF, it ensures a continuous and sustainable source of funding to finance solar and storage installations.

Hawaii will not be able to reach its carbon reduction goals if we do not enact policies that support these outcomes. 350Hawaii fully supports efforts by the legislature to establish social equity as a foundational principle in the State's efforts to strengthen climate resilience, including low-interest loan programs. Without this program, capital constrained households will be unable to switch to lower, cleaner sources of electricity. Furthermore, as solar energy is currently about one-half the cost of oil-fired electricity, ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households would directly benefit from a program that helps overcome financial challenges such as high electricity costs and inflation.

A Just Transition means leaving no one behind. That includes efforts such as the Solar Energy Storage Loan Program that help to remove barriers and increase access to affordable renewable energy.

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

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org