



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 01/30/2025

Time: 03:00 PM

Location: CR 225 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Energy and
Intergovernmental Affairs
Senate Government Operations

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Bill Title: SB 0412 RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.

Purpose of Bill: Requires state departments to prepare a report assessing the feasibility of installing distributed energy resource systems at each facility. Requires state departments to implement and install the distributed energy resource systems detailed in the reports no later than five years from the issue date of the reports. Gives priority for the required energy efficiency measures to first responder facilities.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully offers comments on SB 412 and appreciates the intent of the legislation.

However, the Department has concerns about the timeline for implementation and the lack of funding provided to implement such a sweeping initiative. State facilities across Hawaii are diverse, significantly varying in their usability during emergencies. It may be technically feasible to install distributed energy resource systems at many facilities; however, such installations may provide little to no practical benefit during most emergencies. Centralizing these studies under experienced agencies would allow for coordinated planning, enabling clusters of state facilities to: (1) separately install systems, (2) share resources, or (3) identify the most suitable options collaboratively.

The Department supports advancing Hawaii's sustainability and resilience in the face of emergencies, but proposed solutions must be both effective and financially prudent. In the past, rushing to implement untested and costly mandates has resulted in the waste of economic resources and the premature failure of facilities. A more measured and deliberate approach would better serve the State's long-term interests.

The Department considers SB 700 Relating to Renewable Energy as a preferable alternative to SB 412. SB 700 provides a more practical framework for advancing renewable energy initiatives while maintaining financial and operational accountability.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment on SB 412.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
465 S. KING STREET, #103
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

LEODOLOFF R. ASUNCION, JR.
CHAIR

NAOMI U. KUWAYE
COMMISSIONER

COLIN A. YOST
COMMISSIONER

Telephone: (808) 586-2020
Facsimile: (808) 586-2066

Website: puc.hawaii.gov
E-mail: puc@hawaii.gov

Testimony of the Public Utilities Commission

To the
Senate Committees on
Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs
and
Government Operations

January 30, 2025
3:00 p.m.

Chairs Wakai and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Chang and Gabbard, and Members of the Committees:

Measure: S.B. No. 412
Title: RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.

Position:

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

Comments:

The Commission appreciates the intent of this measure to make state-owned facilities resilient to potential electric service disruptions through targeted distributed energy resource ("DER") installations.

While the state of Hawai'i has always been threatened by natural disasters, the potential severity of hurricanes, storm surges, and wildfires will grow in coming decades due to climate change-induced sea level rise and drought. The 2023 Lahaina wildfires serve as a devastating reminder of this. Now more than ever, community resiliency is paramount in infrastructure planning, both for our regulated utilities and its consumers (including the State).

The Commission is working with Hawaiian Electric ("HECO") to enhance customer resilience via microgrid and resilience hub development and welcomes the integration of distributed energy resources into the built environment, such as on top of parking shade structures and rooftops of State facilities, particularly those critical to emergency response.

The Commission believes that, should the Committee wish to focus state resources on adding DERs to state facilities, a high priority should be placed on those which fall into HECO's Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) areas. Facilities located within these areas may be subject to service disruptions under windy, low-humidity weather conditions, and would therefore benefit from resiliency via behind-the-meter batteries potentially paired with rooftop solar. Recognizing that individual departments may lack necessary funds to deploy DERs across all of their facilities, this seems an important addition to the bill's current language calling out first responder facilities (which the Commission agrees with prioritizing, thereby ensuring the continuity of critical life-saving services).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB-412

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 6:34:22 AM

Testimony for EIG on 1/30/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This action can help improve the State's resilience to the extreme weather created by the growing climate crisis. With solar storage it will enable first responders to have the ability to fully function despite disruptions to the electric grid and port activity, which will be crucial in the event of a disasters. It sets an example for all State facilities to turn to solar. It will save lives. **STRONG SUPPORT.**



To: The Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs (EIG)
and
The Senate Committee on Government Operations (GVO)
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Thursday, January 30, 2025, 3pm

In strong support of SB412

Aloha Chairs Wakai and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Chang and Gabbard, and members of the EIG and GOV committees,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org is in **strong support of SB412** that requires state departments to prepare a report assessing the feasibility of installing distributed energy resource systems at each facility. This measure also requires state departments to implement and install the distributed energy resource systems detailed in the reports no later than five years from the issue date of the reports, giving priority for the required energy efficiency measures to first responder facilities.

SB412 is an opportunity for the State to lead by example in decarbonization while building our resilience to future disasters and emergencies. Solar and battery storage is one of the most cost-effective ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants associated with electricity generation and consumption. SB412 would leverage all rooftops and parking lots of state buildings/facilities to maximize on-site renewable energy generation plus storage. The cost to install solar plus storage will be made up by savings on energy/utility bills. This will save taxpayers money. Solar pays for itself in a few years, and then saves a great deal of money in the long term. Currently, energy used to power buildings accounts for more than fifty per cent of the electricity consumed in the State, yet the State has not undertaken efforts to maximize on-site renewable energy production at many of its own facilities, forgoing millions of dollars in potential savings.

With the priority in the deployment of these solar systems going to first responder facilities, SB412 is an important step that will help expedite building our State's resiliency. Should/when our grid is knocked out from an extreme weather event or other disaster, first responder facilities, and all other state agency facilities equipped with these solar systems, will continue to have electricity, and thus continue to be able to function. Moreover, extreme weather events can result in severe damages to port infrastructure at the State's harbors, resulting in disruption of port activity and the delay or loss of cargo shipments, including those containing emergency supplies and supplies needed to run generators. With solar plus storage, fossil fuel run generators would not be needed.

The heartbreaking tragedy caused by the Maui wildfires clearly demonstrate the need for the State to reduce wildfire ignition risk and build grid resiliency, which can be significantly aided by distributed rooftop solar and energy storage. As we saw in Lahaina, stronger storms as a result of global warming are more likely to cause power outages and down power lines, which then increase risk for sparking wildfires. But by integrating solar and energy storage into the grid, Hawaii can enhance its resilience against wildfires. In addition to providing homeowner resiliency, solar and energy storage can support critical infrastructure. During wildfire events, when power lines may need to be de-energized for safety reasons, localized solar and storage systems can provide power to hospitals, fire stations, water treatment plants, and emergency shelters. Importantly, this reduces dependence on long-distance power transmission lines that are vulnerable to wildfires.

We have to look no further than another island community, Puerto Rico, to see what also can happen as a result of the stronger storms and hurricanes occurring as a result of global warming. Solar plus storage has been a life-line to the people of Puerto Rico who were fortunate to have it after their grid was knocked out from Hurricane Fiona. For example, during the last hurricane, in the coastal city of Guánica, the local fire station managed to keep its lights and critical communications systems running during the storm thanks to their solar plus storage system. It is noted that during previous events such as Hurricane Maria and a 2020 earthquake — before the fire station had its solar-plus-battery system — firefighters were unable to receive calls over the radio during outages and instead had to rely on people yelling for help.

The growing climate crisis threatens the health and well-being of our state. If we are better prepared for that disaster that is bound to hit, we will save lives and be able to recover faster from whatever disaster has occurred. **Essentially, this bill will help state government continue to function, especially first responders, so they can help us.**

Bottomline: SB412 saves us money while protecting the climate. It will also probably save lives. Please pass SB412.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of this very important measure.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

SB-412

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 2:22:52 PM

Testimony for EIG on 1/30/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha EIG/GOV Chairs Wakai & Gabbard, Vice Chairs Chang & [McKelvey](#), and Committee Members [Moriwaki](#), [San Buenaventura](#), [Fevella](#), [DeCoite](#), and [Richards](#),

My name is Dave Mulinix, CoFounder of the Hawai'i state chapter of Greenpeace, the largest environmental organization in the world, with an international membership of over 3 million. On behalf of Greenpeace Hawai'i's thousands of members and supporters statewide, we stand in STRONG SUPPORT of SB412 that requires state facilities to prepare a report assessing the feasibility of installing distributed energy resource systems at each facility. SB412 further requires state facilities to implement and install the distributed energy resource systems detailed in the reports no later than five years from the issue date of the reports.

This legislation is important because global warming is creating a growing climate crisis that threatens the health and well-being of the people of Hawaii. If we are better prepared for disasters that will inevitably hit our state due to the the growing Climate Crisis, we will save lives and be able to recover faster from natural disasters. Essentially, this bill will help first responders so they can help us.

Bottomline: SB412 saves us money while protecting the climate, and it will also save lives!

Finally it is important to note that SB412 assigns priority for the required energy efficiency measures to first responder facilities. Passage of SB412 is common sense because should the power grid go down due to a major disaster, like a hurricane, it will help ensure that essential services like fire stations, hospitals, police stations, water treatment plants, and emergency shelters will continue to have power to function and communicate. Please pass SB412.

Mahalo for hearing this important legislation,

Dave Mulinix, CoFounder & Representative

Greenpeace Hawaii

SB-412

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 4:34:15 PM

Testimony for EIG on 1/30/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB412 is an opportunity for the State to lead by example in decarbonization while building our resilience to future disasters and emergencies. Solar and battery storage is one of the most cost-effective ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants associated with electricity generation and consumption.

-- The cost to install solar plus storage will be made up by savings on energy/utility bills. This will save taxpayers money. Solar pays for itself in a few years, and then saves a great deal of money in the long term. Currently, energy used to power buildings accounts for more than fifty per cent of the electricity consumed in the State, yet the State has not undertaken efforts to maximize on-site renewable energy production at many of its own facilities, forgoing millions of dollars in potential savings.

-- The horrific losses caused by the Maui wildfires clearly demonstrate the need for the State to reduce wildfire ignition risk and build grid resiliency, which can be significantly aided by distributed rooftop solar and energy storage. Stronger storms as a result of global warming are more likely to cause power outages and down power lines, and in addition to the risk of sparking wildfires, can be costly in terms of lives lost, economic impact, and public health.

-- The growing climate crisis threatens the health and well-being of our state. If we are better prepared for that next disaster that is bound to hit, we will save lives and be able to recover faster from whatever disaster has occurred. **Essentially, this bill will help first responders so they can help us.** Bottomline: SB412 saves us money while protecting the climate. It will also probably save lives. Please pass SB412. Mahalo.

SB-412

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 6:03:09 PM

Testimony for EIG on 1/30/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ninon Rynerson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This measure would build the states resilience in storm situations helping the first responders to have all help they can get

SB-412

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 6:37:45 PM

Testimony for EIG on 1/30/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hello Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nanea Lo, and **I am writing in strong support of SB412**, which requires state departments to implement and install solar plus storage, prioritizing first responder facilities.

I sit on the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i's Executive Commission, serve as a board member for Hawai‘i Workers Center, and am a Kanaka Maoli/lineal descendant of the Hawaiian Kingdom. My work is centered around environmental justice, workers' rights, and the protection of our lands and communities. Ensuring that Hawai‘i builds resilience in the face of climate change is a kuleana I take seriously.

The climate crisis is no longer a distant threat—it is here. Stronger storms, extreme weather events, and wildfires are increasing in frequency and intensity, putting our people and infrastructure at risk. SB412 offers a proactive solution to ensure that our first responders can continue to operate effectively when disasters strike, safeguarding lives and livelihoods.

Installing solar plus storage is not only a climate-conscious decision but also an economically sound one. The cost of these systems is offset by long-term savings on energy bills, reducing the burden on taxpayers while maximizing the use of renewable energy. The State has a responsibility to lead by example in decarbonization and energy independence.

The devastation caused by the Maui wildfires is a stark reminder of why we must act now. Grid failure and downed power lines can create additional hazards during emergencies. By investing in distributed solar and battery storage, we can reduce wildfire ignition risks, maintain essential services during power outages, and strengthen our ability to respond to crises.

SB412 is a common-sense measure that saves money, protects our environment, and most importantly, saves lives. I urge the committee to pass this bill and take a bold step toward a more resilient Hawai‘i.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, Mō‘ili‘ili, HI 96826

SB-412

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 8:04:38 PM

Testimony for EIG on 1/30/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Lankford	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! This bill prioritizes first responder facilities installation of solar plus storage. It will improve our grid resiliency. The Maui wildfires are a wake-up call to our state to take action now. I am in support of this bill. Mahalo.

SB-412

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 8:22:58 PM

Testimony for EIG on 1/30/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB700 is an opportunity for the State to lead by example in decarbonization while building our resilience to future disasters and emergencies. The horrific losses caused by the Maui wildfires demonstrate the need for the State to reduce fire ignition risk and build grid resiliency, which can be significantly aided by rooftop solar and energy storage. Climate change is fueling stronger storms with increased potential to cause outages, down power lines, and spark wildfires. If we are better prepared for the next disaster, we will save lives and facilitate recovery efforts. SB700 will help first responders so they can help us.

SB-412

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 8:36:54 PM

Testimony for EIG on 1/30/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stong support. Thank you,

SB-412

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 5:51:33 AM

Testimony for EIG on 1/30/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support SB 412

SB-412

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:17:27 AM

Testimony for EIG on 1/30/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Honorable Committee Members,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you support SB412.

The cost to install solar plus storage will be made up by savings on energy/utility bills. This will save taxpayers money. Currently, energy used to power buildings accounts for more than fifty per cent of the electricity consumed in the State, yet the State has not undertaken efforts to maximize on-site renewable energy production at many of its own facilities, forgoing millions of dollars in potential savings.

The horrific losses caused by the Maui wildfires clearly demonstrate the need for the State to reduce wildfire ignition risk and build grid resiliency, which can be significantly aided by distributed rooftop solar and energy storage.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

SB-412

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 9:51:19 AM

Testimony for EIG on 1/30/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elena Vorm	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill will allow Hawai'i to lead by example in decarbonization while building our resilience to future disasters and emergencies.

SB-412

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 1:54:17 PM

Testimony for EIG on 1/30/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

YES, I do fully support SB412!

We all need to find ways to build our island's resilience during these very uncertain of growing climate crisis. And, we especially need to support our our first responders so they can better help us.

Mahalo

SB-412

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 4:35:30 PM

Testimony for EIG on 1/30/2025 3:00:00 PM

LATE

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

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB412

Esteemed Members of the Legislature,

SB412 is a practical and necessary step for the State to lead in decarbonization while strengthening resilience against future disasters. Solar and battery storage are among the most cost-effective solutions for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and lowering reliance on fossil fuels. Despite buildings consuming over half of the State's electricity, many government facilities have yet to maximize on-site renewable energy, missing out on significant cost savings. This bill corrects that oversight, ensuring taxpayer dollars are spent wisely while advancing clean energy.

Investing in solar and battery storage is not just environmentally responsible—it is financially smart. The upfront cost is quickly recovered through lower energy bills, saving taxpayers millions in the long run. Additionally, stronger storms and extreme weather events threaten our outdated grid, increasing the risk of outages and wildfire ignition. The tragic Maui wildfires showed the devastating consequences of an unreliable power system. SB412 promotes distributed energy solutions that reduce these risks and enhance public safety.

The growing climate crisis demands action, and SB412 is a proactive measure that will save lives, cut costs, and build resilience. By preparing for the next disaster before it strikes, we ensure a safer, more sustainable future for Hawaii. This bill supports first responders, protects communities, and provides long-term financial and environmental benefits. I urge you to pass SB412.

Yours sincerely,

Jon Brodziak

SB-412

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:44:37 PM

Testimony for EIG on 1/30/2025 3:00:00 PM

LATE

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice chair Chang, Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

the Green Party of Hawai'i is in strong Support of SB412. The growing climate crisis threatens the health and well-being of our state. If we are better prepared for that next disaster that is bound to hit, we will save lives and be able to recover faster from whatever disaster has occurred. **Essentially, this bill will help first responders so they can help us.** Bottomline: SB412 saves us money while protecting the climate. It will also probably save lives. Please pass SB412.

Please Support SB412,

Mahalo Nui,

Green Party of Hawai'i

Susan RobertsEmery

Co Chair GPH

Paauilo