



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 Government Operations  
Senate Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

**Bill Title:** SB 0700 RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires the Department of Accounting and General Services to assess the potential and feasibility of installing distributed energy resource systems at each state facility and submit reports to the Legislature detailing the department's findings. Requires state facilities to implement and install the distributed energy resource systems detailed in the required reports no later than five years from the issue date of the reports. Requires applicable agencies to assess the feasibility of developing resilience hubs that can provide emergency services and be open to the general public during times of emergency. Assigns priority for the required state facilities' cost-effective energy efficiency measures to first responder facilities.

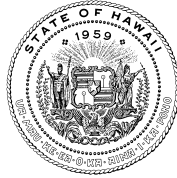
**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) provides comments on SB 700, which requires state agencies to assess and implement distributed energy resource systems at state facilities, develop resilience hubs, and prioritize efficiency measures for first responder facilities. With nine years of experience in renewable energy installations, the Department can offer valuable insights.

However, the Department is concerned that the five year implementation timeline may be unrealistic due to Hawaii's limited market capacity for large-scale renewable energy projects. Additional time will be needed to expand contractor availability, complete procurement processes, and coordinate installations around the school calendar, creating significant uncertainties.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 700.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



KEITH A. REGAN  
COMPTROLLER  
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ  
  
MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN  
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELawe LAULĀ**  
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY  
OF  
KEITH A. REGAN, COMPTROLLER  
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES  
TO THE COMMITTEES ON

**ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**  
AND  
**GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

JANUARY 30, 2025, 3:00 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 225 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

S.B. 700

RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

Chairs Wakai and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Chang and Gabbard, and Members of the Committees, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on S.B. 700.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) offers **comments** for S.B. 700, which requires DAGS to assess the potential and feasibility of installing distributed energy resource systems at each state facility and submit reports to the Legislature detailing the department's findings; and requires state facilities to implement and install the distributed energy resource systems detailed in the required reports no later than five years from the issue date of the reports. Additionally, requires applicable agencies to assess the feasibility of developing resilience hubs that can provide

emergency services and be open to the general public during times of emergency; and assigns priority for the required state facilities' cost-effective energy efficiency measures to first responder facilities.

DAGS supports the intent of this measure, especially in light of Governor Green's Executive Order No. 25-01, dated January 27, 2025, which accelerates the timeline for Hawai'i's transition towards 100% renewable energy. However, we do not believe that DAGS is the appropriate agency to lead this effort for the entire State. We believe that this effort would be best served by placing it under the leadership of the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO). All state agencies would then be tasked with implementing these improvements to their own facilities, subject to available funding and other resources; and reporting their efforts to the HSEO.

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

**SB-700**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 6:43:06 AM

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

| Submitted By | Organization                                     | Testifier Position | Testify                   |
|--------------|--|--------------------|---------------------------|
| laurel brier | Testifying for Kauai<br>Climate Action Coalition | Support            | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments: State's resilience, and would enable first responders to have the ability to fully function despite disruptions to the electric grid and port activity, which would be crucial in the event of a disaster. Strong support for solar in all state facilities



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

### **In strong support of SB700**

Aloha Chairs McKelvey and Wakai, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Chang, and members of the GVO and EIG 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 SB700** that requires the Department of Accounting and General Services to assess the potential and feasibility of installing distributed energy resource systems at each state facility and submit reports to the Legislature detailing the department's findings. This measure further requires state facilities to implement and install the distributed energy resource systems detailed in the required reports no later than five years from the issue date of the reports, and requires applicable agencies to assess the feasibility of developing resilience hubs that can provide emergency services and be open to the general public during times of emergency, with priority assigned for the required state facilities' cost-effective energy efficiency measures to first responder facilities.

SB700 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. SB700 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, SB700 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: SB700 saves us money while protecting the climate. It will also probably save lives. Please pass SB700.

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

Sherry Pollack  
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

**SB-700**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 2:30:21 PM

Testimony for GVO 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 GVO/EIG Chairs Wakai & Gabbard, Vice Chairs Chang & [McKelvey](#), and Committee Members [Moriwaki](#), [San Buenaventura](#), [Fevella](#), [DeCoite](#), [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 SB700 that requires state facilities to prepare a report assessing the feasibility of installing distributed energy resource systems at each facility. SB700 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: SB700 saves us money while protecting the climate, and it will also save lives!

Finally it is important to note that SB700 assigns priority for the required energy efficiency measures to first responder facilities. Passage of SB700 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 SB700.

Mahalo for hearing this important legislation,

Dave Mulinix, CoFounder & Representative

Greenpeace Hawaii

**SB-700**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 4:35:17 PM

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

| Submitted By    | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| B.A. McClintock | 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. 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: SB700 saves us money while protecting the climate. It will also probably save lives. Please pass SB700. Mahalo.

**SB-700**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 6:41:50 PM

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

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

Comments:

Hello Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nanea Lo, and I am submitting testimony in **strong support of SB700**. I sit on the **Sierra Club of Hawai‘i’s Executive Commission**, serve as a board member for the **Hawai‘i Workers Center**, and am a Kanaka Maoli/lineal descendant of the **Hawaiian Kingdom**. As someone deeply committed to environmental justice, community resilience, and sustainability, I recognize the urgency of taking proactive measures to prepare Hawai‘i for the growing impacts of the climate crisis.

The increasing frequency and intensity of storms, wildfires, and other extreme weather events pose a direct threat to our state’s health, safety, and infrastructure. As we saw in the tragic Maui wildfires, disaster preparedness is not optional—it is a matter of life and death. SB700 provides a critical opportunity for the State to lead by example in **decarbonization and climate resilience** by requiring state facilities to install **solar plus battery storage**. Prioritizing energy resilience, especially for first responder facilities, ensures that emergency services remain operational when we need them most.

Beyond its climate benefits, SB700 makes **economic sense**. Investing in solar and storage will reduce our dependence on costly fossil fuels and save taxpayers millions in energy costs over time. Hawai‘i has a moral and financial responsibility to transition to clean energy solutions—solutions that will **pay for themselves** while keeping our communities safe.

For too long, the State has failed to maximize renewable energy production at its own facilities, missing out on significant savings and greater energy independence. SB700 is a **win-win** for both fiscal responsibility and environmental sustainability. It strengthens our grid, reduces wildfire risks, and ensures that first responders have the power they need to serve our people in times of crisis.

I urge you to **pass SB700** and take this necessary step toward a safer, more resilient Hawai‘i.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

**Nanea Lo,**  
**Mō‘ili‘ili, HI 96826**  
**Sierra Club of Hawai‘i Executive Commission Member**

**Board Member, Hawai'i Workers Center**  
**Kanaka Maoli/Lineal Descendant of the Hawaiian Kingdom**

**SB-700**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 8:21:21 PM

Testimony for GVO 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 as well as reducing economic losses. SB700 will help first responders so they can help us.

**SB-700**

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

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

| Submitted By     | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                   |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Caroline Azelski | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Strong support. Thank you.

**SB-700**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 5:52:44 AM

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

| Submitted By      | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                   |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Caroline Kunitake | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Support SB 700

**SB-700**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:19:37 AM

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

| Submitted By   | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                   |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Melissa Barker | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Honorable Committee Members,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you support SB700 which requires the Department of Accounting and General Services to assess for, and then the state facilities to implement and install solar plus storage, giving priority for these required energy efficiency measures to first responder facilities. State agencies shall also assess the feasibility of developing resilience hubs.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

**SB-700**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 9:52:10 AM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                   |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Elena Vorm   | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I'm all for bills which support climate resilience and green energy.

**SB-700**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 1:57:54 PM

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

| Submitted By   | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                   |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Nadine Ferraro | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I say, YES for SB700! Solar plus and resilience hubs are a great idea to help first responders!

Mahalo

**LATE**

**SB-700**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:58:45 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

The Green Party of Hawai'i offers our support for SB700.

SB700 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.

Let's do this, Vote Yes on SB700!

Mahalo Nui,

Green Party of Hawai'i

Susan RobertsEmery

Co Chair GPH

Paauilo

**LATE**

**SB-700**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 9:37:16 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Diane Ware   | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I urge you to support

SB700 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.

Mahalo from Volcano HI moku o Ka'u

**LATE**

**SB-700**

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 2:16:27 PM  
Testimony for GVO on 1/30/2025 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By  | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                   |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Ann V Saffery | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

ALOHA ALL,

PLEASE PASS SB700

MAHALO FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION,

ANN V SAFFERY