

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 09, 2026

RE: H.B. No. 1984
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, to which was referred H.B. No. 1984 entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

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

- (1) Establish a self-certification process for behind-the-meter, customer-sited solar distributed energy resource systems that deems permit applications approved and allows applicants to proceed to build solar distributed energy resource systems immediately; and
- (2) Develop guidance for determining specific conditions under which a Federal Emergency Management Agency-mandated No-Rise Certification is not required for a solar distributed energy resource system located in a regulatory floodway.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawaii Solar Energy Association; Alternate Energy Inc.; Photonworks Engineering; Climate Protectors Hawai'i; 350Hawaii.org; Grassroot Institute of Hawaii; Green Power Projects LLC; and five individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to



this measure from the Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources and Contractors License Board.

Your Committee finds that to encourage the timely build-out of a diverse, resilient, and reliable portfolio of renewable energy generation and storage assets, the State must address administrative barriers that slow the deployment of solar distributed energy resource systems. Your Committee further finds that allowing self-certification processes for permit applications for these systems would accelerate their deployment without compromising public health or safety. This measure seeks to accelerate the deployment of solar distributed energy resource systems by requiring government entities that issue building permits to adopt processes for self-certification.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting a deadline of July 1, 2027, for government entities to establish the self-certification processes;
- (2) Exempting member-owned electric cooperatives from the self-certification process requirement;
- (3) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1984, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1984, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Water & Land.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Energy &
Environmental Protection,

Nicole E. Lowen
NICOLE E. LOWEN, Chair



State of Hawaii
 House of Representatives
 The Thirty-third Legislature

HSCR 81-26

Record of Votes of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Bill/Resolution No.:	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB 1984	EEP, WAL, CPC	2/5/26		
<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. PERRUSO, Amy A. (VC)	✓			
3. CHUN, Cory M.	✓			
4. KAHALOA, Kirstin	✓			
5. KUSCH, Matthias	✓			
6. QUINLAN, Sean	✓			
7. MATSUMOTO, Lauren	✓			
TOTAL (7)	7			
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, <input type="checkbox"/> did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: <u>Amy Perruso</u>				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee		Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office		Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO