

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 20 , 2026

RE: H.B. No. 2608 .
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 Water & Land, to which was referred H.B. No. 2608, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WATER HEATING SYSTEMS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to authorize building permit variances for certain high-efficiency electric water heating systems utilizing heat pump technology.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawaiian Council; Kauai Climate Action Coalition; Lou's Quality Home Health Care Services, LLC; and five individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Hawai'i State Energy Office; Hawaii Solar Energy Association; Solaray Corporation; and Hawai'i Association of REALTORS.

Your Committee finds that this measure encourages the adoption of high-efficiency electric water heating systems that use heat pump technology. Your Committee further finds that water heating is one of the largest uses of energy by Hawaii households, especially in apartments and condominiums where rooftop solar technology and solar water heating are not feasible. Encouraging the transition to heat pump water heaters is one of the most cost-effective and practical ways to reduce electricity bills. Your Committee further finds that this measure reflects smart energy

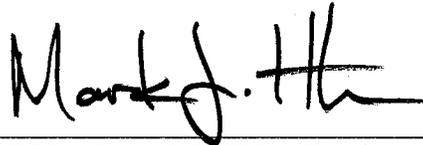


policy that aligns affordability, equity, and environmental responsibility.

Your Committee respectfully request your Committee on Finance, should it deliberate on this measure, to consider the amendments suggested by the Solaray Corporation in its testimony.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water & Land that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2608, H.D. 1, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Water & Land,



MARK J. HASHEM, Chair



