

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
Acting Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
WATER & LAND

Tuesday, February 17, 2026
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 411

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1984 HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

House Bill 1984 House Draft 1 proposes to require government entities in the State that issue building permits to 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. This bill also proposes to require government entities in the State that issue building permits to develop guidance for determining specific conditions when a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) -mandated No-Rise Certification is not required for a solar distributed energy resource system located in a regulatory floodway. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent of this measure and offers the following comments.**

The State and counties are participating communities in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and are subject to compliance with federal regulations set forth with the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§4001).

The Department worked with the Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) and FEMA to ensure the language in this bill is consistent with NFIP regulations set forth in Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 1, Subchapter B. FEMA stipulates that only licensed architects, engineers, and land surveyors (not landscape architects) are allowed to certify floodplain development documentation necessary for NFIP compliance.

Therefore, the Department recommends the following amendments to subparagraph (A), beginning on page 3, lines 16:

(A) An attestation from a licensed design professional, excluding landscape architects, that the proposed project is not located within a flood zone that requires it to comply with federal, state, or county floodplain management development codes or laws pursuant to the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program. As part of the attestation form, the licensed design professional shall provide available Flood Insurance Rate Map panel information, which shall include the:

- (i) Community name and community identification number;
- (ii) Panel number;
- (iii) Suffix indicating the number of times the specific panel has been revised;
- (iv) Panel date; and
- (v) Flood zones;

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



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

JON S. ITOMURA
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
House Committee on
Water & Land

February 17, 2026
9:00 a.m.

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee:

Measure: H.B. No. 1984, H.D.1
Title: RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.

Position:

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

Comments:

The Commission supports the intent of this measure to establish a self-certification process for customer energy resources and for clarification relating to no-rise certifications.

The Commission believes that self-certification relating to customer sided energy resources such as solar and battery energy storage systems could work so long as contractors are operating safely installing to a set specification. The Commission appreciates the Committee’s clarification of the no-rise certifications as it relates to distributed energy resource deployment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Legislative Testimony of Sunrun Inc.
Before the WAL Committee
February 17, 2026

IN SUPPORT of HB1984 HD1 – Relating to Renewable Energy

Dear Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and distinguished Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

Sunrun is the nation’s leading home solar, battery storage and energy services company, and has a long and proud history in Hawai‘i with office and warehouse locations on O‘ahu, Maui, and Hawai‘i Islands. We directly employ more than 200 professional solar workers across the islands, including sales/marketers, customer experience professionals, and installation team members including electrical inspectors, technicians, forepersons and warehouse personnel.

Sunrun strongly supports HB1984 HD1, which would establish a solar permitting self-certification pathway for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage projects, appropriately maintaining safety and accountability by relying on licensed design professionals and clarifying critical FEMA flood zone requirements. This balanced approach will help reduce delays, lower costs, and support local solar businesses while maintaining full compliance with applicable codes and laws.

Lengthy and unpredictable permitting timelines add real costs to solar projects and make it harder for Hawai‘i residents and businesses to invest in clean energy, especially as the federal Section 25D tax credit is scheduled to expire. Reducing permitting-related soft costs is one of the most effective tools available at the state and county level to keep solar affordable.

For years, Sunrun projects located in FEMA flood zones have frequently been held up in permitting processes, sometimes causing year-long delays, contributing significantly to soft costs borne by customers. Our team has worked to address these issues over the years with other industry partners, thus we enthusiastically support this measure which includes important clarifications regarding FEMA flood zone requirements that were developed in consultation with the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). These updates preserve full safety and floodplain compliance while addressing real-world permitting bottlenecks.

HB1984 HD1 would significantly improve the permitting processes for rooftop solar and storage projects, both by establishing a self-certification pathway and clarifying FEMA flood zone requirements. As a national provider of solar, storage, and energy services, Sunrun strongly supports HB1984 HD1 and respectfully urges the committee to advance this measure. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this critical legislation.



To: The Honorable Representative Mark Hashem, Chair, the Honorable Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, and Members of the Water and Land Committee.

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

Re: **Hearing HB1984 HD1 RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Hearing: Tuesday February 17, 2026 9:00 a.m. CR411

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Water and Land Committee!

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i seeks 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.

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i **SUPPORTS** HB1984 HD1.

Development of distributed solar power resources must continue to expand. This bill will save consumers money, improve the stability of the electricity grid, and reduce the State's greenhouse gas emissions, as will be required to reach the State's net zero legal target by 2045. This bill would help by streamlining solar permitting with a self-certification process for customer-sited distributed energy resources that will eliminate barriers.

Please pass this bill!

Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

February 17, 2026

9:00 AM

Conference Room 411

In **SUPPORT** of **HB1984 HD1**: RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS** HB1984 HD1, which will help to enhance our islands' climate resiliency by expanding our distributed renewable energy infrastructure in a timely and equitable manner.

Hawai'i's continued dependence on fossil fuels not only contributes to the climate crisis that has already reached our islands' shores – in the form of historic floods, prolonged droughts, wildfires, repeated coral bleaching events, the proliferation of invasive species, and the extinction of native species, among others – but also subjects our residents and businesses to the ever-increasing costs of fossil fuels, exacerbating the financial instability faced by so many who call these islands home. Moreover, our dependence on a centralized grid can render us particularly vulnerable to power outages caused by extreme weather or other events that compromise centralized energy producing facilities. **Accordingly, the equitable development of distributed renewable energy infrastructure, such as distributed solar energy systems, is an important and necessary strategy to help reduce our islands' contributions to the climate crisis, free our utility costs from the ballooning price of fossil fuels, and ensure greater energy resiliency should a climate change-related extreme weather event impact our islands' largely centralized energy infrastructure.**

The provisions contained in this measure, including those empowering licensed professionals to use readily available commercial software and to self-certify solar and energy storage systems, can reduce the cost, time, and risk in realizing the benefits of greater distributed renewable energy infrastructure throughout the islands. The Sierra Club appreciates that this measure may also particularly benefit those that have not yet been able to install or participate in a solar and energy storage project. SB2352 is therefore an important step forward to ensure a timely and equitable transition towards a cheaper, more resilient, and climate-friendly energy future for our islands.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** HB1984 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1984-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 12:10:02 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/17/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of HB1984, which would establish a solar permitting self-certification pathway for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage projects.

Lengthy and unpredictable permitting timelines add real costs to solar projects and make it harder for Hawaii residents and businesses to invest in clean energy, especially as the federal Section 25D tax credit is scheduled to expire. Reducing permitting-related soft costs is one of the most effective tools available at the state and county level to keep solar affordable.

HB1984 appropriately maintains safety and accountability by relying on licensed design professionals and includes important clarifications regarding FEMA flood zone requirements that were developed in consultation with DLNR. This balanced approach will help reduce delays, lower costs, and support local solar businesses while maintaining full compliance with applicable codes and laws.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB1984 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1984-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 12:11:15 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/17/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of HB1984, which would establish a solar permitting self-certification pathway for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage projects.

Lengthy and unpredictable permitting timelines add real costs to solar projects and make it harder for Hawaii residents and businesses to invest in clean energy, especially as the federal Section 25D tax credit is scheduled to expire. Reducing permitting-related soft costs is one of the most effective tools available at the state and county level to keep solar affordable.

HB1984 appropriately maintains safety and accountability by relying on licensed design professionals and includes important clarifications regarding FEMA flood zone requirements that were developed in consultation with DLNR. This balanced approach will help reduce delays, lower costs, and support local solar businesses while maintaining full compliance with applicable codes and laws.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB1984 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Isidro Villaflor

HB-1984-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 1:29:03 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/17/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
PAUL OREM	Photonworks Engineering	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of HB1984, which would establish a solar permitting self-certification pathway for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage projects. This is a critical law needed to keep business operating, people employed and delivery clean energy to our community.

Lengthy and unpredictable permitting timelines add real costs to solar projects and make it harder for Hawaii residents and businesses to invest in clean energy, especially as the federal Section 25D tax credit is scheduled to expire. Reducing permitting-related soft costs is one of the most effective tools available at the state and county level to keep solar affordable.

HB1984 appropriately maintains safety and accountability by relying on licensed design professionals and includes important clarifications regarding FEMA flood zone requirements that were developed in consultation with DLNR. This balanced approach will help reduce delays, lower costs, and support local solar businesses while maintaining full compliance with applicable codes and laws.

I strongly urge the Committee to pass HB1984 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. Paul Orem CEO photonworks Engineering

HB-1984-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 3:34:22 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/17/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ALAN LENNARD	Green Power Projects LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of HB1984, which would establish a solar permitting self-certification pathway for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage projects.

Lengthy and unpredictable permitting timelines add real costs to solar projects and make it harder for Hawaii residents and businesses to invest in clean energy, especially as the federal Section 25D tax credit is scheduled to expire. Reducing permitting-related soft costs is one of the most effective tools available at the state and county level to keep solar affordable.

HB1984 appropriately maintains safety and accountability by relying on licensed design professionals and includes important clarifications regarding FEMA flood zone requirements that were developed in consultation with DLNR. This balanced approach will help reduce delays, lower costs, and support local solar businesses while maintaining full compliance with applicable codes and laws.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB1984 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



To: The House Committee on Water & Land
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026, 9:00am

In strong support of HB1984 HD1

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and members of the Water & Land committee,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawai'i chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org is in **strong support of HB1984 HD1** which would, by 7/1/2027, require government entities in the State that issue building permits to 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. This measure further requires government entities in the State that issue building permits to develop guidance for determining specific conditions when a Federal Emergency Management Agency-mandated No-Rise Certification is not required for a solar distributed energy resource system located in a regulatory floodway.

HB1984 HD1 addresses permitting issues that impede progress on Hawai'i's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. This bill offers common-sense measures that will streamline solar permitting **without compromising on safety**. Addressing these permitting issues is essential if Hawai'i is to achieve its decarbonization goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.

Bottom line: If a duly licensed design professional certifies that a solar project's plans are compliant with all applicable laws and codes, the project should not be delayed from proceeding to construction. The final compliance review and approval can occur at inspection. This will speed up the overall process and significantly enhance current efforts at the municipal level.

With Hawai'i's residents suffering high monthly electric bills, and the impacts of climate change already being felt, we need to move forward on smart solutions that will help to stimulate our economy and make us more resilient. The current system for processing permits is untenable and a detriment to Hawai'i achieving our clean energy goals. This measure will remove unnecessary barriers and move us to the clean-energy economy we need.

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

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

HB-1984-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 6:27:13 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/17/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Giese	Inter-Island Solar Supply/The Solaray Corporation	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of HB1984, which would establish a solar permitting self-certification pathway for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage projects.

Lengthy and unpredictable permitting timelines add real costs to solar projects and make it harder for Hawaii residents and businesses to invest in clean energy, especially as the federal Section 25D tax credit is scheduled to expire. Reducing permitting-related soft costs is one of the most effective tools available at the state and county level to keep solar affordable.

HB1984 appropriately maintains safety and accountability by relying on licensed design professionals and includes important clarifications regarding FEMA flood zone requirements that were developed in consultation with DLNR. This balanced approach will help reduce delays, lower costs, and support local solar businesses while maintaining full compliance with applicable codes and laws.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB1984 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

Testimony of the Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) Regarding HB1984 HD1, Relating to Renewable Energy, Before the House Committee on Water and Land

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Committee Members:

The Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) **strongly supports HB1984 HD1**, which reduces administrative barriers to the deployment of customer-sited solar and energy storage systems by establishing a permitting self-certification framework and by providing critical clarity regarding the application of FEMA No-Rise Certification requirements in regulatory floodways.

HSEA is a non-profit trade association founded in 1977, representing local solar contractors and clean energy companies as well as global cleantech companies, equipment manufacturers, and other service providers doing business in Hawaii.

HB1984 is an updated and improved version of a self-certification bill considered last year. Importantly, it incorporates **key refinements developed in consultation with Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) staff**, Hawaii's designated administrator of the State's floodplain management program under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). These updates directly address concerns raised last session while preserving full compliance with federal, state, and county floodplain requirements.

Addressing Permitting Barriers to Achieve Hawaii's Clean Energy Goals

Hawaii's statutory commitment to achieving a **100% renewable portfolio standard by 2045** under Act 97 (2015) requires the rapid, cost-effective deployment of distributed energy resources (DERs), particularly rooftop solar paired with energy storage. However, permitting delays and inconsistent review processes continue to add significant time, cost, and uncertainty for homeowners and local contractors.

HB1984 provides a pragmatic solution by requiring permitting authorities to establish a **self-certification pathway** for behind-the-meter, customer-sited solar and energy storage systems, allowing qualified projects to proceed immediately while maintaining strong professional accountability and code compliance.

Lowering Costs While Maintaining Safety and Accountability



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

By allowing self-certification by **duly licensed design professionals**, HB1984 significantly reduces administrative burdens without sacrificing public health or safety. The bill includes multiple guardrails, including:

- Exclusion of projects located in **Special Flood Hazard Areas** from self-certification eligibility;
- Required attestations by applicable licensed professionals confirming compliance with all applicable codes and laws, including confirmation that a project is not located in a FEMA-designated floodway;
- Submission of FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) panel information; and
- Use of commercially available software and documented inspections, including offline field reports.

These provisions modernize permitting workflows while preserving accountability and transparency.

Please note that we concur with DLNR and recommend making clarifying edits to maintain consistency with Federal Code – FEMA stipulates that only licensed architects, engineers, and land surveyors (**not landscape architects**) are allowed to certify floodplain documentation necessary for NFIP compliance. Therefore, we recommend the following amendments:

In subparagraph (A), on page 3, lines 16-17:

(A) An attestation from a licensed design professional, **excluding landscape architects**, that the proposed project is not

(And for clarity, you may consider adding “applicable” before each mention of “licensed design professional” on page 4, lines 2 and 21, and page 5, lines 2 and 6.)

Reducing Soft Costs to Mitigate the Loss of Federal Section 25D

The scheduled expiration of the federal **Section 25D residential solar tax credit** will materially increase out-of-pocket costs for Hawaii homeowners seeking to invest in rooftop solar and energy storage. Reducing non-hardware “soft costs” is one of the most effective tools available at the state and county level to mitigate this impact.



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

Lengthy permitting timelines, redundant reviews, and administrative uncertainty add real costs to projects through extended labor, financing carry costs, and lost installation capacity. By enabling immediate construction through self-certification and establishing predictable, modernized review processes, HB1984 directly lowers project soft costs, shortens installation timelines, and provides meaningful cost relief to residents while supporting local solar businesses and clean energy jobs.

Clarifying FEMA No-Rise Certification Requirements in Regulatory Floodways

A critical improvement in HB1984 is the requirement that permitting authorities develop **FEMA-accepted guidance** identifying specific conditions under which a **No-Rise Certification is not required** for solar distributed energy resource systems located in regulatory floodways.

This language was developed **in consultation with DLNR staff**, recognizing DLNR's role as Hawaii's NFIP administrator. The bill does not create a blanket exemption from floodplain regulations. Instead, it provides clarity for a narrow set of projects that are installed on existing structures, do not create additional obstruction within the floodway, and comply with all applicable federal, state, and county floodplain management laws.

Conclusion

HB1984 is a carefully balanced, forward-looking measure that removes unnecessary administrative barriers while preserving safety, professional accountability, and full compliance with codes regulations. By reducing soft costs at a time of significant federal policy change, and by incorporating lessons learned from last year in coordination with DLNR, this bill strengthens Hawaii's ability to deploy rooftop solar and energy storage at the scale and pace required to meet our clean energy, affordability, and resilience goals.

HSEA respectfully urges the Committee to **advance HB1984 HD1**.

Sincerely,

/s/ Rocky Mould
Executive Director

Feb. 17, 2026, 9 a.m.
Hawaii State Capitol
Conference Room 411 and Videoconference

To: House Committee on Water and Land
Rep. Mark Hashem, Chair
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii
Ted Kefalas, Director of Strategic Campaigns

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1984 — RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

Aloha chair, vice chair and other committee members,

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii **supports** [HB1984 HD1](#), which would require that each county establish a self-certification process for the approval of certain solar energy systems and change certain flood-zone rules for solar energy systems.

Self-certification programs allow qualified architects and engineers to approve permits without review from county building departments. Mandating that self-certification be an option for individuals interested in installing solar panels on their homes or businesses would streamline the process.

As Grassroot identified in its 2024 report "[Seven low-cost ways to speed up permitting in Hawaii](#)," solar applications often make up a large part of county building permit reviews. According to the report:

"Obtaining building permits to install new solar panels and solar-plus-storage systems can be a lengthy process. This is due in part to the sheer volume of building permits filed for solar panels. In Hawai'i County, for example, almost one-third of permits issued between November 2024 and March 2024 — about 1,300 — were for residential solar panels.

During that time, Hawai'i County had an average approval time of 33 days for residential solar projects, provided the permits were not returned to the applicants for corrections. Non-residential solar permits had a 45-day average approval time."¹

The City and County of Honolulu already offers a self-certification process and an online permitting tool for solar panels; however, implementation has hit a few snags and approval times are not yet as fast as they could be. Still, Honolulu has been issuing solar permits faster than other building permits.

For example, between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024, 47% of permits issued in Honolulu were tagged as "solar" or "solarPVinstallation." The wait time for these permits, from application to issuance, averaged 38 days, compared to 239 days for all other permits.²

Since the Honolulu City Council adopted a self-certification process for solar projects in 2024,³ the other counties have a model to follow if this bill advances.

This legislation would also require the counties to create guidelines for how and when the Federal Emergency Management Agency's "no-rise/no-impact" rules for flood zones shall apply to certain solar projects.

These flood-zone rules are intended to discourage construction in areas with higher flood risks; however, there is no reason solar panels on a home in a flood zone would increase the home's risk for flooding, so streamlining this process makes sense.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ted Kefalas
Director of Strategic Campaigns
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

¹ Jonathan Helton, "[Seven low-cost ways to speed up permitting in Hawaii](#)," Grassroot Institute of Hawaii, October 2024, p. 7.

² Calculations performed using: "[Building Permits - January 1, 2005 through June 30, 2024](#)," Data.gov, July 13, 2024.

³ Honolulu City and County [Ordinance 24-30](#).

HB-1984-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 8:25:03 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/17/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathryn Troyan	Alternate Energy Inc.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of HB1984, which would establish a solar permitting self-certification pathway for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage projects.

Lengthy and unpredictable permitting timelines add real costs to solar projects and make it harder for Hawaii residents and businesses to invest in clean energy, especially as the federal Section 25D tax credit is scheduled to expire. Reducing permitting-related soft costs is one of the most effective tools available at the state and county level to keep solar affordable.

HB1984 appropriately maintains safety and accountability by relying on licensed design professionals and includes important clarifications regarding FEMA flood zone requirements that were developed in consultation with DLNR. This balanced approach will help reduce delays, lower costs, and support local solar businesses while maintaining full compliance with applicable codes and laws.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB1984 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kathryn Troyan

Alternate Energy Inc.

HB-1984-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 10:31:23 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/17/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The purpose of HB1984 was to streamline permitting for distributed solar in order to reduce regulatory costs and delays. However, HB1984 SD1 creates new regulatory costs and delays that pretty much eliminate the effectiveness of the bill. The requirements set for in section 196-A (2) are absurdly burdensome and appear to have been inserted as a trojan horse to neutralize the benefits of self-certification. Instead of burdening the applicant with hiring a "design professional" etc., the applicant should merely be required to attest that the property is not within a flood zone and provide the tax map key, with the burden being placed on the county to cancel the permit and fine the owner if the attestation was false.

HB-1984-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2026 3:58:43 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/17/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT

HB-1984-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 1:06:04 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/17/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roy Skaggs	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of HB1984, which would establish a solar permitting self-certification pathway for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage projects.

Lengthy and unpredictable permitting timelines add real costs to solar projects and make it harder for Hawaii residents and businesses to invest in clean energy, especially as the federal Section 25D tax credit is scheduled to expire. Reducing permitting-related soft costs is one of the most effective tools available at the state and county level to keep solar affordable.

HB1984 appropriately maintains safety and accountability by relying on licensed design professionals and includes important clarifications regarding FEMA flood zone requirements that were developed in consultation with DLNR. This balanced approach will help reduce delays, lower costs, and support local solar businesses while maintaining full compliance with applicable codes and laws.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB1984 HD1.

Mahalo!
Roy Skaggs

HB-1984-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 4:49:13 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/17/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Radford Nakamura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of HB1984, which would establish a solar permitting self-certification pathway for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage projects.

Lengthy and unpredictable permitting timelines add real costs to solar projects and make it harder for Hawaii residents and businesses to invest in clean energy, especially as the federal Section 25D tax credit is scheduled to expire. Reducing permitting-related soft costs is one of the most effective tools available at the state and county level to keep solar affordable.

HB1984 appropriately maintains safety and accountability by relying on licensed design professionals and includes important clarifications regarding FEMA flood zone requirements that were developed in consultation with DLNR. This balanced approach will help reduce delays, lower costs, and support local solar businesses while maintaining full compliance with applicable codes and laws.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB1984 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Radford Nakamura

HB-1984-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 7:00:30 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/17/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill provides a way for customer-sited solar and energy storage systems. Such a solution to getting more solar energy to people on Hawaii should be supported.

HB-1984-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 8:39:04 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/17/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeff Lum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of HB1984, which would establish a solar permitting self-certification pathway for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage projects.

Lengthy and unpredictable permitting timelines add real costs to solar projects and make it harder for Hawaii residents and businesses to invest in clean energy, especially as the federal Section 25D tax credit is scheduled to expire. Reducing permitting-related soft costs is one of the most effective tools available at the state and county level to keep solar affordable.

HB1984 appropriately maintains safety and accountability by relying on licensed design professionals and includes important clarifications regarding FEMA flood zone requirements that were developed in consultation with DLNR. This balanced approach will help reduce delays, lower costs, and support local solar businesses while maintaining full compliance with applicable codes and laws.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB1984 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

aloha, Jeff Lum

HB-1984-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 9:49:45 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/17/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Miles	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of HB1984, which would establish a solar permitting self-certification pathway for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage projects.

Lengthy and unpredictable permitting timelines add real costs to solar projects and make it harder for Hawaii residents and businesses to invest in clean energy, especially as the federal Section 25D tax credit is scheduled to expire. Reducing permitting-related soft costs is one of the most effective tools available at the state and county level to keep solar affordable.

HB1984 appropriately maintains safety and accountability by relying on licensed design professionals and includes important clarifications regarding FEMA flood zone requirements that were developed in consultation with DLNR. This balanced approach will help reduce delays, lower costs, and support local solar businesses while maintaining full compliance with applicable codes and laws.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB1984 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Miles Yoshimoto

Alternate Energy Inc.

96-1276 Waihona Street Unit 114 Pearl City HI 96782

HB-1984-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 6:00:54 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/17/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris Schopen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of HB1984, which would establish a solar permitting self-certification pathway for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage projects.

Lengthy and unpredictable permitting timelines add real costs to solar projects and make it harder for Hawaii residents and businesses to invest in clean energy, especially as the federal Section 25D tax credit is scheduled to expire. Reducing permitting-related soft costs is one of the most effective tools available at the state and county level to keep solar affordable.

HB1984 appropriately maintains safety and accountability by relying on licensed design professionals and includes important clarifications regarding FEMA flood zone requirements that were developed in consultation with DLNR. This balanced approach will help reduce delays, lower costs, and support local solar businesses while maintaining full compliance with applicable codes and laws.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB1984 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1984-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 6:42:37 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/17/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Thompson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.