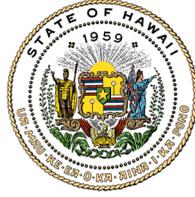


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

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 Senate Committees on
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
and
ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Tuesday, March 17, 2026
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1984 HOUSE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

House Bill 1984 House Draft 2 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 appreciates the House Committees on Water & Land (WAL) and Consumer Protection & Commerce (CPC) for recognizing our concern that landscape architects should not be considered qualified to certify the flood zone attestation form. We respectfully recommend that the corresponding amendments adopted in House Draft 2 (Page 3, Lines 17-18) be retained.

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
Senate Committees on
Energy & Intergovernmental Affairs
and
Government Operations

March 17, 2026
3:00 p.m.

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

Measure: H.B. No. 1984, H.D.2
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.



To: The Honorable Chairs Glenn Wakai and Angus McKelvey, the Honorable Vice Chairs Stanley Chang and Mike Gabbard, and Members of the Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs and Government Operations Committees.

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

Re: Hearing HB1984 HD2 RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

Hearing: Tuesday March 14, 2026 3:00 p.m.

Aloha Chairs Wakai and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Chang and Gabbard, and Members of the Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs and Government Operations Committees!

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i seeks to educate and engage the local community in climate change action.

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i **STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB1984 HD2!**

This bill would streamline solar permitting with a self-certification process performed by licensed design professionals for customer-sited distributed

energy resources that will **eliminate unnecessary administrative barriers and delays.**

In this time of high electricity costs, this bill will **save consumers money and improve the stability of the electricity grid** by streamlining customers' solar permitting, without compromising safety.

Please pass this bill!

Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

HB-1984-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 10:58:17 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/17/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shane Tanuvasa	Testifying for Solartech Hawaii LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs Wakai and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Chang and Gabbard, and Committee Members:

I strongly support HB1984 HD2, which streamlines permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage and provides important clarity regarding FEMA No-Rise requirements in regulatory floodways.

This measure reduces unnecessary administrative barriers while maintaining safety and regulatory compliance. Rooftop solar installed on existing structures does not increase flood risk or obstruct flood flow when properly installed.

Permitting delays increase project costs and slow clean energy adoption in Hawaii. HB1984 HD2 will help reduce soft costs and accelerate the deployment of rooftop solar and battery storage.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB1984 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

Testimony of the Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) Regarding HB1984 HD2, Relating to Renewable Energy, Before the Senate Committee on Government Operations and Committee on Energy and Intragovernmental Relations

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

Aloha Chairs Wakai and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Chang and Gabbard, and Committee Members:

The Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) **strongly supports HB1984 HD2** and offers an amendment for consideration based on feedback from prior committee hearings.

HB1984 HD2 removes unnecessary administrative barriers to customer-sited solar and energy storage by establishing a permitting self-certification pathway and by providing important clarity regarding FEMA No-Rise Certification requirements in regulatory floodways.

HSEA is a nonprofit trade association founded in 1977, representing local solar contractors, clean energy companies, equipment manufacturers, and service providers doing business in Hawaii.

Modernizing Permitting to Reduce Delays and Costs

Hawaii's commitment to achieving 100% renewable electricity by 2045 requires rapid, cost-effective deployment of distributed energy resources (DERs), particularly rooftop solar paired with storage. Yet permitting delays and inconsistent review processes continue to add time, cost, and uncertainty for homeowners and contractors.

HB1984 provides a practical solution by requiring permitting authorities to establish a self-certification pathway for qualified behind-the-meter solar and energy storage systems. Licensed design professionals would certify compliance with applicable codes and laws, allowing projects to proceed without unnecessary administrative delay while maintaining professional accountability.

This reform modernizes workflow without compromising public health or safety. It reduces redundant review for routine, code-compliant projects while preserving oversight for higher-risk installations.

Lowering Soft Costs Amid Federal Policy Changes



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

With the scheduled expiration of the federal Section 25D residential tax credit, out-of-pocket costs for Hawaii homeowners will increase. Reducing non-hardware “soft costs” is one of the most effective tools available at the state and county level to offset that impact.

Lengthy permitting timelines increase labor expenses, financing carry costs, and project uncertainty. By enabling construction to begin upon submission of certified plans and by creating predictable review processes, HB1984 shortens installation timelines and lowers overall project costs. This cost control is critical to sustaining local solar businesses, protecting clean energy jobs, and preserving consumer access.

Coordination with DLNR and NFIP Compliance

HB1984 reflects improvements developed in consultation with the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Hawaii’s designated administrator of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

A key refinement requires permitting authorities to develop FEMA-accepted guidance identifying specific conditions under which a No-Rise Certification is not required for solar DER systems located in regulatory floodways. This does not create a blanket exemption from floodplain regulations. Rather, it provides clarity for a narrow category of installations on existing structures that do not increase obstruction or flood elevation and that remain fully compliant with all applicable federal, state, and county requirements.

Clear coordination with DLNR helps reduce confusion and delay while preserving Hawaii’s compliance with NFIP standards and protecting community flood resilience.

We concur with DLNR that **landscape architects should not be qualified to certify the flood zone attestation form** and request that the committees retain the adopted amendments in the HD2 version.

Request Additional Amendment Limiting Eligibility to Projects 250 kW and Under

To address concerns raised in prior committee hearings that larger systems may require additional review due to their complexity, HSEA requests an amendment limiting eligibility for the self-certification pathway to projects **250 kW AC and below**.

At **page 5, line 1**, add a new paragraph to read as follows:



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

"(3) Projects with a generating capacity greater than two hundred fifty kilowatts (250 kW) AC shall not be eligible to utilize the self-certification process established by this section."

Conclusion

HB1984 is a balanced measure that reduces administrative friction, lowers soft costs, maintains professional accountability, and preserves full compliance with building and floodplain safety requirements.

At a time of federal uncertainty and rising energy costs, Hawaii must address the barriers within its control. Modernizing permitting and clarifying floodway requirements are practical steps that support affordability, resilience, and progress toward our clean energy goals.

HSEA respectfully urges the Committee to **advance HB1984 HD2**.

Sincerely,

/s/ **Rocky Mould**
Executive Director



To: The Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs (EIG)
and
The Senate Committee on Government Operations (GVO)
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 3pm

In strong support of HB1984 HD2

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

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 HD2** 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 HD2 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-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 4:50:53 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/17/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chairs Wakai and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Chang and Gabbard, and Committee Members:

I strongly support HB 1984 HD2, which streamlines permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage and provides important clarity regarding FEMA No-Rise requirements in regulatory floodways.

This measure reduces unnecessary administrative barriers while maintaining safety and regulatory compliance. Rooftop solar installed on existing structures does not increase flood risk or obstruct flood flow when properly installed.

Permitting delays increase project costs and slow clean energy adoption in Hawaii. HB 1984 HD2 will help reduce soft costs and accelerate the deployment of rooftop solar and battery storage.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB 1984 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1984-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 6:40:26 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/17/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeffrey Kaemmerlen	Testifying for Sunspear Energy	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs Wakai and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Chang and Gabbard, and Committee Members:

I strongly support HB1984 HD2, which streamlines permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage and provides important clarity regarding FEMA No-Rise requirements in regulatory floodways.

This measure reduces unnecessary administrative barriers while maintaining safety and regulatory compliance. Rooftop solar installed on existing structures does not increase flood risk or obstruct flood flow when properly installed.

Permitting delays increase project costs and slow clean energy adoption in Hawaii. HB1984 HD2 will help reduce soft costs and accelerate the deployment of rooftop solar and battery storage.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB1984 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Jeffrey Kaemmerlen

HB-1984-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 8:22:17 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/17/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chairs Wakai and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Chang and Gabbard, and Committee Members:

I strongly support HB1984 HD2, which streamlines permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage and provides important clarity regarding FEMA No-Rise requirements in regulatory floodways.

This measure reduces unnecessary administrative barriers while maintaining safety and regulatory compliance. Rooftop solar installed on existing structures does not increase flood risk or obstruct flood flow when properly installed.

Permitting delays increase project costs and slow clean energy adoption in Hawaii. HB1984 HD2 will help reduce soft costs and accelerate the deployment of rooftop solar and battery storage.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB1984 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Paul Orem

CEO Photonworks engineering LLP

HB-1984-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 8:53:04 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/17/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ella Aki	Testifying for Sol-Ark	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs Wakai and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Chang and Gabbard, and Committee Members:

I strongly support HB1984 HD2, which streamlines permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage and provides important clarity regarding FEMA No-Rise requirements in regulatory floodways.

This measure reduces unnecessary administrative barriers while maintaining safety and regulatory compliance. Rooftop solar installed on existing structures does not increase flood risk or obstruct flood flow when properly installed.

Permitting delays increase project costs and slow clean energy adoption in Hawaii. HB1984 HD2 will help reduce soft costs and accelerate the deployment of rooftop solar and battery storage.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB1984 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Ella Aki

HB-1984-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 10:09:20 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/17/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Keahiolalo	Testifying for EP Cube	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs Wakai and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Chang and Gabbard, and Committee Members:

I strongly support HB1984 HD2, which streamlines permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage and provides important clarity regarding FEMA No-Rise requirements in regulatory floodways.

This measure reduces unnecessary administrative barriers while maintaining safety and regulatory compliance. Rooftop solar installed on existing structures does not increase flood risk or obstruct flood flow when properly installed.

Permitting delays increase project costs and slow clean energy adoption in Hawaii. HB1984 HD2 will help reduce soft costs and accelerate the deployment of rooftop solar and battery storage.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB1984 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

March 17, 2026, 3 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol
Conference Room 225 and Videoconference

To: Senate Committee on Government Operations

Sen. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

Sen. Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

To: Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs

Sen. Glenn Wakai, Chair

Sen. Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

Ted Kefalas, Director of Strategic Campaigns

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1984 HD2 — RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs and other Committee Members,

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii **supports** [HB1984 HD2](#), 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 has offered an online permitting tool for solar panels for several years. Implementation has hit a few snags and approval times are not yet as fast as they could be, but the city still 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 its self-certification process for solar projects in 2024,³ the other counties have a model to follow if this bill advances.

This legislation would require the counties to also 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 that 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](#).



**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

March 17, 2026

3:00 PM

Conference Room 225

In SUPPORT of HB1984 HD2: RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

Aloha Chair Wakai, Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Chang, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS** HB1984 HD2, 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. HB1984 HD2 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 Committees to **PASS** HB1984 HD2. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1984-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 11:55:19 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/17/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris DeBone	Testifying for Hawaii Energy Connection (aka KumuKit Solar)	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs Wakai and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Chang and Gabbard, and Committee Members:

I strongly support HB 1984 HD2, which streamlines permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage and provides important clarity regarding FEMA No-Rise requirements in regulatory floodways.

This measure reduces unnecessary administrative barriers while maintaining safety and regulatory compliance. Rooftop solar installed on existing structures does not increase flood risk or obstruct flood flow when properly installed.

Permitting delays increase project costs and slow clean energy adoption in Hawaii. HB 1984 HD2 will help reduce soft costs and accelerate the deployment of rooftop solar and battery storage.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB 1984 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1984-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 12:55:44 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/17/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris Schopen	Testifying for Alternate Energy Inc	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs Wakai and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Chang and Gabbard, and Committee Members:

I strongly support HB1984 HD2, which streamlines permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage and provides important clarity regarding FEMA No-Rise requirements in regulatory floodways.

This measure reduces unnecessary administrative barriers while maintaining safety and regulatory compliance. Rooftop solar installed on existing structures does not increase flood risk or obstruct flood flow when properly installed.

Permitting delays increase project costs and slow clean energy adoption in Hawaii. HB1984 HD2 will help reduce soft costs and accelerate the deployment of rooftop solar and battery storage.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB1984 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



March 16, 2026

Re: CPC hearing of HB1984 HD2 on March 17, 2026

Position: Support

Aloha e Chairs Wakai and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Chang and Gabbard, and EIG and GVO Committee Members:

Carbon Cashback Hawai'i advocates for legislation that reduces carbon emissions and strengthens Hawai'i's energy independence while protecting vulnerable kama 'aiana families.

Carbon Cashback Hawai'i supports this bill because it reduces costs for families that install rooftop solar without sacrificing safety.

This bill reduces costs by eliminating lengthy permitting timelines, redundant reviews, and administrative uncertainty, which currently add costs related to labor and financing to projects. This bill also reduces the timeline for installation of rooftop solar, enabling families to more quickly enjoy the benefits of clean, renewable energy.

This bill ensures safety by specifying that only duly licensed design professionals are allowed to certify solar projects. They are required to attest compliance with all applicable codes and laws. The bill includes other safety measures, such as excluding projects located in Special Flood Hazard Areas from self-certification eligibility.

For the foregoing reasons, Carbon Cashback Hawai'i urges the committee to pass the bill.

Mahalo nui loa.

HB-1984-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 2:27:48 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/17/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chairs Wakai and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Chang and Gabbard, and Committee Members:

I strongly support HB1984 HD2, which streamlines permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage and provides important clarity regarding FEMA No-Rise requirements in regulatory floodways.

This measure reduces unnecessary administrative barriers while maintaining safety and regulatory compliance. Rooftop solar installed on existing structures does not increase flood risk or obstruct flood flow when properly installed.

Permitting delays increase project costs and slow clean energy adoption in Hawaii. HB1984 HD2 will help reduce soft costs and accelerate the deployment of rooftop solar and battery storage.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB1984 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kathryn Troyan
Alternate Energy Inc.

HB-1984-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 1:19:48 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/17/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chairs Wakai and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Chang and Gabbard, and Committee Members:

I strongly support HB1984 HD2, which streamlines permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage and provides important clarity regarding FEMA No-Rise requirements in regulatory floodways.

This measure reduces unnecessary administrative barriers while maintaining safety and regulatory compliance. Rooftop solar installed on existing structures does not increase flood risk or obstruct flood flow when properly installed.

Permitting delays increase project costs and slow clean energy adoption in Hawaii. HB1984 HD2 will help reduce soft costs and accelerate the deployment of rooftop solar and battery storage.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB1984 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sid Villaflor

HB-1984-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 6:46:35 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/17/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

HB-1984-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 10:07:00 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/17/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chairs Wakai and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Chang and Gabbard, and Committee Members:

I strongly support HB1984 HD2, which streamlines permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage and provides important clarity regarding FEMA No-Rise requirements in regulatory floodways.

This measure reduces unnecessary administrative barriers while maintaining safety and regulatory compliance. Rooftop solar installed on existing structures does not increase flood risk or obstruct flood flow when properly installed.

Permitting delays increase project costs and slow clean energy adoption in Hawaii. HB1984 HD2 will help reduce soft costs and accelerate the deployment of rooftop solar and battery storage.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB1984 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1984-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 8:24:44 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/17/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chairs Wakai and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Chang and Gabbard, and Committee Members:

I strongly support HB1984 HD2, which streamlines permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage and provides important clarity regarding FEMA No-Rise requirements in regulatory floodways.

This measure reduces unnecessary administrative barriers while maintaining safety and regulatory compliance. Rooftop solar installed on existing structures does not increase flood risk or obstruct flood flow when properly installed.

Permitting delays increase project costs and slow clean energy adoption in Hawaii. HB1984 HD2 will help reduce soft costs and accelerate the deployment of rooftop solar and battery storage.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB1984 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Miles Yoshimoto

Project Developer

Alternate Energy Inc.

96-1276 Waihona Street Unit 114 Pearl City HI 96782

Dear Chairs Wakai and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Chang and Gabbard, and Committee Members:

I strongly support HB1984 HD2, which streamlines permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage and provides important clarity regarding FEMA No-Rise requirements in regulatory floodways.

This measure reduces unnecessary administrative barriers while maintaining safety and regulatory compliance. Rooftop solar installed on existing structures does not increase flood risk or obstruct flood flow when properly installed.

Permitting delays increase project costs and slow clean energy adoption in Hawaii. HB1984 HD2 will help reduce soft costs and accelerate the deployment of rooftop solar and battery storage.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB1984 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify

Paul Spencer

Paul Spencer

HB-1984-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 9:20:42 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/17/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chairs Wakai and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Chang and Gabbard, and Committee Members:

I strongly support HB1984 HD2, which streamlines permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage and provides important clarity regarding FEMA No-Rise requirements in regulatory floodways.

This measure reduces unnecessary administrative barriers while maintaining safety and regulatory compliance. Rooftop solar installed on existing structures does not increase flood risk or obstruct flood flow when properly installed.

Permitting delays increase project costs and slow clean energy adoption in Hawaii. HB1984 HD2 will help reduce soft costs and accelerate the deployment of rooftop solar and battery storage.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB1984 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Radford Nakamura

HB-1984-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 7:20:47 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/17/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
wei lian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs Wakai and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Chang and Gabbard, and Committee Members:

I strongly **support HB1984 HD2**, which streamlines permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage and provides important clarity regarding FEMA No-Rise requirements in regulatory floodways.

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Permitting delays increase project costs and slow clean energy adoption in Hawaii. HB1984 HD2 will help reduce soft costs and accelerate the deployment of rooftop solar and battery storage.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB1984 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Wei Lian

HB-1984-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 9:27:41 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/17/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charles Chacko	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs Wakai and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Chang and Gabbard, and Committee Members:

I strongly support HB1984 HD2, which streamlines permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage and provides important clarity regarding FEMA No-Rise requirements in regulatory floodways.

This measure reduces unnecessary administrative barriers while maintaining safety and regulatory compliance. Rooftop solar installed on existing structures does not increase flood risk or obstruct flood flow when properly installed.

Permitting delays increase project costs and slow clean energy adoption in Hawaii. HB1984 HD2 will help reduce soft costs and accelerate the deployment of rooftop solar and battery storage.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB1984 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

I support HB1984_HD2 because it reduces costs and time required to install rooftop solar.

By enabling self-certification and establishing predictable, modernized review processes, HB1984_HD2 would directly lower project soft costs, shorten installation timelines, and provide meaningful cost relief to interconnection for residents and businesses while supporting local solar businesses and clean energy jobs. Lengthy permitting timelines, redundant reviews, and administrative uncertainty add real costs to projects through extended labor and redeployment requirements, added finance carrying costs, and lost installation capacity.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Neal
Waimea

SUPPORT FOR HB2608 HD1

Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs
Senate Committee on Government Operations
HB1984 HD2 Hearing on March 17, 2026 at 3:00 pm
Conference Room 225 and videoconference

My name is John Kawamoto, and I support HB1984 HD2 because it reduces costs for families that install rooftop solar without sacrificing safety.

This bill reduces costs by eliminating lengthy permitting timelines, redundant reviews, and administrative uncertainty, which currently add project costs related to labor and financing. This bill also reduces the timeline for installation of rooftop solar, enabling families to more quickly enjoy the benefits of clean, renewable energy.

This bill ensures safety by specifying that only duly licensed design professionals are allowed to certify solar projects. They are required to attest compliance with all applicable codes and laws. The bill includes other safety measures, such as excluding projects located in Special Flood Hazard Areas from self-certification eligibility.

For the foregoing reasons, I urge the joint committee to pass the bill.

Aloha Chairs Wakai and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Chang and Gabbard, and EIG and GVO Committee Members:

I'm writing in **support of HB1984 HD2**, which removes unnecessary administrative barriers to customer-sited solar and energy storage by establishing a permitting self-certification pathway.

The recent storms that caused numerous power outages and the current war in Iran make it quite clear that because of grid stability and affordability concerns, households need to be able to take more control of their energy. Many homes didn't succumb to power outages because they had solar with energy storage installed at their residence.

Currently, permitting delays and inconsistent review processes continue to add time, cost, and uncertainty for homeowners and contractors thus deterring people from purchasing solar systems.

HB1984 provides a practical solution by requiring permitting authorities to establish a self-certification pathway for qualified behind-the-meter solar and energy storage systems.

This reform modernizes workflow without compromising public health or safety. It reduces redundant review for routine, code-compliant projects while preserving oversight for higher risk installations.

Request Additional Amendment Limiting Eligibility to Projects 250 kW and Under

To address concerns raised in prior committee hearings that larger systems may require additional review due to their complexity, HSEA requests an amendment limiting eligibility for the self-certification pathway to projects **250 kW AC and below**.

At **page 5, line 1**, add a new paragraph to read as follows: "(3) Projects with a generating capacity greater than two hundred fifty kilowatts (250 kW) AC shall not be eligible to utilize the self-certification process established by this section."

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,
Paul Bernstein
Honolulu

HB-1984-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 2:49:51 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/17/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua F. Powell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs Wakai and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Chang and Gabbard, and Committee Members:

I strongly support HB1984 HD2, which streamlines permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage and provides important clarity regarding FEMA No-Rise requirements in regulatory floodways.

This measure reduces unnecessary administrative barriers while maintaining safety and regulatory compliance. Rooftop solar installed on existing structures does not increase flood risk or obstruct flood flow when properly installed.

Permitting delays increase project costs and slow clean energy adoption in Hawaii. HB1984 HD2 will help reduce soft costs and accelerate the deployment of rooftop solar and battery storage.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB1984 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1984-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 2:56:00 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/17/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Tjapkes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs Wakai and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Chang and Gabbard, and Committee Members:

I strongly support HB1984 HD2, which streamlines permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage and provides important clarity regarding FEMA No-Rise requirements in regulatory floodways.

This measure reduces unnecessary administrative barriers while maintaining safety and regulatory compliance. Rooftop solar installed on existing structures does not increase flood risk or obstruct flood flow when properly installed.

Permitting delays increase project costs and slow clean energy adoption in Hawaii. HB1984 HD2 will help reduce soft costs and accelerate the deployment of rooftop solar and battery storage.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB1984 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Greg Tjapkes

LATE

HB-1984-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 12:50:18 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/17/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Graham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I urge you to pass this bill, as it would streamline the permitting process for rooftop solar systems, reducing costs without sacrificing safety.

Thank you,

Thomas Graham, Honolulu