

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

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FIRST DEPUTY

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
LEAH LARAMEE
Climate Change Coordinator on behalf of
Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission
Co-Chair Ryan K. P. Kanaka'ole**

**Before the House Committee on
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**Thursday, February 5, 2026
9:00 AM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 325 and Via Videoconference

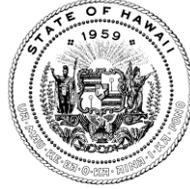
**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2435
RELATING TO PORTABLE PLUG-IN SOLAR GENERATION DEVICES**

House Bill 2435 prohibits binding agreements preventing the installation of a portable plug-in solar generation device on any residential dwelling, subject to certain requirements, **The Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) supports this measure.**

The Commission consists of a multi-jurisdictional effort between 20 departments, committees, and counties with the purpose of promoting ambitious, climate-neutral, culturally responsive strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Portable solar solutions provide an opportunity for residents who cannot afford or do not have the capacity to install full solar solutions to tackle high energy costs and support the state's transition to renewable energy. Often called balcony solar, these systems also provide energy security in times of power outages. This bill provides a pathway for energy independence for many residents and supports the State's goals of energy security and the transition from fossil fuel dependence.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



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DIRECTOR | KA LUNA HO'OKELE

DEAN I. HAZAMA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR | KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Thursday, February 5, 2026
9:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
H.B. 2435, RELATING TO PORTABLE PLUG-IN SOLAR GENERATION DEVICES**

Chair Lowen and Members of the Committee:

My name is Michael Angelo, and I am the Executive Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Division of Consumer Advocacy. The Department offers comments on this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to prohibit binding agreements preventing the installation of a portable plug-in solar generation device on any residential dwelling, subject to certain requirements.

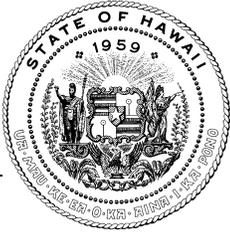
The Department appreciates the intent of this bill to expand accessibility of clean energy generation to customers who do not own their residence and/or are not in a financial position to cover the upfront costs of a customer-sited renewable generation system. The Department supports the deployment of clean energy technologies and processes that are safe, cost-effective, and aligned with the State's energy policy and climate goals. Additionally, electricity is a necessity, and empowering Hawaii's residents to safely and cost-effectively make use of solar energy is supportive of these goals.

The Department notes that the testing and development of certain certification standards in the United States may be needed and would contribute to this objective.¹ The Department further notes that the electric utility ultimately is held accountable for the safety and reliability of the grid. Electric utilities have well-established interconnection standards to help ensure customer-sited generation and storage are safely interconnected to the grid and support continued reliability of the grid. Any technology that envisions interconnection based on equipment complying with specific safety standards or certifications must be thoroughly vetted to ensure it complies with the electric utility's interconnection requirements.

The Department looks forward to hearing more about the experiences of current users of these systems, both in the United States and elsewhere; what issues or barriers have been identified in those locations; what constitutes "reasonable restrictions relating to safety"; what constitutes a "blanket prohibition"; what "additional external controls, disconnects, or equipment beyond those integrated into the portable plug-in solar generation device" have been required elsewhere (and why), or have been prohibited from being required (and why); and what legislative action is both necessary and effective to: (1) enable commercially ready energy technologies to be deployed safely and cost-effectively; (2) protect the safety of residents; and (3) adapt to changing conditions, technology improvements, and in-use experience.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

¹ Recent popular coverage of this topic includes: PBS News Hour. "Small plug-in solar panels gain popularity across the U.S." December 7, 2025. <https://www.pbs.org/video/plug-in-solar-1765141522/> Hu, Akielly. "Balcony solar took off in Germany. Why not the US?" *Grist*. April 25, 2025. <https://grist.org/energy/balcony-solar-took-off-in-germany-why-not-the-us/>



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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SYLVIA LUKE
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MARK B. GLICK
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Thursday, February 5, 2026
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

Providing Comments on
HB 2435

RELATING TO PORTABLE PLUG-IN SOLAR GENERATION DEVICES.

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on HB 2435 that prohibits binding agreements preventing the installation of a portable plug-in solar generation device on any residential dwelling, subject to certain requirements.

HSEO recognizes and appreciates the intent of HB 2435 to expand access to solar generation, particularly for customers who may not be able to afford full systems. However, HSEO has concerns related to safety, fire risk, liability, and the review and oversight process outlined in the bill.

As written, the bill exempts qualifying portable plug-in solar generation devices from electric utility interconnection approval and does not require an interconnection application or agreement. Under current practice, utility interconnection is often the "trigger" for county electrical or building permit review, providing important and essential safety oversight. While we defer to the appropriate agencies on this concern, a clear and enforceable safety review process for such devices is imperative to address fundamental concerns regarding fire safety, electrical compliance and oversight, and consumer protection. Such processes along with public education were helpful in

improving the safety record of plug-in space heaters that have been leading causes of home-heating fires and fire-related deaths due to a variety of hardware and user issues.

Finally, if the Public Utilities Commission is the intended oversight agency, HSEO recommends that the proposed legislation be codified under HRS Chapter 269 rather than HRS Chapter 196, as currently drafted.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



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Testimony of the Public Utilities Commission

To the
House Committee on
Energy & Environmental Protection

February 5, 2026
9:00 a.m.

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee:

Measure: H.B. No. 2435
Title: RELATING TO PORTABLE PLUG-IN SOLAR GENERATION DEVICES.

Position:

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

Comments:

The Commission supports the intent of this measure to allow for portable solar generation devices to be installed with minimal action by consumers.

The Commission observes, however, that this measure does not allow for any system to track portable solar generation devices, unlike similar bills before the Legislature such as S.B. No. 2902, S.B. No. 2940, or S.B. No. 3003. The Commission cautions that the inability to track portable solar generation devices may lead to safety issues for utility workers. Additionally, the absence of technical requirements or technical screens may cause unforeseen issues relating to unregulated deployment of this technology. The Commission has approved other non-exporting Distributed Energy Resource programs that are sufficiently streamlined with minimal use of technical screens.

As such, the Commission requests that the Committee consider the following amendments:

Page 7, Line 4 to Line 9:

§269- Registration; portable solar generation devices.
The public utilities commission shall establish and

maintain an online system for registration of portable solar generation devices. The public utilities commission may delegate this responsibility to any person or organization. No fee paid for by a customer shall be required for registration.

Page 4, Line 7 to Line 12:

(2) Is certified by Underwriters Laboratories to meet standard UL 3700, or an equivalent nationally recognized testing laboratory, as recognized by the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration, or each part of the device is so certified; and

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HB-2435

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 4:43:21 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Dean	Clean the Pacific	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We strongly support HB 2435. The climate crisis isn't some distant threat, it's here now. Do you believe the scientists or not? If you have doubts, head on up to the observatory on Mauna Loa and knock on the door. I'm sure they'll be happy to tell you the truth. Affordable plug in solar panels are the fastest way to make the transition. I tried for years to get HELCO to bring back net metering, but they won't listen, so this is the next best thing.

HB-2435

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 5:16:05 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Helen Cox	Kauai Climate Action Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

Kauai Climate Action Coalition, a group of over 150 Kauai residents, strongly supports HB2435. A substantial number of Hawaii residents do not live in single family homes, so they have not been able to take advantage of the climate and economic savings of solar installations. This bill will enable condo owners to install balcony solar, which will not only assist the residents but also lead the state closer to our emission goals. Please support HB2435



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

Testimony of the Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) Regarding HB2435, Relating to Portable Plug-In Solar Generation Devices, Before the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Thursday, February 5, 2025

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Committee Members,

The Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) **supports HB2435**, which expands equitable access to renewable energy by allowing residents to install small, portable plug-in solar generation devices, subject to clear capacity limits and robust safety requirements.

HSEA is a nonprofit trade association founded in 1977, representing local solar contractors, energy storage companies, and clean energy businesses across Hawaii.

Advancing Affordability and Energy Equity

HB2435 addresses a critical equity gap in Hawaii's clean energy transition. Many residents -- particularly **renters, condominium owners, and households in multi-family buildings** -- are effectively excluded from rooftop solar due to ownership restrictions, structural constraints, or upfront costs.

Portable plug-in solar devices offer a **low-cost, accessible option** for these households to reduce electricity bills and increase energy self-reliance. By capping aggregate system size at **1,200 watts** and limiting use to on-site consumption, the bill enables modest bill savings without creating grid management challenges.

Importantly, the bill prevents **blanket prohibitions** by landlords or associations while still allowing **reasonable safety, structural, and aesthetic restrictions**, striking an appropriate balance between access and property management concerns.

Clear and Strong Safety Protections

HB2435 includes **comprehensive safety safeguards** that ensure these devices do not compromise electrical or public safety:

- Devices must include **integrated anti-islanding functionality**, preventing energization of building wiring or the grid during outages.



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

- Devices must be **listed and labeled by a nationally recognized testing laboratory**, such as **Underwriters Laboratories (UL)**, and comply with nationally recognized safety standards for grid-interactive inverters or microinverters.
- Installation and use must comply with the **National Electrical Code (NEC)** and applicable state and county electrical, building, and fire codes.
- Utilities are protected from liability, and customers retain responsibility for proper installation and operation.

These provisions ensure that only **tested, certified, and code-compliant equipment** is used, consistent with best practices already applied across the solar industry.

Removing Unnecessary Barriers While Protecting the Grid

HB2435 appropriately clarifies that portable plug-in solar devices:

- Are **not eligible for net energy metering or export compensation**;
- Are exempt from individual interconnection agreements;
- May not be subjected to special fees or bespoke utility requirements.

At the same time, the bill preserves the **Public Utilities Commission's authority** to adopt reasonable, technology-neutral rules to protect system safety and reliability.

Conclusion

HB2435 is a thoughtful, balanced policy that:

- Expands **clean energy access** to underserved households;
- Supports **affordability and energy equity**;
- Maintains **strong safety and code compliance standards**; and
- Removes unnecessary administrative barriers without compromising grid reliability.

For these reasons, HSEA respectfully urges the Committee to **pass HB2435**.



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

/S/ Rocky Mould

Executive Director



Testimony Before the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

By Scott Sato
Government Affairs and Energy Services Manager
Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative
4463 Pahe'e Street, Suite 1, Lihu'e, Hawai'i, 96766-2000

Thursday, February 5, 2026; 9:00 am
Conference Room #325 & Videoconference

House Bill No. 2435 – RELATING TO PORTABLE PLUG-IN SOLAR GENERATION DEVICES

To the Honorable Chair Nicole E. Lowen, Vice Chair Amy A. Perruso, and Members of the Committee:

Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC) is a not-for-profit utility providing electrical service to more than 34,000 commercial and residential members.

KIUC wishes to provide comments on this measure.

Over the past 10 years, KIUC has significantly increased its renewable generation. In 2010, KIUC's energy mix included 10% renewable. Renewable production now stands at roughly 50%. For the past five years, KIUC has operated the Kaua'i electric grid at 100% renewable for thousands of hours on sunny days. KIUC's renewable mix currently includes biomass, hydropower, utility-scale solar, utility-scale paired with battery energy storage systems, and distributed (rooftop) solar.

This bill seeks to expand equitable access to renewable energy by prohibiting binding agreements preventing the installation of a portable plug-in solar generation device on any residential dwelling, subject to certain requirements. In general, KIUC supports providing a variety of options for managing energy use to our members.

As the bill is currently written, KIUC has concerns regarding the following:

- **Limit on the number of devices per service location.** While a single portable solar generation device would likely have minimal impact on the grid, having multiple of these installed at a single service location could easily be problematic for both the grid and as a safety concern for members who may want to install multiple devices. Limiting installations to one device per household would be

recommended, however, KIUC does appreciate the limit of devices per service location capped at 1,200 watts.

- **Lack of specificity regarding anti-islanding and certification standards.** This bill requires anti-island protection and UL Solutions (formerly Underwriters Laboratories) (UL) certification but does not reference the specific standards that must be met. For reference, KIUC requires inverter settings for interconnection based on the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) 1547/UL 1741 standards, which are subject to change.
- **No notification to the utility.** While it is understandable that the bill seeks to avoid a full interconnection agreement, it would still be important for KIUC to know where the devices are installed on the grid. A possible middle-ground solution would be to require customers to provide notice to KIUC prior to installing a portable solar generation device, without triggering a formal interconnection process.
- **Questions regarding enforcement.** Even if the bill is passed with limits on the number of devices or maximum wattage allowed per household to address safety concerns, enforcement of those limitations would likely be problematic.
- **Eligibility in net energy metering.** The bill further states that "...portable plug-in solar generation shall not be eligible to participate in net energy metering or any successor program or tariff that provides compensation or credit for electricity exported to the electric grid." However, if a customer has an existing PV system and is already enrolled in a net energy metering program, KIUC would have no way to differentiate export from the portable plug-in solar generation device or the conventional rooftop photovoltaic system. There is also a concern regarding enforcement of this as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure. Mahalo for your consideration.



To: The Honorable Representative Nicole Lowen, Chair, the Honorable Amy Perruso, Vice Chair, and Members of the Energy and Environmental Protection Committee.

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

Re: **Hearing HB2435 RELATING TO PORTABLE PLUG-IN SOLAR GENERATION DEVICES**

Hearing: Thursday February 5, 2026 9:00 a.m.

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Energy and Environmental Protection 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** HB2435.

Development of distributed solar power resources must continue to expand in order to benefit residents. Many renters and residents of condominiums and multi-family housing are prevented, even with financial assistance for the up-front costs, from accessing less expensive solar power by ownership restrictions, structural limitations, or cost barriers.

This bill would open access to solar power to such residents through safe and effective small-scale, portable plug-in devices. It would eliminate barriers.

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.

Please pass this bill!

Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)



Rep. Nicole Lowen, Chair
Rep. Amy Perruso, Vice Chair
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Thursday, February 5, 2026
9:00AM Conference Room 325

RE: HB435 - Portable Plug-In Solar Energy Devices - Strong Support

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committees,

On behalf of the Chamber of Sustainable Commerce (CSC), we write in strong support of HB2435, a common-sense measure that expands access to clean, affordable, and resilient energy for Hawai'i residents. The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce represents more than 570 small businesses, sole proprietors and entrepreneurs across Hawai'i committed to a triple bottom line: people, planet and prosperity.

Plug-in solar systems represent a game-changing opportunity to democratize access to solar energy. Unlike traditional rooftop systems, plug-in solar offers an affordable and scalable option for renters, condo residents, kupuna, low-to-moderate income households, and others who are currently locked out of Hawai'i's clean energy transition.

As electricity prices continue to rise—the highest in the nation—the economic case for plug-in solar only grows stronger. This technology allows households to immediately offset everyday electricity use, reduce monthly bills, and increase energy independence. Yet outdated regulations are holding it back.

HB2435 removes unnecessary barriers by exempting small plug-in systems from rules designed for much larger solar arrays. In doing so, the bill cuts red tape, unlocks immediate consumer savings, and allows thousands more residents to participate in Hawai'i's clean energy future. Plug-in solar is a win-win: lowering costs for ratepayers while advancing our state's clean energy goals.

Other states are already moving forward. In 2025, Utah legalized plug-in solar through cost-neutral legislation. Within months, full system costs fell by approximately 50 percent—demonstrating how smart policy can quickly drive affordability and adoption without burdening public budgets.

This measure is especially critical for kūpuna on fixed incomes and low-income families, for whom rising electricity bills are a growing crisis. At a time when every

Hawaii Legislative Council Members

Joell Edwards
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Hanalei

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Island Naturals
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Kihei Ice
Kihei

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Abundant Life Natural Foods
Hilo

Chamber of
Sustainable Commerce
808.445.7606
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Honolulu, HI 96823

dollar matters, plug-in solar provides a practical tool to reduce household expenses while strengthening community resilience.

HB2435 is exactly the type of thoughtful, forward-looking reform Hawai'i needs to make energy more affordable, expand consumer choice, and accelerate our clean energy transition.

Respectfully submitted in strong support. Thank you for your time and consideration.



To: The House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection (EEP)
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Thursday, February 5, 2026, 9am

In strong support of HB2435

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and members of the EEP committee,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii is in **strong SUPPORT of HB2435**, which prohibits binding agreements preventing the installation of a portable plug-in solar generation device on any residential dwelling, subject to certain requirements.

For too long, the benefits of solar energy have been limited to homeowners with the capital to invest in rooftop projects. Portable, or what is also referred to as “plug-in” solar reinvents this narrative, a true game-changer that has the potential to become a powerful tool in our efforts to expand access to clean energy.

Plug-in solar technology provides an accessible, affordable, and immediate pathway to renewable energy adoption for renters, low-income homeowners, and apartment dwellers. This technology—which is gaining rapid momentum in Europe and passed into law last year Utah, allows consumers to plug in to a standard household electricity outlet. Electricity generated by the device is used by appliances connected to the home's other outlets.

Key reasons to support this technology include:

- **Accessibility and Equity:** Plug-in solar is an ideal solution for renters, apartment dwellers, and those on fixed incomes who are otherwise excluded from the renewable energy transition.
- **Affordability:** With systems costing significantly less than traditional rooftop installations, they offer a faster return on investment for residents looking to reduce their monthly electricity bills.
- **Grid Resilience and Efficiency:** By generating electricity at the point of use, these devices reduce the strain on the distribution grid and decrease energy losses associated with transmission.

- **Rapid Deployment:** They require no construction or structural modifications, making them a "plug-and-play" solution that can immediately improve sustainability and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To further strengthen this measure, we respectfully recommend it be amended to remove the language that states:

"A customer that installs or uses a portable plug-in solar generation device shall be solely responsible for the safe installation, operation, and maintenance of the device in accordance with this section and applicable codes."

This language automatically puts the customer at fault, making families liable for damages that may be outside of their control. Bottom line, legislators shouldn't prematurely decide who is at fault, especially as this could potentially discourage businesses from implementing safety measures.

Achieving our climate goals while facilitating a Just Transition requires leaving no one behind. That includes efforts such as enabling portable solar, that helps to remove barriers and increase access to affordable, renewable energy, making it easy for everyone to participate. Plug-in solar is a practical, immediate step toward a cleaner, more resilient, and equitable energy future, and the kind of common-sense climate solutions we need to implement in earnest.

Please **PASS HB2435 with the requested amendment**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

HB-2435

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:56:57 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Mulinix	Greenpeace Hawaii	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and members of the EEP committee,

My name is Dave Mulinix, Co-Founder and State Representative of Greenpeace Hawaii and on behalf of our thousands of members and supporters statewide we stand in **strong SUPPORT of HB2435**, that prohibits binding agreements preventing the installation of a portable plug-in solar generation device on any residential dwelling, subject to certain requirements.

As the Hawaii State Legislature noted in 2021, we are already in a growing Climate Emergency. Here in Hawaii we are already experiencing the effects of the growing Climate Crisis with homes on the north shore of Oahu falling in the ocean, extended drought conditions, and the global warming caused firestorm that obliterated Lahaina. This is just the beginning of the devastation we are facing if we don't make a concerted effort to get off of fossil fuels as quickly as possible.

Passage of SB2435 is a very good, affordable, and simple step in the right direction to help cut Hawaii's carbon emissions to meet the state's zero emissions goal and address the growing Climate Crisis.

Some of the key reasons to support plug-in solar include:

- Plug-in solar systems represent a game-changing opportunity to democratize access to clean, resilient energy. By offering an affordable, scalable alternative to traditional rooftop solar, these systems lower the barriers for renters, low-to-moderate income households, and communities struggling to achieve energy independence.
- Plug-in solar is a common sense, clean energy solution. As electricity prices rise, the economic case for plug-in solar only grows stronger. Lawmakers must update outdated policies and remove unnecessary restrictions. With thoughtful regulatory reform, plug-in solar can serve as a powerful tool for advancing energy affordability, household resilience, and energy independence — bringing the benefits of solar within reach for thousands more in our state.
- The solar revolution is leaving behind thousands of people living in Hawaii — precisely the people who most need relief from rising energy bills. This critical measure cuts unnecessary red tape and exempts small systems from rules designed for much larger arrays. By doing so, it unlocks immediate, and much needed consumer savings for ratepayers throughout our state,

while at the same time, allowing more to participate in our state's clean energy transition. Plug-in solar is a win:win!

– Removing unnecessary barriers can help solar panels go mainstream, and allow more families to have more choice in their energy decisions. In 2025, Utah passed a plug-in solar bill. This bill was cost-neutral for local, state, and federal budgets. Just months after passage, full system costs for plug-in solar have already fallen by roughly 50%. This is exactly the type of common-sense action we need to take if we are serious about making Hawaii more affordable for residents, protecting our environment, and doing our part to help mitigate the climate crisis.

– Everyone in Hawaii is painfully aware that electricity rates in our state are the highest in the nation, with prices forecast to continue to rise. This is a crisis for many households, but especially for kupuna on fixed incomes and for low-income families. This measure will allow kupuna and others to reduce their monthly bill by utilizing plug-in solar. *At a time when every penny counts, plug-in solar can help keep electricity costs down and bring clean-energy benefits to more in our communities.*

To further strengthen this measure, we respectfully recommend it be amended to remove the language that states:

“A customer that installs or uses a portable plug-in solar generation device shall be solely responsible for the safe installation, operation, and maintenance of the device in accordance with this section and applicable codes.”

This language automatically puts the customer at fault, making families liable for damages that may be outside of their control. Bottom line, legislators shouldn't prematurely decide who is at fault, especially as this could potentially discourage businesses from implementing safety measures.

Achieving our climate goals while facilitating a Just Transition requires leaving no one behind. That includes efforts such as enabling portable solar, that helps to remove barriers and increase access to affordable, renewable energy, making it easy for everyone to participate. Plug-in solar is a practical, immediate step toward a cleaner, more resilient, and equitable energy future, and the kind of common-sense climate solutions we need to implement in earnest.

Please **PASS HB2435 with the requested amendment.**

Mahalo,

Dave Mulnix, Co-Founder & Statewide Representative, Greenpeace Hawaii.



HB 2435 Testimony

Dear Chair Lowen, and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection. My name is Hannah Ellis representing BrightSaver.org, a non-profit dedicated to building a plug-in solar movement in the US, making solar ownership affordable and accessible to everyone. I am testifying to encourage the Committee to support HB 2435 to allow the people of Hawai'i to access plug-in solar, saving money by reducing their electricity bills. This is a market-driven solution requiring no tax credits or public funds. It's just cutting red tape.

Systems installed according to safety standards cited in the bill will not:

- Shock users
- Overload circuits or create fire hazards
- Backfeed during a power outage, which protects line workers and anyone working on a multi-unit building

Plug-in solar provides meaningful access for renters and apartment residents. According to 2020 Census data, approximately 41.2% of housing units in Hawaii are occupied by renters, which is notably higher than the 36.9% national average. This technology ensures that access to clean energy is not limited by housing status.

In addition, plug-in solar reduces electricity bills and improves energy resilience. By directly supplying power to household appliances, these systems reduce the amount of electricity households must purchase from utilities. This is especially relevant given residents of Hawai'i have the highest energy costs in the country.

While we enthusiastically support HB 2435, we recommend one important revision:

1. **Remove language assigning sole liability to the customer for the installation, operation, and maintenance of plug-in solar devices** [*Section 2(h) of H.B. 2435 (2026)*]. This approach exposes consumers, particularly renters and households without access to rooftop solar, to significant legal and financial risk for circumstances beyond their control, discourages responsible product safety innovation by assigning fault through statute, and unnecessarily shifts liability away from existing legal frameworks, and should therefore be amended to remove the customer-only liability language while preserving appropriate safety standards and consumer protections.

In closing, HB 2435 offers a clear and equitable pathway to expand access to safe, affordable plug-in solar for renters and households across Hawai'i, without requiring public subsidies or compromising grid safety. With a narrow amendment to remove the customer-only liability



provision while preserving strong safety standards, this bill can better protect consumers and ensure responsibility is allocated under existing law. We respectfully urge the Committee to support HB 2435 with this amendment and thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Carbon Cashback

February 4, 2026

Re: EEP hearing of HB 2435 on February 5, 2026, at 9:00 am
Position: Support

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Perruso, and members of the House Energy and Environmental Protection Committee,

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 is in strong support of HB 2435.

Carbon Cashback Hawai‘i supports this bill because it gives the 40% of Hawai‘i residents who live in condos and apartments an affordable option to generate energy to reduce their electricity bills in a climate friendly manner.

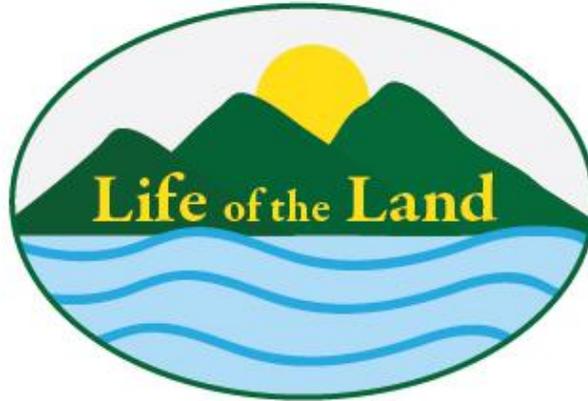
Balcony solar is affordable compared to traditional rooftop systems. A typical setup costs about \$2,000 and can pay for itself within a few years through lower electricity bills. Battery storage can be added, at an additional cost, allowing households to use solar energy at night. Battery prices are declining, making them increasingly attractive.

More than three million balcony solar devices are already operating in Germany. Utah recently passed a law creating the regulatory framework needed for widespread adoption. Many other states are considering similar legislation.

Unfortunately in Hawai‘i, one cannot currently plug in a balcony solar device without an interconnection agreement with the electric utility—an impractical and unnecessary barrier for these small systems. This bill would remove that unnecessary requirement and establish safety standards that will encourage the widespread adoption of balcony solar devices.

Until now, many Hawai‘i residents have been excluded from solar options. This bill enables them to take advantage of homegrown energy—the sun, reducing their dependence on imported fossil fuels, and reducing their electricity bills.

For the foregoing reasons, Carbon Cashback Hawai‘i supports this bill.



P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, Hawai`i 96837-0158
Phone: 927-0709 henry.lifeoftheland@gmail.com

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair

Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 5, 2026

9 a.m.

Room 325

HB 2435 Portable Plug-In Solar Generation Devices

SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee

Life of the Land is Hawai`i's own energy, environmental and community action group advocating for the people and `aina for 56 years. Our mission is to preserve and protect the life of the land through sound energy and land use policies and to promote open government through research, education, advocacy and, when necessary, litigation.

Life of the Land very strongly supports portable solar devices as an energy equity tool (to include renters and condo owners in the solar revolution), to decrease fossil fuel use, and to decrease greenhouse gas emissions.

Hawaii is an outlier in electricity rates, but people pay bills for all residential electricity needs. An apples-to-apples comparison of average monthly residential energy bills may indicate that everyone pays too much but that Hawaii is not an outlier.

Hawaii has higher electricity rates than other states. No one pays rates. Two items counterbalance high rates. We are near the bottom among all states in residential demand for electricity due to our temperate weather. Most Americans (75%) get a second utility bill (usually gas) but only 25% of Hawaii residents get regulated and unregulated gas.

Henry Curtis
Executive Director

HB-2435

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 3:35:59 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Benjamin Narwold	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen and members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection:

I strongly support this bill because it gives those who live in condominiums and apartments a practical, affordable way to reduce their electricity bills while helping Hawaii transition to a clean energy future. For too long, solar power has been out of the reach of many residents simply because they do not own a roof.

Approximately 40% of Hawaii’s residents live in multi-family housing. Balcony solar allows these households, including renters, seniors, and working families, to participate directly in solar energy generation using a safe plug-in device that operates through a standard wall outlet.

Balcony solar is simple and affordable. Its compact, lightweight solar panels can be attached to lanai railings. A typical system costs about \$2,000 and can generate energy savings of up to \$800 per year, allowing the system to pay for itself in just a few years. Optional battery storage can be added, enabling solar energy to be used at night or during power disruptions.

Most importantly, balcony solar addresses the challenge of Hawaii having the highest residential electricity rates in the nation. By empowering residents to produce clean energy from the sun, this bill reduces household electricity costs while cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

Balcony solar is a common-sense, equitable solution that benefits families, strengthens energy resilience, and advances Hawaii’s climate goals. I respectfully urge the committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo!

Benjamin Narwold, Kapaa, Hawaii

HB-2435

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 3:41:38 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Lowen and members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection:

I support this bill because it will be a game-changer for the State in terms of providing more people with access to the sun for its cheap and limitless energy.

It will give those without control over their rooftops the ability to use small, affordable, plug-in solar energy devices without bearing the costs and hassle of grid interconnection, permitting, or professional installation.

This bill offers a common-sense and equitable energy solution.

I respectfully urge the committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo!

Thomas Graham, Honolulu

HB-2435

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 4:01:25 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruth Robison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen and members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection:

This testimony is in strong support of

HB2435 RELATING TO PORTABLE PLUG-IN SOLAR GENERATION DEVICES.

My name is Ruth Robison and I have lived in Hilo since 1982. I have 17 solar panels on my roof. I have long felt that we should do everything we can to help people who do not own a home with a roof be able to take advantage of solar energy to run appliances in their house. One excellent way to do this is to allow condominium or apartment owners to install solar panels on their balconies. I understand that such a panel cost about \$2000 and can save the owner up to \$800 a year in the cost of electricity. I urge you to pass this bill and allow many more people in Hawaii to take advantage of solar energy. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2435

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 4:21:43 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karin Hoida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a renter on the third floor of my building with high energy bills, I urge you to please help pass this bill!

--Plug-in solar systems represent a game-changing opportunity to democratize access to clean, resilient energy. By offering an affordable, scalable alternative to traditional rooftop solar, these systems lower the barriers for renters, low-to-moderate income households, and communities struggling to achieve energy independence.

-- Plug-in solar is a common sense, clean energy solution. As electricity prices rise, the economic case for plug-in solar only grows stronger. Lawmakers must update outdated policies and remove unnecessary restrictions. With thoughtful regulatory reform, plug-in solar can serve as a powerful tool for advancing energy affordability, household resilience, and energy independence — bringing the benefits of solar within reach for thousands more in our state.

--The solar revolution is leaving behind thousands of people living in Hawaii — precisely the people who most need relief from rising energy bills. This critical measure cuts unnecessary red tape and exempts small systems from rules designed for much larger arrays. By doing so, it unlocks immediate, and much needed consumer savings for ratepayers throughout our state, while at the same time, allowing more to participate in our state’s clean energy transition. Plug-in solar is a win:win!

--Removing unnecessary barriers can help solar panels go mainstream, and allow more families to have more choice in their energy decisions. In 2025, Utah passed a plug-in solar bill. This bill was cost-neutral for local, state, and federal budgets. Just months after passage, full system costs for plug-in solar have already fallen by roughly 50%. This is exactly the type of common-sense action we need to take if we are serious about making Hawaii more affordable for residents, protecting our environment, and doing our part to help mitigate the climate crisis.

-- Everyone in Hawaii is painfully aware that electricity rates in our state are the highest in the nation, with prices forecast to continue to rise. This is a crisis for many households, but especially for kupuna on fixed incomes and for low-income families. This measure will allow kupuna and others to reduce their monthly bill by utilizing plug-in solar. *At a time when every penny counts, plug-in solar can help keep electricity costs down and bring clean-energy benefits to more in our communities.*

HB-2435

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 4:27:15 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Hello Chair Lowen and members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection:

My name is Nanea Lo. I strongly support this bill because it gives those who live in condominiums and apartments a practical, affordable way to reduce their electricity bills while helping Hawaii transition to a clean energy future. For too long, solar power has been out of the reach of many residents simply because they do not own a roof.

Approximately 40% of Hawaii’s residents live in multi-family housing. Balcony solar allows these households, including renters, seniors, and working families, to participate directly in solar energy generation using a safe plug-in device that operates through a standard wall outlet.

Balcony solar is simple and affordable. Its compact, lightweight solar panels can be attached to lanai railings. A typical system costs about \$2,000 and can generate energy savings of up to \$800 per year, allowing the system to pay for itself in just a few years. Optional battery storage can be added, enabling solar energy to be used at night or during power disruptions.

Most importantly, balcony solar addresses the challenge of Hawaii having the highest residential electricity rates in the nation. By empowering residents to produce clean energy from the sun, this bill reduces household electricity costs while cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

Balcony solar is a common-sense, equitable solution that benefits families, strengthens energy resilience, and advances Hawaii’s climate goals. I respectfully urge the committee to pass this bill.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, 96826

Carbon Cashback Hawai‘i Member

Hawai‘i Workers Center Board Member

Honolulu Tenants Union Member

Hawai'i Tax Fairness Coalition



Restore the Commons

Thursday, February 5, 2026, 9:00 am

House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

HOUSE BILL 2435 – RELATING TO PORTABLE PLUG-IN SOLAR GENERATION DEVICES

Position: Strong Support

Me ke Aloha, Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Perruso and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

HB2435 prohibits binding agreements that prevent the installation of a portable plug-in solar generation device (“balcony solar”) on any residential dwelling, subject to certain requirements.

Renters and multi-family residents have been bound by rental owners and homeowner associations from making progressive, cost-saving changes to their energy needs, or simply not had the wherewithal to install complicated and expensive renewable energy solutions.

“Balcony solar” is simple and affordable. Its compact, lightweight solar panels can be attached to lanai railings. A typical system costs about \$2,000 and can generate energy savings of up to \$800 per year, allowing the system to pay for itself in just a few years. Optional battery storage can be added, enabling solar energy to be used at night or during power disruptions.

Such installation addresses our highest residential electricity rates in the nation. By empowering residents to produce clean energy from the sun, this bill reduces household electricity costs and cuts greenhouse gas emissions.

“Balcony solar” is a common-sense and fair solution that benefits families, strengthens energy resilience, and advances Hawaii’s climate goals. Utah has already given the green light, so it can work anywhere.

Mahalo for the opportunity to address this issue,

/s/ Charley Ice, Hoā’āina, Waimalu, O’ahu;

retired Hydrologist, Commission on Water Resource Management (25 years) and Planner at DHHL (10 years);

former Chair of O’ahu Democratic Party Region 5 (’Aiea-Pearl City);

HB-2435

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 4:51:18 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of. Thank you.

HB-2435

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 5:03:25 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Virginia Tincher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill because it gives those who live in condominiums and apartments a practical, affordable way to reduce their electricity bills while helping Hawaii transition to a clean energy future. For too long, solar power has been out of the reach of many residents simply because they do not own a roof.

Approximately 40% of Hawaii’s residents live in multi-family housing. Balcony solar allows these households, including renters, seniors, and working families, to participate directly in solar energy generation using a safe plug-in device that operates through a standard wall outlet.

Balcony solar is simple and affordable. Its compact, lightweight solar panels can be attached to lanai railings. A typical system costs about \$2,000 and can generate energy savings of up to \$800 per year, allowing the system to pay for itself in just a few years. Optional battery storage can be added, enabling solar energy to be used at night or during power disruptions.

Most importantly, balcony solar addresses the challenge of Hawaii having the highest residential electricity rates in the nation. By empowering residents to produce clean energy from the sun, this bill reduces household electricity costs while cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

Balcony solar is a common-sense, equitable solution that benefits families, strengthens energy resilience, and advances Hawaii’s climate goals. I respectfully urge the committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo!

Virginia

Honolulu

HB-2435

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 5:13:51 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB2435. Plug-in solar generation devices will advance energy affordability in our state. As Hawaii struggles with the highest electric rates in the nation, this bill will lower the barriers for low-middle income households to afford solar energy.

Date: February 3, 2026
Re: **STRONG SUPPORT for HB2435** RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY
Hearing Date: February 5, 2026 @ 3PM

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Perruso, and members of the EEP Committee:

I'm writing in **strong support of HB2435**.

This bill is a triple win as it helps with affordability, equity, and the environment.

Affordability: Plug-in (balcony) solar units cost around \$2,000, and the payback is generally less than four years. These units should last 10-20 years, thus providing years of energy cost savings for households.

Equity: Until now, the ability to participate in the solar revolution has been largely restricted to homeowners and excluded the about 40% of the residents who live in multi-family housing. This bill would allow these residents to make use of inexpensive solar.

Environment: The use of balcony solar to generate electricity would lead to a reduction in emissions because generation from balcony solar would displace some fossil fueled electricity generation.

Please pass HB2435 out of your committee as an important step in improving affordability, equity, and the environment.

Mahalo nui loa,



Paul Bernstein
Honolulu

HB-2435

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 5:51:44 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Georgia L Hoopes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

I strongly support this bill!

Everyone in Hawaii is painfully aware that electricity rates in our state are the highest in the nation, with prices forecast to continue to rise. This is a crisis for many households, but especially for kupuna on fixed incomes and for low-income families. This measure will allow kupuna and others to reduce their monthly bill by utilizing plug-in solar. *At a time when every penny counts, plug-in solar can help keep electricity costs down and bring clean-energy benefits to more in our communities.*

Mahalo!

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

HB-2435

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 6:23:13 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John NAYLOR	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen and members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection:

I strongly support this bill because it gives those who live in condominiums and apartments a practical, affordable way to reduce their electricity bills while helping Hawaii transition to a clean energy future. For too long, solar power has been out of the reach of many residents simply because they do not own a roof.

Approximately 40% of Hawaii’s residents live in multi-family housing. Balcony solar allows these households, including renters, seniors, and working families, to participate directly in solar energy generation using a safe plug-in device that operates through a standard wall outlet.

Balcony solar is simple and affordable. Its compact, lightweight solar panels can be attached to lanai railings. A typical system costs about \$2,000 and can generate energy savings of up to \$800 per year, allowing the system to pay for itself in just a few years. Optional battery storage can be added, enabling solar energy to be used at night or during power disruptions.

Most importantly, balcony solar addresses the challenge of Hawaii having the highest residential electricity rates in the nation. By empowering residents to produce clean energy from the sun, this bill reduces household electricity costs while cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

Balcony solar is a common-sense, equitable solution that benefits families, strengthens energy resilience, and advances Hawaii’s climate goals. I respectfully urge the committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo!

John Naylor Makawao

HB-2435

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 6:32:00 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jackie Keefe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

I am in **strong support of HB2435**, a bill prohibiting binding agreements preventing the installation of a portable plug-in solar generation device on any residential dwelling.

With electricity prices skyrocketing, folks are searching for ways to reduce their energy bills. Installing a rooftop solar system is a great investment, but for too many the upfront costs are an obstacle. And if you are a renter, live in a high-rise, or your roof isn't right for solar, going solar may not be an option.

That's where plug-in solar comes in! Plug-in solar is a simple, safe, and affordable way to receive the financial and resiliency benefits of solar. All you need to do is plug them into a standard wall outlet, and it will help power your everyday needs.

Everyone in Hawaii is painfully aware that electricity rates in our state are the highest in the nation, with prices forecast to continue to rise. This is a crisis for many households, but especially for kupuna on fixed incomes and for low-income families. This measure will allow kupuna and others to reduce their monthly bill by utilizing plug-in solar.

At a time when every penny counts, plug-in solar can help keep electricity costs down and bring clean-energy benefits to more in our communities. Passing this bill is one forward-thinking way that you can show your commitment to affordability to all people of our state.

Mahalo,

Jackie Keefe, Lahaina

HB-2435

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 7:06:01 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine Daleiden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen and members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection:

I strongly support this bill because it gives those who live in condominiums and apartments a practical, affordable way to reduce their electricity bills while helping Hawaii transition to a clean energy future. For too long, solar power has been out of the reach of many residents simply because they do not own a roof.

Approximately 40% of Hawaii’s residents live in multi-family housing. Balcony solar allows these households, including renters, seniors, and working families, to participate directly in solar energy generation using a safe plug-in device that operates through a standard wall outlet.

Balcony solar is simple and affordable. Its compact, lightweight solar panels can be attached to lanai railings. A typical system costs about \$2,000 and can generate energy savings of up to \$800 per year, allowing the system to pay for itself in just a few years. Optional battery storage can be added, enabling solar energy to be used at night or during power disruptions.

Most importantly, balcony solar addresses the challenge of Hawaii having the highest residential electricity rates in the nation. By empowering residents to produce clean energy from the sun, this bill reduces household electricity costs while cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

Balcony solar is a common-sense, equitable solution that benefits families, strengthens energy resilience, and advances Hawaii’s climate goals. I respectfully urge the committee to pass this bill.

HB-2435

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 7:35:05 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bobbie Best	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I live in a condo so this bill provides the only way I could use some renewable energy and lower my electricity use and cost.

HB-2435

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 8:49:44 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen and members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection:

I strongly support this bill because it gives those who live in condominiums and apartments a practical, affordable way to reduce their electricity bills while helping Hawaii transition to a clean energy future. For too long, solar power has been out of the reach of many residents simply because they do not own a roof.

Approximately 40% of Hawaii’s residents live in multi-family housing. Balcony solar allows these households, including renters, seniors, and working families, to participate directly in solar energy generation using a safe plug-in device that operates through a standard wall outlet.

Balcony solar is simple and affordable. Its compact, lightweight solar panels can be attached to lanai railings. A typical system costs about \$2,000 and can generate energy savings of up to \$800 per year, allowing the system to pay for itself in just a few years. Optional battery storage can be added, enabling solar energy to be used at night or during power disruptions.

Most importantly, balcony solar addresses the challenge of Hawaii having the highest residential electricity rates in the nation. By empowering residents to produce clean energy from the sun, this bill reduces household electricity costs while cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

Balcony solar is a common-sense, equitable solution that benefits families, strengthens energy resilience, and advances Hawaii’s climate goals. I respectfully urge the committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo!

HB-2435

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:29:32 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT HB 2435

Dana Keawe

Truth for The People!

HB-2435

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 10:37:02 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathy Shimata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB2435.

My family is painfully aware that electricity rates in our state are the highest in the nation, with prices forecast to continue to rise. This is a crisis for many households, but especially for kupuna like us on fixed incomes and for low-income families. This measure will allow kupuna and others to reduce their monthly bill by utilizing plug-in solar. *At a time when every penny counts, plug-in solar can help keep electricity costs down and bring clean-energy benefits to more in our communities.*

Mahalo,

Kathy Shimata

HB-2435

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 1:21:15 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle R Stefanik	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this Bill. Vote yes.

HB-2435

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 7:54:28 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas Hagan	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen and members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection:

Balcony solar is proven in european countries with over a million installations. It was recently passed into law in Utah with 5 or more states considering legislation.

I strongly support this bill because it gives those who live in condominiums and apartments a practical, affordable way to reduce their electricity bills while helping Hawaii transition to a clean energy future. For too long, solar power has been out of the reach of many residents simply because they do not own a roof.

Approximately 40% of Hawaii’s residents live in multi-family housing. Balcony solar allows these households, including renters, seniors, and working families, to participate directly in solar energy generation using a safe plug-in device that operates through a standard wall outlet.

Balcony solar is simple and affordable. Its compact, lightweight solar panels can be attached to lanai railings. A typical system costs about \$2,000 and can generate energy savings of up to \$800 per year, allowing the system to pay for itself in just a few years. Optional battery storage can be added, enabling solar energy to be used at night or during power disruptions.

Most importantly, balcony solar addresses the challenge of Hawaii having the highest residential electricity rates in the nation. By empowering residents to produce clean energy from the sun, this bill reduces household electricity costs while cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

Balcony solar is a common-sense, equitable solution that benefits families, strengthens energy resilience, and advances Hawaii’s climate goals. I respectfully urge the committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo!

Doug Hagan

Paia, HI

HB-2435

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 7:55:27 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patti Choy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of HB2435, a helpful, common-sense bill to support residential access to solar plug-in devices. Allowing the use of these devices will help to even the playing field for all Hawaii residents to utilize clean and affordable solar energy.

What is the problem that is stopping a solid bill like this from going forward? You know the answer and I know the answer. Do not cave in to corporate interests by killing the use of plug-in solar generators.

Please pass HB2435.

Thank you.

HB-2435

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 8:18:52 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen and members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection:

I am writing to express my strong support for this bill because it gives residents who live in condominiums and apartments a practical, affordable way to reduce their electricity bill while contributing to Hawaii's transition to a clean energy future. For too long, solar power has remained unavailable to vast portions of our population simply because they do not own the roof over their heads.

Approximately 40% of Hawaii's residents live in multi-family housing. Balcony solar allows these households, including renters, seniors, and working-class families, to participate directly in the generation of solar energy using a safe plug-in device that operates through a standard wall outlet.

Balcony solar is straight-forward and affordable. It is compact, lightweight, and can be attached to lanai railings. A typical system costs about \$2,000, generating savings of up to \$800 a year, allowing for the system to pay itself off in a handful of years. Additionally, an optional battery storage can be included with these systems, enabling the use of solar energy at night or during power disruptions.

Most importantly, however, balcony solar addresses the challenge of Hawai'i having the highest residential electricity rates in the nation. By empowering residents to produce clean energy from the sun, this bill reduces household electricity costs while cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

Balcony solar is a common-sense, equitable solution that benefits families, strengthens energy resilience and independence, and advances Hawaii's climate goals.

I respectfully urge the committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo!

David Murray, Kaneohe

HB-2435

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 8:27:57 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keith Neal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen and members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection:

I strongly support this bill because balcony solar allows households, including renters, seniors, and working families, to participate directly in solar energy generation using a safe plug-in device that operates through a standard wall outlet.

Balcony solar is simple and affordable. Its compact, lightweight solar panels can be attached to lanai railings. A typical system costs about \$2,000 and can generate energy savings of up to \$800 per year, allowing the system to pay for itself in just a few years. Optional battery storage can be added, enabling solar energy to be used at night or during power disruptions.

Most importantly, balcony solar addresses the challenge of Hawaii having the highest residential electricity rates in the nation. By empowering residents to produce clean energy from the sun, this bill reduces household electricity costs while cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

Balcony solar is a common-sense, equitable solution that benefits families, strengthens energy resilience, and advances Hawaii's climate goals. I respectfully urge the committee to pass this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Neal

Waimea

HB-2435

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:02:48 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Marrack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

The solar revolution is leaving behind thousands of people living in Hawaii — precisely the people who most need relief from rising energy bills. This critical measure cuts unnecessary red tape and exempts small systems from rules designed for much larger arrays. By doing so, it unlocks immediate, and much needed consumer savings for ratepayers throughout our state, while at the same time, allowing more to participate in our state’s clean energy transition. Plug-in solar is a win:win!

Removing unnecessary barriers can help solar panels go mainstream, and allow more families to have more choice in their energy decisions. In 2025, Utah passed a plug-in solar bill. This bill was cost-neutral for local, state, and federal budgets. Just months after passage, full system costs for plug-in solar have already fallen by roughly 50%. This is exactly the type of common-sense action we need to take if we are serious about making Hawaii more affordable for residents, protecting our environment, and doing our part to help mitigate the climate crisis.

Everyone in Hawaii is painfully aware that electricity rates in our state are the highest in the nation, with prices forecast to continue to rise. This is a crisis for many households, but especially for kupuna on fixed incomes and for low-income families. This measure will allow kupuna and others to reduce their monthly bill by utilizing plug-in solar. *At a time when every penny counts, plug-in solar can help keep electricity costs down and bring clean-energy benefits to more in our communities.*

Mahalo,

Julia Marrack

Kamuela, 96743

HB-2435

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:19:33 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Hoida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As electricity prices continue to rise in Hawaii, the economic case for plug-in solar only grows stronger. Also taking into account that 70% of Hawaii's electricity is derived from fossil fuels, plug-in solar is a common sense, clean energy solution that brings the benefits of solar within reach for thousands more in our state. Mahalo for your support!

HB-2435

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:57:04 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cindy Nawilis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, and other Committee Members,

I am writing in support of HB2435. Everyone, not just homeowners and commercial property owners with rooftops, should have the opportunity to go solar. The portable solar generation device makes going solar more accessible and more immediate (unlike signing up for a community-based solar project), which means everyone can benefit from solar's cost-savings more immediately too. With electricity rates on the rise, the ability for people to off-set any electricity cost will be critical as they juggle all every bill that needs to be paid, and each one will only get more expensive.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2435

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:36:38 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Fryer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii's electricity rates are the highest in the nation and are a significant financial strain on many local residents, particularly low-income families. Many of my colleagues and community members want to adopt solar energy but cannot afford the up-front costs of installing a rooftop system. Plug-in solar systems are a practical, affordable alternative to rooftop solar panels, and should be made available so that more households can transition to clean energy.

Removing unnecessary barriers can help solar panels go mainstream. In 2025, Utah passed a plug-in solar bill. This bill was cost-neutral for local, state, and federal budgets. Just months after passage, full system costs for plug-in solar have already fallen by roughly 50%. We should follow Utah's example if we are serious about meeting Hawaii's goal of 100% renewable energy by 2045.

HB-2435

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:51:37 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Strong support!

HB-2435

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:55:21 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glenn Choy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill

HB-2435

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 1:38:55 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT

HB-2435

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 4:33:20 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Seuta'atia Cochran	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen and members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection:

I strongly support this bill because it gives those who live in condominiums and apartments a practical, affordable way to reduce their electricity bills while helping Hawaii transition to a clean energy future. For too long, solar power has been out of the reach of many residents simply because they do not own a roof.

Approximately 40% of Hawaii's residents live in multi-family housing. Balcony solar allows these households, including renters, seniors, and working families, to participate directly in solar energy generation using a safe plug-in device that operates through a standard wall outlet.

Balcony solar is simple and affordable. Its compact, lightweight solar panels can be attached to lanai railings. A typical system costs about \$2,000 and can generate energy savings of up to \$800 per year, allowing the system to pay for itself in just a few years. Optional battery storage can be added, enabling solar energy to be used at night or during power disruptions.

Most importantly, balcony solar addresses the challenge of Hawaii having the highest residential electricity rates in the nation. By empowering residents to produce clean energy from the sun, this bill reduces household electricity costs while cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

Balcony solar is a common-sense, equitable solution that benefits families, strengthens energy resilience, and advances Hawaii's climate goals. I respectfully urge the committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo!

Seuta'atia Cochran, Ewa Beach

HB-2435

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 4:38:53 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Wakai and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs:

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Mahalo!

Diane Ware Volcano HI 96785-0698