



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
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## Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Before the  
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
Tuesday, February 24, 2026  
2:00 p.m.  
Via Videoconference

On the following measure:  
**H.B. 2486, H.D. 1, RELATING TO SOLAR ENERGY**

Chair Matayoshi 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: (1) define and provide requirements for the use of a portable solar generation device; (2) provide that electric utility companies are not liable for any damage or injury caused by a portable solar generation device; (3) require each portable solar generation device to be registered with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission); and (4) require the Commission to establish and maintain an online system for registration of portable solar generation devices, at no cost to the customer.

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.

Reported success of "balcony solar" in Europe provides reason for optimism for this technology to also be used in the United States, with appropriate care and caution (<https://grist.org/energy/balcony-solar-took-off-in-germany-why-not-the-us/>).

The Department notes that certification standards in the United States may contribute to this objective (see, for example, the January 8, 2026, announcement by UL about the launch of the UL3700 testing and certification standard (<https://www.ul.com/news/ul-solutions-debuts-testing-and-certification-framework-safer-plug-solar-across-united-states>)). As we know, electricity can be dangerous if not managed carefully. As explained in the article link discussing UL3700, "Legacy plug-in solar systems that have been used outside the U.S. differ from permanently wired rooftop solar panels because they are intended to connect to household circuits through a plug and receptacle. That simplicity makes solar easier to adopt, but it also brings certain risks, such as systems becoming overloaded and the possibility of power flowing back into lines."

The Department notes that uncontrolled power flowing back into the electricity lines raises safety and reliability concern for the grid and utility customers. The article by UL Solutions indicates that, "UL 3700 addresses these additional risks by requiring features that mitigate accidental contact with hazardous electric parts, promote safe installation, protect against overloads and prevent electric current from flowing in the wrong direction." However, the Department offers that more information is needed regarding the sufficiency of this or other standards in preventing power flowing back into the lines (e.g., does the standard guarantee that backflow into the utility lines is prevented under all operating conditions or only when there is an electrical outage from the utility). The Department notes that this resource is helpful to outlining safety and technical considerations that should be considered within the United States: <https://www.mdpi.com/1996-1073/18/8/2132>.

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 “any controls or equipment beyond the controls or equipment that are integrated into the 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.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
465 S. KING STREET, #103  
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## Testimony of the Public Utilities Commission

To the  
House Committee on  
Consumer Protection & Commerce

February 24, 2026  
2:00 p.m.

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Members of the Committee:

**Measure:** H.B. No. 2486, H.D. 1  
**Title:** RELATING TO SOLAR ENERGY.

### Position:

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

### Comments:

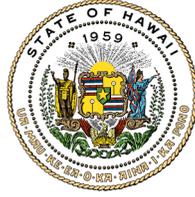
The Commission supports the intent of this measure to allow for portable solar generation devices to be installed with minimal action by consumers. Furthermore, the Commission appreciates the amendments made by the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection.

The Commission supports the amendments to this measure allowing the Commission to establish and maintain a registry to track the portable solar generation devices. The inability to track portable solar generation devices may lead to safety issues for utility workers. The Commission also observes that a lack of technical requirements or technical screens may cause unforeseen issues relating to unregulated deployment of this technology. In the past, the Commission has approved other non-exporting Distributed Energy Resource programs that are sufficiently streamlined with minimal use of technical screens.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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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DAWN N.S. CHANG  
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BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
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AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
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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  
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  
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE**

**Tuesday, February 24, 2026  
2:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 2486 HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO SOLAR ENERGY**

House Bill 2486, House Draft 1 defines and provides requirements for the use of a portable solar generation device and requires each portable solar generation device to be registered with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). Provides that electric utility companies are not liable for any damage or injury caused by a portable solar generation device. The bill requires the PUC to establish and maintain an online system for registering a portable solar generation device, at no cost to the customer. **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.

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



**MIKE LAMBERT**  
Director

**ERNEST J. ROBELLO**  
Deputy Director  
Administration

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LT GOVERNOR  
KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT**  
*Ka 'Oihana Ho'okō Kānāwai*  
715 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**JARED K. REDULLA**  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2486, HOUSE DRAFT 1**  
**RELATING TO SOLAR ENERGY**  
Before the House Committee on  
**CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE**  
Tuesday, February 24, 2026, 2 PM  
State Capitol Conference Room 329  
**WRITTEN TESTIMONY of Dorothy Booth**

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and members of the Committee:

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) submits comments on House Bill 2486, House Draft 1, which defines and provides requirements for the use of portable solar generation devices, limits electric utility company liability for damages or injuries caused by such devices, and requires each portable solar generation device to be registered with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), which must establish and maintain an online registration system at no cost to the customer.

OSFM recognizes the growing prevalence of portable solar generation devices in Hawai'i and acknowledges their role in energy resilience, particularly following natural disasters and grid disruptions. As these devices become more widely adopted, it is essential that appropriate safety standards and regulatory safeguards are in place to reduce fire and electrical hazards.

Portable solar generation devices, like other power-producing equipment, pose inherent risks when used, stored, installed, or maintained improperly. These risks include

electrical overload, overheating, battery failure, arc faults, and fire ignition. The Committee should ensure that any statutory definition incorporates compliance with nationally recognized testing laboratory (NRTL) certifications and applicable electrical and fire codes, including the National Electrical Code (NEC) and relevant NFPA standards.

OSFM also wishes to address emerging “plug-in solar panel” technologies. These products are currently under evaluation by national testing and safety laboratories and are not yet broadly certified for consumer use. Codifying such products in statute before completion of national testing, certification, and code development may create consumer confusion and imply approval where none exists. From both a consumer protection and firefighter safety perspective, OSFM respectfully recommends that the Legislature refrain from recognizing or authorizing these products in statute until the national engineering and certification process is complete.

Firefighting operations are inherently hazardous, and the introduction of non-certified power-producing equipment may increase the risk of fires and electrical emergencies. Exterior plug-in solar panels could complicate ladder access during rescue operations, while energized panels and associated wiring may create additional electrical hazards that impede fire suppression efforts and increase risk to firefighters and occupants.

Underwriters Laboratories (UL) has only recently begun reviewing these products to develop safety standards. Following that process, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) will update the National Electrical Code to ensure safe installation practices. Hawai'i can then align its state codes with those established national standards. Until that process is finalized, OSFM recommends that the Legislature avoid statutory recognition of these emerging products.

OSFM further recommends that registered portable solar generation devices be required to meet minimum safety and performance standards established by the PUC in

consultation with OSFM. The registration system should include documentation of manufacturer information, device specifications, and safety certifications to assist first responders and fire investigators in the event of an incident.

While OSFM understands the financial pressures associated with rising energy costs, public safety requires that any power-producing equipment be listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory and supported by established national safety standards before being permitted or recognized in statute.

The provision limiting electric utility company liability should not diminish the responsibility of manufacturers, distributors, or end users to ensure safe operation in accordance with established safety standards.

The OSFM looks forward to working collaboratively with the PUC and other stakeholders to promote energy resilience while safeguarding the public from fire and electrical hazards.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on this measure.

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



MIKE LAMBERT  
Director

ERNEST J. ROBELLO  
Deputy Director  
Administration

SYLVIA LUKE  
LT GOVERNOR  
KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT**  
*Ka 'Oihana Ho'okō Kānāwai*  
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JARED K. REDULLA  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

February 23, 2026

**LATE**

The Honorable Scot Matayoshi, Chair  
Committee on Consumer Protection  
and Commerce  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 329  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Matayoshi:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 2486 House Draft (HD) 1 Relating to Solar Energy

I am Sheldon K. Hao, Chair of the State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department. The SFC requests deferral of HB 2486, HD 1, which defines and provides requirements for the use of a portable solar generation device; provides that electric utility companies are not liable for any damage or injury caused by a portable solar generation device; requires each portable solar generation device to be registered with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC); and requires the PUC to establish and maintain an online system for registration of portable solar generation devices at no cost to the customer.

While accepted in some European countries, plug-in photovoltaic (PIPV) is a nascent technology which has only recently received scrutiny of national organizations that develop safety standards and codes in the United States. Indeed, the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) has published its UL 3700, *the Outline of Investigation for Interactive PIPV Equipment and Systems*; however, a full consensus-based UL Standard on PIPV has not been finalized.

The SFC envisions several potential fire risks-related PIPV systems:

- Consumers may be tempted to connect PIPV systems to lithium-ion battery storage systems. Empirical analysis from fire records indicates lithium-ion battery fires across product types (micromobility, consumer devices, and residential energy storage) have been steadily rising.

The Honorable Scot Matayoshi, Chair  
Page 2  
February 23, 2026

**LATE**

- The combination of PIPV and lithium-ion batteries could aggravate this problem.
- Residents and homeowners of single-family dwellings may attempt to connect PIPV systems to their residential electrical systems, which may or may not be electrical code-compliant.
  - The SFC anticipates PIPV systems will eventually be deployed in multifamily dwellings, such as high-rise condominiums. Only 34 of 304 high-rise condominiums under the HFD's jurisdiction have successfully passed the HFD's Life Safety Evaluation (LSE). The LSE was implemented by the HFD in the aftermath of the 2017 Marco Polo high-rise condominium fire. Widespread installation of PIPV in high-rise condominiums may have an unforeseen negative impact on the HFD's LSE.

The SFC respectfully requests your committee's deferral of HB 2486, HD 1 until PIPV is further evaluated by entities, such as the National Fire Protection Association.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at 723-7169 or [glum@honolulu.gov](mailto:glum@honolulu.gov).

Sincerely,

SHELDON K. HAO  
Chair

SKH/GL:cn

**HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT  
KA 'OIHANA KINAI AHI O HONOLULU  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

636 SOUTH STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
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RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR  
MEIA



SHELDON K. HAO  
FIRE CHIEF  
LUNA NUI KINAI AHI  
  
JASON SAMALA  
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF  
HOPE LUNA NUI KINAI AHI

February 23, 2026

The Honorable Scot Matayoshi, Chair  
Committee on Consumer Protection  
and Commerce  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 329  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Matayoshi:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 2486, House Draft (HD) 1 Relating to Solar Energy

The Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) respectfully opposes HB 2486, HD 1, which defines and provides requirements for the use of a portable solar generation device.

Plug-in solar panels are a new technology currently under evaluation by national testing and safety laboratories. They are not yet approved for consumer use. For this reason, and others, we urge the legislature to avoid confusion and allow the engineering and testing process to be completed before recognizing these products in statute or establishing state standards.

Including products in statute before they are certified creates confusion for consumers and may imply approval where none exists. From a consumer protection and fire fighter (FF) safety perspective, we respectfully request the legislature refrain from codifying products that have not yet undergone national testing, certification, and code development. Doing so risks creating the perception of safety approval before that process is complete.

Fire fighting operations are inherently hazardous. Introducing noncertified power-producing equipment may increase the risk of fires and electrical emergencies in Hawai'i, thereby placing FFs and the public at greater risk of injury, death, and property loss. Furthermore, operational fire fighting strategies and tactics may be negatively affected. For example, the use of ladders to access upper floors for rescue operations could be complicated by exterior plug-in solar panels. In addition, energized panels and

The Honorable Scot Matayoshi, Chair  
Page 2  
February 23, 2026

associated wiring may impede the effective water stream from hose lines, thus creating additional electrical hazards and limiting our ability to safely suppress fires and protect occupants.

Underwriters Laboratories (UL) has only recently begun reviewing these products to develop national safety standards. Once the UL completes its evaluation and establishes product standards, the National Fire Protection Association will update the National Electrical Code to ensure safe installation practices. Hawai'i can then adopt state codes aligned with those national standards.

We recognize the rising cost of electricity and the financial strain on Hawai'i residents; however, these challenges do not justify legislatively permitting the installation of untested, uncertified power-producing equipment. Any such products should first be listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory and supported by established national safety standards.

Should you have questions, please contact Assistant Chief Reid Yoshida of our Support Services division at 808-723-7104 or ryoshida@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

SHELDON K. HAO  
Fire Chief

SKH/RY:ns



Testimony Before the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

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

Tuesday, February 24, 2026; 2:00 pm  
Conference Room #329 & Videoconference

### **House Bill No. 2486, House Draft No. 1 – RELATING TO SOLAR ENERGY**

To the Honorable Chair Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair Tina Nakada Grandinetti, 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 allowing 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.
- **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.** 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.

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



# Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

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Saturday, February 21, 2026

To: House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce (CPC)  
Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair  
Rep. Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair

Re: **HB 2486 HD1 – Portable Solar Generation Devices**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 24, 2026, 2:00 pm, Conf Room 329 & videoconference

Position: Strong support

Aloha, Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Members of the Committee,

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i **strongly supports HB 2486 HD1**, which would define and establish requirements for the use of portable solar generation devices in Hawai'i.

HB 2486 HD1 would provide essential clarity and consumer protection at a time when more residents are turning to portable solar for emergency preparedness, energy resilience, and household cost savings. By defining “portable solar generation device” in statute and establishing minimum requirements, this measure would ensure that consumers have access to safe, reliable, and effective equipment.

Portable solar devices are especially important for residents who cannot install rooftop solar due to rental status, shading, structural limitations, or financial barriers. HB 2486 HD1 expands equitable access to clean energy by supporting a class of devices that are affordable, flexible, and immediately deployable during outages or natural disasters. This aligns with Hawai'i's clean energy goals while strengthening community resilience.

The bill also would enhance consumer protection by ensuring that portable solar devices meet basic safety and performance standards. This helps prevent unsafe or misleading products from entering the market and ensures that consumers can trust the devices they purchase. Clear definitions and requirements also support retailers and enforcement agencies by providing a consistent regulatory framework.

HB 2486 HD1 is a practical, forward-looking measure that supports clean energy adoption, consumer safety, and statewide resilience. The Environmental Caucus respectfully urges the Committee to pass this measure. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Alan B. Burdick, Co-chair/ Mike Ewall, Co-chair/ Melodie Aduja, Co-chair Emerita

**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 10:02:36 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b>   | <b>Organization</b>    | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Susan B Roberts Emery | Green Party of Hawai'i | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and honorable members of committee,

My name is Susan RobertsEmery, I am CoChair of the Green Party of Hawai'i. On behalf of the members of Green Party of Hawai'i we stand in VERY STRONG SUPPORT of HB2486 HD1. As a population we need to move towards more Green Energy options and remove any red tape that may prohibit simple, affordable, safe access to plug-in solar power. This is a Win win for condos, single family homes and anyone who needs solar power. Let's make this happen!

Green Party of Hawai'i asks that HB2486 HD1 will pass through this committee.

Mahalo,

Susan RobertsEmery

Green Party of Hawai'i

Paauilo

**Citizens' Climate Lobby Hawaii**  
cclhawaii.org



February 22, 2026

**STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB2486 HD1 - RELATING TO SOLAR ENERGY**

Dear Chair Matayoshi, Vice-Chair Grandinetti, and members of the CPC Committee,

**Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) Hawaii is in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2486 HD1**, which defines and provides requirements for the use of a portable solar generation device. HB2486 HD1 facilitates the adoption and sales of portable solar generation devices by exempting them from the net energy metering program and interconnection requirements. The bill defines a portable solar generation device to have a maximum power output of 1.2 kilowatts, designed to be connected to a building's electrical system through a standard 120-volt alternating current outlet.

CCL Hawaii has over 1,110 members across Hawaii. We are a grassroots organization advocating for effective, efficient, and fair climate legislation.

CCL Hawaii strongly supports this bill because it helps residents in multi-dwelling units reduce their energy bills and provides a way for them to contribute to grid reliability and the environment.

Portable solar generation devices cost around \$2,000, and the payback is generally less than four years. These units should last 10-20 years, providing households with years of energy cost savings. Allowing access to portable solar generation devices would help many people who, until now, lacked the ability to participate in the solar revolution. This bill would allow the 40% of residents who live in multi-family housing to make use of inexpensive solar.

Last balcony solar generation will displace some fossil-fuel-fired generation, thus reducing the State's dependence on imported fossil fuels and helping the State shrink its carbon footprint.

**Please pass HB2486 HD1 out of your committee.**

Mahalo nui,

Citizens' Climate Lobby Hawaii

[cclhawaii.org](http://cclhawaii.org)

[hi.ccl.hawaii@gmail.org](mailto:hi.ccl.hawaii@gmail.org)

**Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL)** is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy organization focused on national policies to address climate change solutions. CCL Hawaii's members are part of a 268,500+ global organization. For more information, visit [citizensclimatelobby.org](http://citizensclimatelobby.org).



To: The Honorable Representative Scot Matayoshi, Chair, the Honorable Tina Grandinetti, Vice Chair, and Members of the Consumer Protection and Commerce Committee.

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

Re: **Hearing HB2486 RELATING TO SOLAR ENERGY**

Hearing: Tuesday February 24, 2026 2:00 p.m.

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Members of the Consumer Protection and Commerce Committee!

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

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** HB2486 HD1!

The plug-in or so called "balcony solar" units facilitated by this bill would:

- Enable many Hawaii residents to **reduce electricity bills**. 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.

- Extend the benefits of the solar generation to the approximately 40% of residents who live in multi-family housing such as condominiums and rental apartments. This bill would **allow multifamily residents to make use of inexpensive solar**.
- Lead to reduced greenhouse gas emissions because generation from balcony solar would displace some fossil fueled electricity generation.

**Please pass this bill!**

Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)



## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

February 24, 2026

2:00 PM

Conference Room 329

### In **SUPPORT** of **HB2486 HD1**: RELATING TO SOLAR ENERGY

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Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of our more than 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **supports** HB2486 HD1, which can help renters and all Hawai'i residents save on their energy bills, while reducing our collective demand on our electrical grids.

With Hawai'i residents paying some of the highest energy bills compared to the United States continent, and given our islands' commitment to renewable energy, we should be prioritizing **every reasonable opportunity to lower electricity costs and help people save energy**—especially options that are safe, voluntary, and affordable. That is what “legalizing” balcony solar would do, as proposed in this measure.

Balcony solar refers to **small, plug-in solar panels** that people can use at an apartment, condo, rental homes, and anywhere else a person may not own or have access to a roof. These panels plug into a standard wall outlet and provide a small amount of electricity directly to the home. They are intended to be used without needing any rewiring, construction, or rooftop access. They simply help reduce how much power a household has to buy from the grid.

This matters because **hundreds of thousands of Hawai'i renters and apartment residents do not have access to rooftop solar**. These individuals are largely locked out of helping with and taking advantage of our clean energy transition. Balcony solar gives those households a way to participate in this collective effort while saving much needed money.

This idea is not new. Balcony solar success started in **Germany in the 2010s**, where it has been widely adopted. Approximately 4 million households now use these systems safely. They've helped lower energy bills, reduce strain on the grid, and expand access to clean energy—especially for renters and people in cities resulting in energy savings between 10-20%.

As described in this measure, these systems are small by design and present negligible risks. They are capped in size, use certified safety equipment, and shut off automatically during outages. They don't overload wiring or change how a building's electrical system works. All they essentially do is **replace a small portion of grid electricity with clean energy produced on-site**.

This bill also respects our skilled electrical workforce. It does not replace licensed electrical work or weaken safety standards. It simply provides clarity for a narrow type of plug-in technology that already exists.



This measure is notably similar to Utah's HB 0340, led by Republican Representative Ward, which successfully established a framework for balcony solar: defining them as plug-in devices of up to 1,200 watts that meet National Electrical Code (NEC) and UL certification standards, and including protections to prevent energizing circuits during outages.<sup>2</sup> The Utah bill had bipartisan support throughout the legislative process and passed unanimously. This measure also exempts these small systems from the full utility interconnection process, reducing barriers for consumers while keeping safety standards intact.<sup>2</sup>

Right now, 32 other states are in the process of developing similar legislation.

Balcony solar is not a silver bullet for our energy challenges. But it is **one more tool**—a practical, proven tool—that can help Hawai'i's residents lower their power bills, save energy, and take part in our clean energy transition.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** HB2486 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.



House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce  
Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti  
Tuesday, 24 February, 2:00 PM  
Room 329  
HB 2486 SD1 – Balcony Solar

#### TESTIMONY

Sheryl McCarthy, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Committee Members:

**The League of Women Voters of Hawaii strongly supports HB 2486 SD1, which will give Hawaii residents who live in condominiums and apartments an opportunity to take advantage of solar power and will ultimately assist Hawaii in transitioning to a clean energy future. This bill helps Hawaii residents by reducing household electricity costs and helps Hawaii by producing clean energy powered by the sun vice fossil fuels that contribute to greenhouse gas emissions.**

Balcony solar systems are accessible, affordable, provide grid benefits, have educational value, and are flexible. The balcony solar systems enable renters and condominium/apartment residents – who typically cannot install rooftop solar - to participate in renewable energy generation and to play a role in Hawaii's transition to a clean energy future. These small-scale systems have a lower up-front cost when compared to rooftop systems, making renewable energy financially accessible to more people, including those with limited resources. While modest in output, widespread adoption can contribute meaningfully to distributed generation, reducing strain on the electrical grid and supporting larger renewable energy projects. These systems also provide Hawaii residents with exposure and hands-on experience with renewable energy, increasing public understanding and support for broader clean energy transitions. The plug-and-play nature of these systems means they can be installed without major construction for apartment/condominium residents and renters.

Currently in Hawaii, residents cannot plug in a balcony solar system without an interconnection agreement with Hawaiian Electric, which is a barrier for these small-scale installations. HB 2486 SD1 establishes standards and registration requirements for the safe use of portable solar generation devices in Hawaii. While balcony solar systems will not solve Hawaii's energy challenges or meet its 100% renewable energy goal by 2045, it is a step in the right direction.

The League of Women Voters US (LWVUS) views climate change as a critical issue that requires action at all levels of government and supports legislation to improve

energy efficiency, including shifting to renewable energy. Balcony solar is an evidence-based solution already proven successful in Europe. The proposed Balcony Solar bill, HB 2486 SD1 is consistent with the LWVUS' longstanding support for renewable energy solutions.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and for the work you are doing to help Hawaii transition to a clean energy future



## HB 2486 Written Testimony

Dear Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce. My name is Hannah Ellis representing Bright Saver, 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 2486 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](#) included in this 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

In addition, [analysis by Brooks Engineering](#) shows that there will be no significant impact on the grid. Specifically, even if 40% of residents in Hawaii had such systems 1200 watts or smaller, there would be zero net export to the grid on an hourly basis at the substation level.

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.

Plug-in solar also 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 2486, we recommend two important revisions:**

1. **Section 3.5 [page 6 line 1] should be amended to remove the specific UL 3700 standard.** This technology is ever evolving and it is common for UL to regularly review and revise safety standards. If new standards are released, this would require the legislature to pass legislation to update the plug-in solar statute. Keeping language more general, but still referencing UL allows for more flexibility and ensures these products are meeting the latest safety standards. We recommend Section 3.5 [page 6 line 1] to be amended to state *"is certified by Underwriters Laboratory or another nationally recognized testing laboratory."*



2. **Section 2.3 [page 4 line 13] should remove any requirement that customers register plug-in solar devices with an electric utility or the Public Utilities Commission.** A mandatory registration requirement for portable, plug-in solar devices imposes avoidable administrative burdens on consumers and creates additional work for the Public Utilities Commission, despite these systems posing minimal risk to the electric grid.

In closing, HB 2486 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. We respectfully urge the Committee to support HB 2486. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



February 23, 2026

Re: CPC hearing of HB 2486 HD1 on February 24, 2026, at 2:00 pm  
Position: SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce,

*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 2486 HD1 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 a 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.

In Hawai‘i, unfortunately, 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 widespread adoption.

We recommend three amendments to ensure that the bill meets its purpose:

1. In Section 2, the exemption from grid interconnection requirements incorrectly refers to section 269-143 rather than 269-142. To ensure the exemption covers all relevant requirements, we recommend that the text on page 3 line 19 through page 4 line 3 be amended to read as follows:

(1) Not subject to the net metering program provisions set out in part VI of this chapter

and any reliability standards and interconnection requirements and under part IX of this chapter;

2. In Section 3, any reference to a specific UL standard, such as UL 3700, should be written carefully so as not to rely on a standard that later becomes obsolete or is never adopted. This technology is ever evolving and it is common for UL or the NEC to regularly review and revise safety standards. If new standards are released, this would require the legislature to pass legislation to update the statute. To provide flexibility while ensuring that these products meet the latest safety standards, we recommend that the text on page 6 lines 1-5 be amended to read as follows:

(5) Is certified by Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. to meet standard UL 3700 or a successor or equivalent UL standard, or certified by 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.”

3. HRS 481B-6 establishes specific disclosure requirements for sellers and advertisers of any “solar energy device.” These requirements are intended for large systems that are often sold in association with rebates or incentives and with complex sales terms. Portable solar generation devices, in contrast, are expected to largely be bought off the shelf and installed and used like appliances. Buyers of portable solar generation devices therefore do not need the protections afforded by these disclosure requirements, and there is no reason to burden sellers and advertisers with them, as the associated costs would be passed to the consumer. For these reasons, we recommend inclusion of an additional bill section that reads as follows:

SECTION [ ]. Subsection (b) of section 481B-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

“(b) As used in this section, “solar energy device” means any new identifiable facility, equipment, apparatus, or the like which makes use of solar energy for heating, cooling, or reducing the use of other types of energy dependent upon fossil fuel for its generation. “Solar energy device” does not include a portable solar generation device as defined in section 269-1.”



**Hawaii Solar Energy Association**  
*Serving Hawaii Since 1977*

**Testimony of the Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA)**

**Regarding HB2486 HD1, Relating to Solar Energy**

Before the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Nakada Grandinetti, and Committee Members,

The Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) supports HB2486, 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 appropriate 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**

HB2486 addresses a meaningful equity gap in Hawaii’s clean energy transition. Many residents – particularly renters, condominium owners, and households in multi-family buildings – remain effectively excluded from rooftop solar due to ownership restrictions, structural limitations, or upfront costs.

Small plug-in solar systems can provide a practical entry point for these households. With a modest capacity cap of 1.2 kilowatts and a primary focus on on-site consumption, these systems can deliver incremental bill savings while empowering residents to participate directly in the clean energy transition.

Every bit of renewable generation helps. Plug-in solar can be part of a broader toolkit that expands participation and access to the benefits of distributed energy resources.

**Safety and Consumer Protection**

As this technology emerges in the United States, it is important that Hawaii’s policy framework prioritize safety and consumer clarity.

National testing laboratories, including UL, are currently developing certification pathways specifically tailored to plug-in photovoltaic systems. HSEA supports requiring that any systems deployed under this bill meet recognized safety certification standards and comply with applicable electrical code requirements. Clear standards will protect consumers, ensure safe installations, and provide confidence to property owners, insurers, and utilities. Because safety



**Hawaii Solar Energy Association**  
*Serving Hawaii Since 1977*

standards for plug-in photovoltaic systems are still developing, HSEA recommends referencing certification under applicable safety standards rather than locking in a specific standard designation at this time. This approach ensures the statute remains durable as technical requirements are updated over time.

In addition, straightforward consumer disclosure requirements can help ensure that customers understand expected savings, operating limitations, and safety considerations.

**Complementary to Rooftop Solar, Storage, and Shared Solar**

Plug-in solar should be viewed as a complementary option, not a substitute for well-designed rooftop solar and energy storage programs that deliver deeper bill savings, resilience benefits, and grid services.

Hawaii's long-term clean energy success depends on strong policies supporting customer-sited solar and storage, fair export compensation structures, and continued progress in grid integration.

Similarly, Community-Based Renewable Energy programs and shared solar initiatives remain essential tools for delivering meaningful, scalable savings to households and businesses that cannot host systems on-site. Strengthening and improving these programs should continue to be a priority to ensure broad access and durable bill savings across the State.

HB2486 adds another pathway for participation. It does not replace the need for robust DER policies and effective shared solar programs.

**Conclusion**

HSEA supports HB2486 as a measured step toward expanding access to renewable energy, provided it is implemented with appropriate safety standards and consumer protections.

We respectfully urge the Committee to advance HB2486.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

/S/ Rocky Mould  
Executive Director



To: The House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce (CPC)  
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org  
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2026, 2pm

**In strong support of HB2486 HD1 with suggested amendments**

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and members of the CPC 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 HB2486 HD1**, which defines and provides requirements for the use of a portable solar generation device.

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 in 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. Plug-in solar is simple and safe, including safety features that automatically shut down during power outages to protect utility workers from hazardous, live wires.

**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.

**While we strongly support HB 2486 HD1, we respectfully recommend two important amendments:**

First, to further strengthen this measure, **we recommend the Committee remove requirements for the customer to register the product with the Public Service Commission (PUC).** This requirement undermines the intent for plug-in solar, adding an unnecessary hurdle to consumers. While we greatly appreciate the stated intent for including this provision in the measure (i.e. to address and ensure safety for utility workers), plug-in solar systems are designed with safety features that prevent electricity from backfeeding into the grid during a power outage, protecting utility workers from hazardous, live wires. In addition, to ensure safety in residential, plug-and-play scenarios, plug-in solar systems are subject to rigorous safety standards to mitigate risks of electrical shock, fire, and structural failure. It is important not to impose bureaucratic hurdles and delays on small, safe, consumer-friendly products designed for simplicity. Plug-in solar is meant to avoid additional administrative burdens to the PUC, and is designed to allow residents to simply plug panels into a standard wall outlet, and thereby help to cut through red tape as a means to democratize access to clean energy and lower electric bills.

Second, it is important to note that this technology is ever evolving and it is common for Underwriters Laboratories (UL) to regularly review and revise safety standards. As HB2486 HD1 is currently written, if new standards are released, this would require the legislature to pass new legislation to update the statute. Therefore, to still reference UL and ensure plug-in solar products used meet the latest safety standards, while also providing flexibility and preventing this measure from quickly becoming obsolete, **we strongly recommend that the text on page 6 lines 1-5 be amended to read as follows:**

*(5) Is certified by Underwriters Laboratories or an equivalent nationally recognized testing laboratory.*

Achieving our climate goals while facilitating a Just Transition requires leaving no one behind. That includes efforts such as enabling portable solar, which is meant to help 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 HB2486 HD1 with the requested amendments.** Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sherry Pollack  
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 1:45:25 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>    |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Dave Mulinix        | Greenpeace Hawaii   | Support                   | Remotely Via Zoom |

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair & CPC Committee Members,

My name is Dave Mulinix, Co-Founder & Hawaii State Representative of Greenpeace Hawaii. On behalf of our thousands of members and supporters in the state of Hawaii we stand in **STRONG SUPPORT**, with amendments, of HB2486 HD1, that defines and provides requirements for the use of a portable solar generation device. Requires each portable solar generation device to be registered with the Public Utilities Commission. Provides that electric utility companies are not liable for any damage or injury caused by a portable solar generation device. Requires the Public Utilities Commission to establish and maintain an online system for registering a portable solar generation device, at no cost to the customer.

While we strongly support HB2486 HD1, we respectfully recommend two important amendments:

First, to further strengthen this measure, we recommend the Committee remove requirements for the customer to register the product with the Public Service Commission (PUC). This requirement undermines the intent for plug-in solar, adding an unnecessary hurdle to consumers. While we greatly appreciate the stated intent for including this provision in the measure (i.e. to address and ensure safety for utility workers), plug-in solar systems are designed with safety features that prevent electricity from backfeeding into the grid during a power outage, protecting utility workers from hazardous, live wires. In addition, to ensure safety in residential, plug-and-play scenarios, plug-in solar systems are subject to rigorous safety standards to mitigate risks of electrical shock, fire, and structural failure. It is important not to impose bureaucratic hurdles and delays on small, safe, consumer-friendly products designed for simplicity. Plug-in solar is meant to avoid additional administrative burdens to the PUC, and is designed to allow residents to simply plug panels into a standard wall outlet, and thereby help to cut through red tape as a means to democratize access to clean energy and lower electric bills.

Second, it is important to note that this technology is ever evolving and it is common for Underwriters Laboratories (UL) to regularly review and revise safety standards. As HB2486 HD1 is currently written, if new standards are released, this would require the legislature to pass new legislation to update the statute. Therefore, to still reference UL and ensure plug-in solar products used meet the latest safety standards, while also providing flexibility and preventing this measure from quickly becoming obsolete, we strongly recommend that the text on page 6

lines 1-5 be amended to read as follows: *(5) Is certified by Underwriters Laboratories or an equivalent nationally recognized testing laboratory.*

In order for this legislation to have the greatest impact in expanding clean, renewable energy, we encourage the committee to remove unnecessary registration and reporting requirements to the PUC that places a needless barriers on customers being able to install plug-in solar.

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 here in Hawaii if we are serious about making energy more affordable for local residents.

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 due to the use of fossil fuels with increasing receding shorelines, 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. The international scientific community is united in asserting that the most efficient way to address the growing Climate Crisis is to reduce our carbon emissions, and multiple studies have shown that the most effective and economic way to reduce carbon emissions is through the use of solar panels. HB2486 HD1 is an excellent step in the right direction to help Hawaii reduce our carbon emissions, protect our environment, and do our part to help mitigate 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. To address this issue HB2486 HD1 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!

\* 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.

Achieving our climate goals while facilitating a Just Transition requires leaving no one behind. That includes efforts such as enabling portable solar, which is meant to help 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 HB2486 HD1 with the requested amendments, because it is a very good, affordable, and simple step in the right direction to help reduce residents utility costs, cut Hawaii's carbon emissions to meet the state's zero emissions goal, and address the growing Climate Crisis.

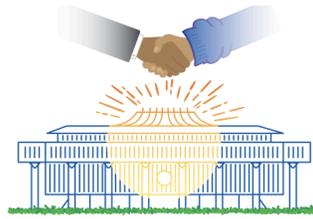
Mahalo

Dave Mulinix

Co-Founder & Hawaii State Representative

Greenpeace Hawaii

**LATE**



**CLIMATE FUTURE FORUM**

Date: February 23, 2026  
To: Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair  
Representative Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce (CPC)  
From: Climate Future Forum  
Re: **SUPPORT for HB2486 HD1**  
Hearing: 02/24/2026, Tuesday, 2:00 PM

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As a youth leader of Climate Future Forum (CFF), I thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of HB2486 HD1**, on behalf of CFF. The Climate Future Forum empowers youth (ages 14-26) to actively engage in shaping and advocating for climate policy and legislation. This bill represents a crucial step toward meeting Hawaii's clean energy goals while ensuring the transition is equitable and economically sound.

As a 16-year-old resident, this bill is deeply personal to me because climate change is directly threatening my future and has already impacted my life. Growing up in California, I experienced firsthand how the climate crisis is making natural disasters more severe and frequent. The increasing temperatures and prolonged droughts have created dangerously dry conditions, turning chaparrals into tinderboxes. Dead vegetation accumulates while living plants lose moisture, creating perfect conditions for fires to ignite and spread rapidly. In 2021, my family had to evacuate our home due to an approaching wildfire – an experience that brought the reality of climate change into sharp focus. Now living in Hawaii, I see different but equally concerning impacts of climate change, from coral bleaching to coastal erosion. This isn't just about abstract future threats – climate change is already reshaping my life and the lives of young people everywhere. We need bold action like HB 2486 HD1 to ensure my generation has the opportunity for a stable and sustainable future.

HB2486 HD1 expands access to affordable solar energy for people living in apartments and condominiums, helping them lower their electricity bills while supporting Hawaii's clean energy transition. For many years, solar power has been largely inaccessible to residents who do not own a rooftop, leaving a significant portion of the population unable to participate.

**LATE**

Balcony solar is designed to be simple, compact, and affordable. Lightweight panels can be mounted on lanai railings, and a typical setup costs roughly \$2,000. With potential annual savings of up to \$800, many households can recover their investment within just a few years. Optional battery storage can also be added, allowing energy to be used at night and during power outages.

Most importantly, balcony solar helps address Hawai'i's exceptionally high electricity costs. By enabling residents to produce clean power from the sun, this bill reduces household energy expenses while also cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

Hawaii has long been a leader in clean energy and climate action. This thoughtfully designed program would help maintain that leadership while ensuring the benefits are shared fairly across our communities. It represents a balanced approach to one of our most pressing challenges.

By bringing together youth, educators, policymakers, and nonprofits, the Climate Future Forum fosters meaningful dialogue on climate action priorities and provides actionable steps to address climate change in Hawai'i. Through discussions involving over 100 youth, the forum has identified key high-priority areas, including regenerative food systems, climate and the economy, clean energy and transportation, climate justice and equity, and sustainable infrastructure.

Thank you very much for your support of youth engagement in climate policy. We respectfully urge the Committees to pass this bill.

Sincerely,  
Sophia Park  
Youth Leader of Hawai'i Climate Future Forum

**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2026 7:22:04 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b>  | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Johnnie-Mae L. Perry | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support w/comment 2486 HB RELATING TO SOLAR ENERGY.

TAX CREDIT?

REQUIRED LICENSED ELECTRICIAN TO INSPECT HOMES 30 PLUS YEARS OLD.

LENGTH OF YEARS OF LIFE ON THE UNIT?

**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2026 9:21:44 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cory Harden         | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

Please support HB 2486 HD 1 for plug-in solar, and make solar electric available to the people who need it most--renters and people with lower incomes. This lowers people's bills, protects people from blackouts, and increases clean energy.

Mahalo,

Cory Harden, Hilo

**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2026 9:43:32 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Cheryl Ho           | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Chair Matayoshi; Vice Chair Grandinetti; Members of the Consumer Protection and Commerce Committee:

I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2486 HD1.

It is amazing to me that there is such a thing as portable device ("plug-in") capable of generating solar energy!! Yet, such a device has been used in other states, with much success. For instance, 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 Hawai'i more affordable for residents, protecting our environment, and doing our part to help mitigate the climate crisis.

Let's do this!!

Mahalo nui for passing HB2486 HD1!!

Cheryl Ho, Nu'uaniu

**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2026 9:44:13 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Benjamin Narwold    | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Everyone in Hawai‘i 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-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2026 11:11:58 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By    | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| B.A. McClintock | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

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 Hawai‘i — 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 Hawai‘i more affordable for residents, protecting our environment, and doing our part to help mitigate the climate crisis.

-- Everyone in Hawai‘i 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.*

**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 4:35:06 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Christy Shaver      | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christy Shaver, and I am writing in strong support of HB2486 HD1, which defines and provides requirements for the use of portable plug-in solar generation devices.

Electricity rates in Hawai‘i are the highest in the nation, and they continue to rise. For many households — especially kupuna on fixed incomes, renters, and working families — these costs are not abstract. They are a monthly stressor that affects decisions about food, health, transportation, and overall stability.

While rooftop solar has helped many homeowners reduce their bills, it remains out of reach for thousands of residents. The upfront installation costs are significant. Renters cannot install systems. Many residents live in high-rise buildings or have roofs that are shaded, shared, or structurally unsuitable. In practice, the clean energy transition has left out precisely the communities who most need relief.

Plug-in solar represents a practical, safe, and affordable solution. These small systems can simply plug into a standard outlet and begin offsetting household electricity use. They lower the barrier to entry. They create immediate savings. And they provide a measure of resilience in times of grid disruption.

HB2486 HD1 is a common-sense measure. It removes unnecessary red tape and exempts small plug-in systems from regulatory frameworks designed for much larger rooftop arrays. By modernizing outdated policies, this bill allows innovation to reach everyday families.

In 2025, Utah passed similar legislation, and it was cost-neutral for state and local budgets. Following passage, plug-in solar system costs dropped significantly. Hawai‘i can follow that example and help accelerate affordability and access here at home.

This measure is especially important in a time of increasing climate impacts and economic uncertainty. Energy resilience is not just about large-scale infrastructure. It is also about empowering households with tools that reduce monthly expenses and increase self-sufficiency.

Plug-in solar democratizes access to clean energy. It gives renters and low-to-moderate income families a way to participate in the clean energy transition. It supports kupuna trying to stretch fixed incomes. It provides relief at a time when every dollar matters.

HB2486 HD1 is a win for affordability, resilience, and climate responsibility.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB2486 HD1.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Christy Shaver

**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 6:34:53 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Stephen Holmes      | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Plug in solar is a huge opportunity to reduce energy bills for homeowners and renters alike. It is a very competitive marketplace and prices are dropping. It places solar where the demand is shedding loads off the grid while moving us closer to our goal of 100% renewable energy.

it is used extensively in Europe and moving into other markets quickly.

With basics requirements, these systems can be easily installed while protecting against export. Paired with battery storage, they can shed loads during peak demand.

I urge your support.

Steve Holmes

'former U.S. Department of Energy National Energy Champion

**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 7:33:22 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| David Ball          | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I support this legislation.

David Ball

Waiialae-Kahala

**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 8:54:13 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Melissa Barker      | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Honorable Members,

Please support HB2846 HD1.

Thank you,

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 9:02:20 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ruta Jordans        | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Please support. This bill is taking Hawaii into the 21st century, giving individuals and families a chance to be in charge of their energy in a topsy-turvy world.

**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 9:35:23 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Virginia Tincher    | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and members of the House Consumer Protection & Commerce Committee:

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.

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.

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 Tincher

Honolulu

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and members of the House Consumer Protection & Commerce Committee:

I strongly support HB2486 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-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 11:45:23 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Christine Daleiden  | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and members of the House Consumer Protection & Commerce Committee:

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.

Christine Daleiden

**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 11:53:28 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Caroline Azelski    | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

In support of. Thank you.

**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 11:58:13 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jonathan Simonds    | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Please support HB2486 for a common sense way to decrease our fossil energy consumption.

**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 12:04:38 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Bobbie Best         | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

As a condo dweller I encourage this bill. Anything to lower electricity costs and lower emissions is welcome.

Mahalo for passing balcony solar

Bobbie Best, Wailuku Maui

**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 1:12:28 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Buck Joiner         | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I strongly support balcony PV Solar. I have had PV panels on my home for 20 years, and I support the same option for apartment dwellers.

Buck Joiner

Kihei, Maui

**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 1:20:42 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| TOM DIGRAZIA        | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Strongly support!!

**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 2:14:21 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Kathy Shimata       | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

My name is Kathy Shimata & I live in Honolulu. I strongly support any & all means to allow more people to use solar energy.

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.

Please support HB2486.

Mahalo,

Kathy Shimata

**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 3:12:55 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By   | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Mary Lu Kelley | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and members of the House Consumer Protection & Commerce Committee:

**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.

Thank you. Do the right thing!

Mary Lu Kelley

Koloa, Kauai

**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 3:39:08 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Ruth Robison        | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

To: Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and members of the House Consumer Protection & Commerce Committee:

From: Ruth Robison

This is testimony in strong support of HB2486 HD1. I have lived in Hilo since 1982. I am lucky enough to own my own home and have 17 solar panels on my roof. I support efforts to enable other people who live in condos or apartments, or who rent their homes, to reduce the cost of their electricity through solar energy. Balcony solar allows these people to take advantage of solar energy using a safe plug-in device that operates through a standard wall outlet.

Hawai`i legislators say that “affordability” is one of their highest priorities this session. HB2486 gives people a way to reduce their electricity bills while helping the state meet its clean energy goals.

Balcony solar is simple and affordable. Its compact, lightweight solar panels can be attached to lanai railings. I understand that a 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.

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 makes living in Hawai`i more affordable.

I respectfully urge the committee to pass this bill.

Thank you for your service to the people of Hawai`i.

**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 4:00:17 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By   | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Brodie Lockard | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

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. **But red tape is holding us back.** Currently Utah is the only state in America to legalize plug-in solar. That's why we need to PASS HB2486 HD1!

**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 4:25:30 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Katherine Fryer     | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly support HB2486, which would legalize and define requirements for portable solar energy systems.

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-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 4:35:54 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By   | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Bridget Llanes | +350 Hawaii  | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

Many thanks for the opportunity to wrtie on this important topic.

-- 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 Hawai‘i — 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 Hawai‘i more affordable for residents, protecting our environment, and doing our part to help mitigate the climate crisis.

-- Everyone in Hawai‘i 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 nui loa for for your consideration,*

*Bridget Llanes*



**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 4:56:16 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b>    | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Cris and Eric Lindborg | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. It facilitates a practical, affordable way to for individuals and families to reduce electricity bills while helping Hawaii transition to a clean energy future.

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. I would support even more strongly a revised bill that would not limit implementation to apartments and condominiums.

**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 5:00:02 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Douglas Perrine     | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

HB2486 will allow Hawaii residents to experience the benefits currently enjoyed by residents of Utah and Germany and other European countries to use affordable clean solar energy to lower their electric bills without regulatory expenses and encumbrances that are entirely unnecessary for small low-output devices, as specified. This will extend the benefits of clean, low-cost energy to renters and low-income residents, as well as helping Hawaii along toward its carbon-neutral goal (which we are not likely to achieve on schedule in our current trajectory). This bill will produce only winners and no losers. I strongly support HB2486.

**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 10:21:57 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lana Brodziak       | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Please pass this bill!

Having the option to utilize a plug-in solar system would allow so many more people to save money on thier utility bills and help meet our State's clean energy goals.

I want a plug-in solar system!!

What could posibly be the drawback to passing this bill?

It only helps citizen's struggling to pay bills reduce costs.

Mahalo for considering my request for this bill to be passed!

**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 11:34:47 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Sandy Shiner        | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and members of the House Consumer Protection & Commerce Committee:

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!

Sandy Shiner, Wailuku, Maui

**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 9:06:04 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members!

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 Hawai‘i — 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 Hawai‘i more affordable for residents, protecting our environment, and doing our part to help mitigate the climate crisis.

Everyone in Hawai‘i 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-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 9:26:57 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Regina Gregory      | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

support

**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 12:57:58 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Sarah Barbour       | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

We get a lot of sun here, and energy costs are exorbitant. HECO frequently has outages even here on Oahu. Citizens should be able to use plug in solar generators without having to pay or get HECO's permission. We should definitely make sure that this is safe before we do so, but I currently see no reason why we shouldn't be allowed to.

**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 2:51:54 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| David Dinner        | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

This can be a game changer. If even a small percentage of renters purchase these. The difference will be immense. Please pass.

**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 3:13:28 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Shannon Rudolph     | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Support

**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 4:06:56 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Ronald "Ron" Reilly | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Dear Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and members of the House Consumer Protection & Commerce Committee:

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.

Thank you for your consideration, Ron Reilly, Volcano Village

**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 6:56:42 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kitty Calhoun       | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and members of the House Consumer Protection & Commerce Committee,

I strongly support this bill because it makes access to solar power so much easier to access, as it reduces the cost and bureaucracy normally associated with adding solar. It will address the challenge of Hawaii having the highest residential electricity rates in the country and it will cut greenhouse gas emissions. I respectfully urge you to pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Kitty Calhoun, Kekaha

**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 7:30:34 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Diane Ware          | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and members of the House Consumer Protection & Commerce Committee:

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!

Diane Ware

## SUPPORTING HB2486 HD1

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
HB2486 HD1 Hearing on Feb. 24, 2026 at 2:00 pm  
Conference Room 329 and videoconference

My name is John Kawamoto, and I support this bill.

Hawai'i residents pay the highest electricity rates in the nation. For many families, monthly electric bills strain tight household budgets. For decades, rooftop solar has offered a way to reduce those bills, but for the half a million people who live in condominiums and apartments, rooftop solar simply isn't an option. As a result, they have been locked out of meaningful savings on electricity costs.

This bill would enable apartment and condo residents to install a new technology, known as balcony solar, to cut their electric bills. This legislation would create clear safety standards and a simple approval process so residents can install small, affordable solar systems on their lanais or anywhere else that gets sunlight.

Balcony solar systems use lightweight photovoltaic panels designed specifically for apartments and condos. They can be mounted on lanai railings or placed in other sunny areas and plugged directly into a standard wall outlet. Despite their compact size, these systems can generate enough electricity to power everyday household devices such as televisions, computers, lights, and even refrigerators. Many households would enjoy hundreds of dollars in annual savings on their electric bills.

More than a million balcony solar systems are already in use in Germany, where apartment living is common and electricity prices are high. Utah recently passed legislation to allow balcony solar, and more than 20 other states are considering similar measures. With our abundant sunshine and extremely high electricity rates, our state stands to benefit more than almost anywhere else.

Affordability is one of balcony solar's biggest advantages. A typical system costs about \$2,000 and can pay for itself in just a few years through electricity savings that can reach \$800 annually. Optional battery storage can further increase savings by allowing households to store solar energy for nighttime use and during power outages. As battery prices continue to fall, this option is becoming increasingly practical.

Balcony solar systems are also easy to use. Power from the panels flows through a small inverter that converts it into the alternating current used by household appliances. Installation is straightforward and typically requires only minimal assistance from a licensed electrician.

Unfortunately, current Hawai'i law treats even these small plug-in systems as full-scale rooftop solar installations, forcing residents to navigate complex utility interconnection

requirements that were never designed for compact systems. This regulatory mismatch blocks families from lowering their electricity bills, and this bill fixes the problem.

This bill strikes a smart balance between affordability and safety. It exempts small balcony systems from unnecessary red tape while maintaining strict safety standards. Systems must be certified by Underwriters Laboratories or equivalent organizations and must automatically shut down during power outages to protect utility workers who are working on the grid.

At a time when families are struggling with rising costs, balcony solar offers a simple, proven way to reduce electricity bills, increase energy independence, and make clean energy accessible to everyone — not just those with access to roofs.

For a cleaner energy future for Hawai'i, and to reduce energy costs, I urge you to pass this bill.

**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 8:48:44 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Carolyn Eaton       | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Carolyn Eaton. I am a resident of an Oahu condo. I am extremely happy to urge your support of this measure. It will enable a high rise resident like myself finally to participate in producing newable energy for household use. Surely there are thousands of others eager for this opportunity.

Mahalo for your consideration of my heartfelt testimony and for your hard work to improve the quality and affordability of life in Hawai'i.

**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 9:41:50 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| John Fitzpatrick    | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in **strong support of HB 2486**. This measure is a forward-thinking step toward more accessible renewable energy in Hawai‘i.

By defining and providing requirements for portable solar generation devices, this bill allows renters and residents who cannot install permanent rooftop solar to participate in our state’s clean energy goals. The requirement for a no-cost registration system with the PUC ensures that these devices are tracked for safety and grid stability without placing a financial burden on the consumer.

Furthermore, providing liability protection for electric utility companies removes a significant hurdle to the adoption of these innovative technologies. I urge the committee to pass this bill to help make solar energy accessible to all Hawaii residents, regardless of their housing situation.

As a renter, this would give me the ability to invest in plug in play solar and reduce my electric bill while reducing my personal carbon footprint.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Fitz

**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 9:47:30 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Victoria Anderson   | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Plug-in solar is a common sense, clean energy solution. Please pass this bill.

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice-Chair Grandinetti, and members of the House Consumer Protection & Commerce Committee:

I'm writing in **strong support** of HB2486 HD1. This bill would exempt small scale plug-in solar units from interconnection and net metering requirements. This bill is a triple win as it helps with affordability, equity, and energy independence.

**Affordability:** Plug-in (balcony) solar units cost between \$500 and \$2,000 depending on the wattage. The payback for these units 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.

**Energy Independence:** The use of balcony solar to generate electricity would lead to a reduction in the demand for imported energy because generation from balcony solar would displace some fossil fueled electricity generation.

Please pass HB2486 HD1 out of your committee as an important step in lowering people's energy bills, improving equity, and reducing the state's energy dependence.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,  
Paul Bernstein  
Honolulu, O'ahu

**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:17:18 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Nanea Lo            | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Hello Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nanea Lo, and I am writing in strong support of HB2486 HD1.

Electricity prices in Hawai‘i are the highest in the nation and continue to rise, placing an increasing burden on households across our state. While rooftop solar has helped many families lower their energy costs, the reality is that upfront installation expenses, homeownership requirements, unsuitable roofs, and high-rise living place traditional solar out of reach for thousands of residents. Renters, low-to-moderate income households, and kupuna on fixed incomes are too often left behind.

Plug-in solar offers a simple, safe, and affordable solution. These small systems can be plugged directly into a standard wall outlet, helping offset everyday electricity use without costly installations or structural modifications. Plug-in solar democratizes access to clean energy by allowing more people to participate in Hawai‘i’s renewable energy transition and benefit from lower monthly bills and increased household resilience.

Unfortunately, outdated regulations and unnecessary red tape currently prevent residents from accessing this common-sense solution. HB2486 HD1 removes those barriers by exempting small plug-in systems from rules designed for much larger solar arrays, while maintaining safety standards. This measure is cost-neutral for government budgets and has already proven effective elsewhere—after similar legislation passed in Utah, plug-in solar system costs dropped significantly within months, expanding affordability and access.

At a time when every dollar matters, especially for kupuna and families struggling with rising costs of living, HB2486 HD1 provides immediate consumer relief while advancing our clean energy and climate goals. This bill is a win-win: it empowers residents with more choice, reduces energy costs, strengthens resilience, and supports Hawai‘i’s commitment to a sustainable future.

I respectfully urge you to pass HB2486 HD1.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, 96826

Sierra Club of Hawai'i Member

Hawai'i Workers Center Board Member

Honolulu Tenants Union Member

350 Hawai'i Member

Carbon Cashback Hawai'i Member

Hawai'i Tax Fairness Coalition Member

**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 11:00:54 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Charles E Cox       | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

I believe we need to quickly move away from burning fossil fuels to help minimize climate change. With this measure, condominium and apartment users can help and reduce their cost for electricity at the same time.

Thank you,

Charles E. Cox

Honolulu

**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 11:52:34 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Thomas Graham       | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce,

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.

Please note that the bill appears to have a typo that should be fixed: The exemption from interconnection requirements and reliability standards laid out on page 3, line 20, through page 4, line 1, refers to "section 269-143", but the more relevant section when it comes to interconnection requirements and reliability standards is 269-142.

Mahalo!

Thomas Graham, Honolulu

**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 11:57:16 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Carol Hemington     | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly support this bill for PLUG-IN/BALCONY SOLAR FOR HAWAI'I!. 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 Hawai'i more affordable for residents, protecting our environment, and doing our part to help mitigate the climate crisis. Thank you, Carol Hemington

**LATE**

**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 2:30:29 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>            | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| laurel brier        | Kauai Climate Action Coalition | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Democratize access to clean and affordable energy for those living in rentals or other situations where plug-in solar systems can work. Remove unnecessary barriers to make this more affordable and environmental friendly form of energy available

STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB2486 HD1

**LATE**

**HB-2486-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 6:21:35 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>       |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Rita Ryan           | Individual          | Support                   | Remotely Via<br>Zoom |

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in full support of [HB2486 HD1](#). I am privileged to own my home and generate electricity using my solar array, and charge my electric vehicle for free with solar energy. However, most people in Hawaii are not so fortunate and we need to practice environmental, social, and economic justice by allowing renters and low-income people to choose to produce electricity from the sun and reduce their carbon footprints.

I feel strongly that this is a no-brainer to vote in support of HB2486 HD1. Mahalo for supporting this bill, and for supporting social, economic, and environmental justice.

Rita Ryan,  
registered voter from Makawao, HI