



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
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JOSH GREEN, M.D.
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SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

NADINE Y. ANDO
DIRECTOR | KA LUNA HO'OKELE

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

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Tuesday, February 10, 2026
9:05 a.m.
Via Videoconference**

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

Chair Lowen and Members of the Committee:

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

The purpose of this bill is to: (1) define and provide requirements for the use of a portable solar generation device; (2) require each portable solar generation device to be registered with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission); (3) provide that electric utility companies are not liable for any damage or injury caused by a portable solar generation device; and (4) require the Commission to establish and maintain an online system for registering a portable solar generation device, 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 sufficiency of this standard is an important consideration to help ensure utility customer safety and successful adoption of these portable generation systems.

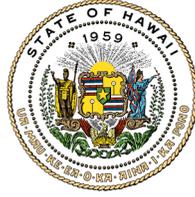
The Department looks forward to hearing more about the experiences of current users of these systems, both in the United States and elsewhere; what issues or barriers

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 | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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

P.O. BOX 621
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BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
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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
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**Tuesday, February 10, 2026
9:05 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

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

House Bill 2486 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

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



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

To the
House Committee on
Energy & Environmental Protection

February 10, 2026
9:05 a.m.

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

Measure: H.B. No. 2486
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.

The Commission agrees that it should be allowed to track the portable solar generation devices. The current inability to track portable solar generation devices may lead to safety issues for utility workers. The Commission 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.

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

Page 4, Line 20 to Page 5 Line 3:

§269- Registration; portable solar generation devices.
The public utilities commission shall establish and maintain an online system for registration of portable

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

Page 6, Line 1 to Line 3:

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



House Energy & Environmental Protection Committee
HB 2486 Hearing on Feb. 10, 2026 at 9:05 am
Conference Room 325 and remote

STRONG SUPPORT

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

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

Carbon Cashback Hawai'i is in strong support of HB 2486.

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

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

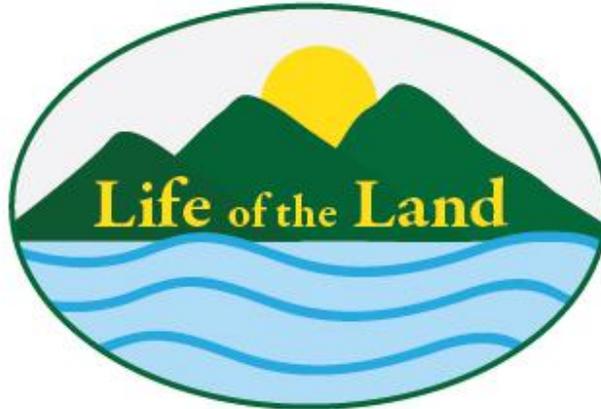
More than a million balcony solar devices are already operating in Germany. Utah recently passed a law creating the regulatory framework needed for widespread adoption. Many other states are considering similar legislation.

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 have an amendment to suggest. Section 2 of the bill exempts portable solar generation devices from interconnection requirements. Such an exemption is crucial to this bill. The bill refers to HRS 269-143 and HRS 269-145. However, there are other interconnection requirements in Part IX of HRS Chapter 269, such as those in HRS 269-142. Instead of referring to particular sections, the bill should be amended to refer to Part IX of HRS Chapter 269 to ensure that the exemption from interconnection requirements is comprehensive.

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

With the suggested amendment, Carbon Cashback Hawaii supports this bill.



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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair

Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, February 10, 2026

TIME: 9:05 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 325

HB 2486 Solar Energy (Portable Solar)

SUPPORT

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

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

Plug-in solar offers an effective way for many residents who have been unable to install rooftop solar. This bill will go a long way in helping the spread the solar transformation to all people.

Henry Curtis
Executive Director

HB-2486

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 4:56:30 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan B Roberts Emery	Green Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and honorable members of committee,

My name is Susan RobertsEmery, as co chair of the Green Party of Hawai'i , we stand in STRONG Support of HB2486. 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 pass this cost-neutral common sense bill , HB2486.

Mahalo,

Susan RobertsEmery

Green Party of Hawai'i

Paauilo



Testimony Before the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

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

Tuesday, February 10, 2026; 9:05 am
Conference Room #325 & Videoconference

House Bill No. 2486 – RELATING TO SOLAR ENERGY

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

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

KIUC wishes to provide comments on this measure.

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

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

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

- **Limit on the number of devices per service location.** While a single portable solar generation device would likely have minimal impact on the grid, having multiple of these installed at a single service location could easily be problematic for both the grid and as a safety concern for members who may want to install multiple devices. Limiting installations to one device per household would be recommended, however, KIUC does appreciate the limit of devices per service location capped at 1,200 watts.
- **Lack of specificity regarding anti-islanding and certification standards.** This bill requires anti-island protection and UL Solutions (formerly Underwriters Laboratories) (UL) certification but does not reference the specific standards that must be met. For reference, KIUC requires inverter settings for interconnection based on the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) 1547/UL 1741 standards, which are subject to change.
- **No notification to the utility.** While it is understandable that the bill seeks to avoid a full interconnection agreement, it would still be important for KIUC to know where the devices are installed on the grid. A possible middle-ground solution would be to require customers to provide notice to KIUC prior to installing a portable solar generation device, without triggering a formal interconnection process.

- **Questions regarding enforcement.** Even if the bill is passed with limits on the number of devices or maximum wattage allowed per household to address safety concerns, enforcement of those limitations would likely be problematic.
- **Eligibility in net energy metering.** 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.

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

Kauai Climate Action Coalition (KCAC) strongly supports 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.

While I and many others in KCAC have installed solar panels on our roofs and, in some cases, battery back-ups, there are many others who have been concerned that they cannot play a part in reducing costs and supporting the transition to renewable energy. KCAC members are not concerned only about themselves but about our entire community.

Although Kauai, through KIUC, has made great progress towards relying on renewable energy, residents still pay high electricity rates. This is particularly true for those who do not own a house and do not have the means to purchase a roof solar array. By empowering residents to produce clean energy from the sun, this bill reduces household electricity costs while cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

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.

Balcony solar is a common-sense, equitable solution that is already working in other places. It benefits families, strengthens energy resilience, and advances Hawaii's climate goals. We urge the committee to pass this bill for the sake of our communities and our planet.

Mahalo!

Helen Cox, Kalaheo

Citizens' Climate Lobby Hawaii
cclhawaii.org



February 8, 2026

STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB2486 - RELATING TO SOLAR ENERGY

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

Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) Hawaii is in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2486, which defines and provides requirements for the use of a portable solar generation device. HB2486 facilitates the adoption and sales of portable solar generation devices by exempting them from 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 help with our grid reliability and 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, thus providing years of energy cost savings for households.

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 out of your committee.

Mahalo nui,

Citizens' Climate Lobby Hawaii

cclhawaii.org

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.

HB-2486

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 11:37:52 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair & EEP Committee Members,

My name is Dave Mulinix, Co-Founder and 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, 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.

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 if we are serious about making Hawaii more affordable for residents, protecting our environment, and doing our part to help mitigate the growing Climate Crisis.

As the Hawaii State Legislature noted in 2021, we are already in a growing Climate Emergency. Here in Hawaii we are currently experiencing the effects of the growing Climate Crisis 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.

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 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.

Please PASS HB2486 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



To: The House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection (EEP)
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026, 9:05am

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

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii is in **strong SUPPORT of HB2486**, 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 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 prevent electricity from backfeeding into the grid during a power outage, protecting 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.

To further strengthen this measure, we respectfully recommend the Committee remove any requirements for the customer to register the product with the Public Service Commission. This requirement undermines the intent for plug-in solar, adding an unnecessary burden to consumers. Plug-in solar is meant 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.

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

Please **PASS HB2486 with the requested amendment**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org



February 9, 2026

Re: EEP hearing of HB 2486 February 10, 2026

Position: Comments only

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

Solar United Neighbors Action ([SUN Action](#)) is a national 501(c)4 nonprofit that represents solar homeowners and everyone who wants to benefit from solar energy. We believe in a fair and equitable energy system with rooftop solar at the cornerstone. But not everyone has a roof or home suitable for rooftop solar. That's why we support balcony solar, also called plug-in solar, which will allow everyone with an electric bill to access the benefits of solar energy. Nearly 40% of Hawai'i residents live in apartments or multi-unit housing, where they cannot take advantage of traditional rooftop solar systems.

We strongly urge your support for HB 2486, that will pave the way for bringing plug-in solar to Hawai'i and meaningfully expand access to solar ownership. This bill will remove unnecessary red tape, including exempting plug-in solar systems from interconnection requirements and net metering agreements. Importantly, HB 2486 also requires plug-in solar systems to meet the latest safety standards, ensuring protections for consumers and lineworkers.

Hawai'i residents have the highest energy costs in the country. Plug-in solar is an easy, affordable solution that can help your constituents reduce their electricity bill. A 1200W balcony solar system can save a Hawai'i family with an average of \$769 per year on their electric bill, with the system paying for itself in approximately two years.

While we enthusiastically support HB 2486, we respectfully request the current bill be amended to remove any requirements for the customer to register the product with their utility and/or Public Service Commission. This frivolous requirement adds an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy that is not required for other



appliances. Thank you for considering this important revision that will keep balcony solar simple, accessible, and affordable for all consumers.

The sun shines everywhere in Hawai'i. We urge you to open the door for more of your constituents to harness the power of the sun with balcony solar. Expanding access to balcony solar is an easy way to begin to address skyrocketing electricity costs and to empower Hawai'i residents to take advantage of it.

Mahalo nui loa,

Erin Hellkamp

Associate Director, National Solar Activist Network & Policy

Solar United Neighbors Action



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

Testimony of the Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) Regarding HB2486, Relating to Solar Energy, Before the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, 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 robust safety requirements.

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

Advancing Affordability and Energy Equity

HB2486 addresses a critical equity gap in Hawaii's clean energy transition. Many residents -- particularly **renters, condominium owners, and households in multi-family buildings** -- are effectively excluded from rooftop solar due to ownership restrictions, structural constraints, or upfront costs.

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

For these reasons, HSEA respectfully urges the Committee to **advance HB2486**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

/S/ Rocky Mould

Executive Director



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

Tuesday, February 10, 2026
9:05AM Conference Room 325

RE: HB2486 - Portable Solar Energy Devices - Support w/concerns

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

On behalf of the Chamber of Sustainable Commerce (CSC), we write in support of HB2486, with some concerns. The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce represents more than 580 small businesses, sole proprietors and entrepreneurs across Hawai'i committed to a triple bottom line: people, planet and prosperity.

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce supports energy policies that prioritize renewable, distributed, and community-based energy systems and provide long-term economic stability for small businesses and working families.

HB2486 establishes a clear statutory framework for the use of portable solar generation devices, also referred to as balcony or plug-in solar. As described in the bill, these devices have lower upfront costs than traditional rooftop solar, can be installed without specialized training, and are particularly advantageous for renters, apartment residents, and small businesses.

The bill recognizes portable solar generation devices as a cost-effective clean energy option, with typical systems costing less than \$2,500 and capable of offsetting household or small business electricity use. In addition, HB2486 exempts portable solar devices from net metering and interconnection requirements, and allows installation without utility approval, fees, or additional equipment beyond what is integrated into the device.

While the Chamber supports the policy direction of HB2486, we respectfully note concerns regarding registration responsibility and equipment certification clarity. The obligation to register a portable solar generation device is on the customer or end user rather than on the

Hawaii Legislative Council Members

Joell Edwards
Wainiha Country Market
Hanalei

Russell Ruderman
Island Naturals
Hilo/Kona

Dr. Andrew Johnson
Niko Niko Family Dentistry
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Robert H. Pahia
Hawaii Taro Farm
Wailuku

Maile Meyer
Honolulu

Tina Wildberger
Kihei Ice
Kihei

L. Malu Shizue Miki
Abundant Life Natural Foods
Hilo

Chamber of
Sustainable Commerce
808.445.7606
P.O. Box 22394
Honolulu, HI 96823

manufacturer, distributor, or installer. From a small business and consumer perspective, compliance systems are most effective when responsibility is clearly assigned to the party best positioned to ensure compliance at scale. We encourage consideration of whether the registration process can be structured to minimize administrative burden on individual users.

For clarity and consistent enforcement, we also recommend ensuring that statutory language and implementing rules clearly specify that each component of the device must be UL-certified or certified by an equivalent nationally recognized testing laboratory, to avoid ambiguity for consumers, regulators, and suppliers.

HB2486 advances energy affordability, access, and safety by establishing clear standards for portable solar generation devices. With careful attention to implementation details, this measure can expand clean energy access while minimizing compliance burdens on customers and small businesses.

Respectfully submitted.



HB 2486 Written Testimony

Dear Chair Lowen, and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection. 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.

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.

LATE



SIERRA CLUB
OF HAWAII

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

February 10, 2026

9:05 AM

Conference Room 325

In SUPPORT of HB2486: RELATING TO SOLAR ENERGY

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

On behalf of our more than 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **supports** HB2486, 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.² 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.²

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. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2486

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 3:06:59 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

"Balcony solar" has proven to be safe, effective, wildly popular, and a great way for residents to save on their energy bills across Europe, and in Utah. It only needs this simple enabling legislation to extend clean energy savings to households across Hawaii, including renters and others who are not in a position to purchase larger rooftop solar generation systems. With the greatest solar energy resource in all the 50 states, as well as the highest electric usage rates in the USA, passing HB2486 in Hawaii will provide a financial benefit for our citizens, as well as a benefit to the entire planet and all of humanity by further reducing emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants.

HB-2486

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 5:48:42 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

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 for listening.

HB-2486

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 8:03:18 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Ho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the EEP Committee:

I am testifying in strong support of HB 2486.

We need to facilitate access to renewable solar energy which is as simple and inexpensive as possible. Plug-in solar access seems as simple as we- especially those of us who live in apartment buildings and have limited financial resources- could ask for.

I ask you to please vote Yes on HB2486!

Mahalo,

Cheryl Ho, Nu‘uanu

HB-2486

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 11:21:50 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

In support of. Thank you.

HB-2486

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 2:56:59 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

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

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

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

I respectfully urge the committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo!

Thomas Graham, Honolulu

HB-2486

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 3:56:16 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 4:10:50 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roger Hamada	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB2486.

I am a lifelong Hawaii resident, now retired, who, regrettably, failed to install rooftop solar when incentives were available.

I would like to be able to be able to participate in the clean energy movement and foster Hawaii's commitment to clean energy.

I think plug in solar technology will help me move in this direction. Therefore, I support any steps which advance the adoption of plug-in solar.

Thank you for accepting my testimony.

HB-2486

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 6:22:53 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

HB-2486

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 7:08:17 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

Strong support!

HB-2486

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 7:11:35 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Benjamin Narwold	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. Therefore, I am in support of HB2486.

Mahalo,

Benjamin Narwold, Kapaa, Hawaii

Date: February 7, 2026
Re: **STRONG SUPPORT for HB2486** RELATING TO SOLAR ENERGY
Hearing Date: February 10, 2026 @ 9:05 AM

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

I'm writing in **strong support of HB2486**.

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

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

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

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

Please pass HB2486 out of your committee as an important step in improving affordability, equity, and the environment.

Mahalo nui loa,



Paul Bernstein
Honolulu

HB-2486

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 7:36:38 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

With so many condos and renters this will save individuals, families and in bulk money and fossil fuel use, thus emissions and pollution. PLEASE pass this bill

MAHALO

HB-2486

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 9:28:38 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

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

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 9:40:09 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaymen Laupola	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Jaymen Laupola, Honolulu

HB-2486

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 9:55:21 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

HB-2486

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 7:35:54 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
gail nagasako	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a no-brainer. Why shouldn't condo and apartment owners have the same benefit we house-owners have and be able to help our climate at the same time.

HB-2486

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 9:13:49 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Perruso, and members of the House Energy and Environmental Protection 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 Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i'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 Hawai'i having the highest residential electricity rates in the nation. By empowering residents to produce clean energy from the sun, this bill reduces household electricity costs while cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

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

Mahalo!

Seuta'atia Cochran, Ewa Beach

HB-2486

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 9:51:42 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judith Mills-Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The faster the world can move to solar, the safer we all are. Europeans use balcony solar and it is a way for apartment dwellers to participate in moving to renewable energy.

HB-2486

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 4:43:41 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

Strongly support.

HB-2486

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 5:24:18 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

HB-2486

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 6:38:45 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

From: Ruth Robison

This is testimony in strong support of HB2486. 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

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 7:07:51 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Morin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT FOR HB2486 (RELATING TO SOLAR ENERGY)

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Perruso, and members of the Committee,

I'm a long-time advocate for sustainable energy in Hawaii. I support HB2486, which “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.”

HB2486 extends access to solar energy to Hawaii's 40% of residents living in condominiums and apartments, who are currently excluded from rooftop photovoltaic systems and the opportunity to benefit from local solar energy production.

This bill enables the adoption of "balcony solar systems," plug-in devices that may be installed in lanais and connect through standard wall outlets. These systems cost roughly \$2,000 and can generate \$600-800 annually in electricity savings, allowing a payback in just a few years. This is a practical solution for households that would otherwise not be able to benefit from solar energy solutions. This technology is widely deployed in Germany and is slowly taking hold in the US. (Utah allows this technology.)

I respectfully urge the committee to pass HB2486.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

[Noel Morin](#)

Climate, Sustainability, and Resilience Advocate

Hilo, Hawaii

HB-2486

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 4:23:43 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Conley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Megan Conley, Nu'uauu

HB-2486

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:14:29 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Barker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members,

Please support HB2486 which would which will create the regulatory framework needed to make it easy for people who live in condos and apartments to install on their lanais an affordable, compact photovoltaic system that reduces electricity bills and reduces their carbon footprint.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

HB-2486

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:34:08 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Browne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in favor of this legislation!

HB-2486

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:33:53 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Nandoskar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support!

HB-2486

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 3:06:30 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen Roberts	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Sincerely,

Kathleen Roberts

LATE

HB-2486

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 7:14:38 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2026 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacey Alapai	Individual	Comments	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Stacey Alapai and I am a Maui resident and co-founder of the #PowerBack Project, the Second Life Solar and Battery Project, and the Upcountry Energy Resilience Project. We have done a lot of real-world tests of the EcoFlow brand of "plug and play" batteries with Secondlife Solar panels that would otherwise be stored in a warehouse or sent to the continent for disposal.

While I support and agree with the conclusions made in Section 1 of HB2486 and the safety/liability language to ensure these devices aren't energizing systems that have been de-energized for safety reasons, I have some concerns about Section 2. What is the purpose and intent of requiring registration for the devices with the PUC? This section seems like it could be a deterrent to implementing this crucial technology since gas powered generators are not currently required to be registered and are completely untracked in relation to our mandate for 100% Clean Energy by 2045. I support better data tracking of all types of generators so we can make informed decisions about our energy future. During a PSPS we have no idea how many or what type of generators are running in our neighborhoods. If you decide to enact a requirement to register solar generators, I ask that the same be required of gas generators too. Either way, this new registration system should not be an obstacle to accessing this.

Mahalo,

Stacey Alapai, Maui