

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
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CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

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

Before the Senate Committees on
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
and
ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Tuesday, February 10, 2026
3:05 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2352
RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

Senate Bill 2352 proposes to require government entities in the State that issue building permits to establish a self-certification process for behind-the-meter, customer-sited solar distributed energy resource systems that deems permit applications approved and allows applicants to proceed to build solar distributed energy resource systems immediately. This bill also proposes to require government entities in the State that issue building permits to develop guidance for determining specific conditions when a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) -mandated No-Rise Certification is not required for a solar distributed energy resource system located in a regulatory floodway. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent of this measure and offers the following comments.**

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

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



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

To the
Senate Committees on
Energy & Intergovernmental Affairs
and
Government Operations

February 10, 2026
3:05 p.m.

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

Measure: S.B. No. 2352
Title: RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.

Position:

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

Comments:

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Testimony Before the Senate Committee on Government Operations
and Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs

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; 3:05 pm
Conference Room #225 & Videoconference

Senate Bill No. 2352 – RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

To the Honorable Chairs Angus L.K. McKelvey and Glenn Wakai , Vice Chairs Mike Gabbard and Stanley Chang, and Members of the Committees:

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 opposes 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 streamline permitting for residential and commercial solar and energy storage systems by requiring a self-certification process that allows immediate construction. In general, KIUC supports providing a variety of options for managing energy use to our members.

KIUC supports the continued expansion of customer-sited solar and energy storage systems and recognizes their important role in helping Hawai'i achieve its renewable energy and greenhouse gas reduction goals. KIUC has a strong track record of facilitating the interconnection of distributed energy resources (DERs) while maintaining system reliability, safety, and resilience. SB 2352 raises significant concerns related to public safety, grid integration, and the erosion of appropriate local permitting authority.

SB 2352 would require government entities to establish a self-certification process that deems certain building permit applications approved immediately, allowing construction to proceed without prior review by the applicable permitting authority. While streamlining permitting can be beneficial, mandatory self-certification removes a critical layer of independent oversight that helps ensure compliance with building codes, electrical standards, and site-specific safety considerations. This would also eliminate KIUC's need to review and approve of systems connecting to its grid, which is currently standard practice and required by the County of Kaua'i before a permit is issued.

From a utility operations perspective, adequate permitting review plays an important role in ensuring that customer-sited solar and energy storage systems are designed and installed in a manner that supports safe and reliable grid integration. Improperly designed or installed DER systems can result in voltage regulation issues, reverse power flow, protection coordination challenges, islanding risks, and equipment overloading—particularly

on small, isolated island grids such as Kaua'i's. These impacts are often location-specific and may not be fully addressed through standardized self-certification alone.

In addition, the growing penetration of inverter-based resources requires careful coordination to ensure compliance with interconnection requirements, including ride-through settings, anti-islanding protections, communications capabilities, and compatibility with advanced grid management systems. Insufficient review at the permitting stage increases the likelihood of downstream corrections, delays in interconnection approval, or operational constraints that ultimately affect both the utility and other customers.

SB 2352 imposes a one-size-fits-all mandate on counties, limiting their ability to tailor permitting processes to local conditions, staffing capabilities, hazard profiles, and grid configurations. Counties and utilities are best positioned to balance efficiency with safety and reliability, and their discretion should not be constrained by statutory requirements that eliminate meaningful review.

Aside from these concerns, KIUC's interconnection and utility service upgrade process has been designed to be as streamlined and "user friendly" as possible. When the applicant provides all necessary information and materials up front, the process can usually be completed within 30 days. This process ensures that KIUC can thoroughly review application materials and electrical drawings to ensure that the system can safely be connected to the grid. While extended timelines for approvals and application processing delays may be routine on O'ahu, that is not the case on Kaua'i.

If this bill is to be approved, KIUC would like to respectfully ask that this bill not apply to a member-owned electric cooperative as it could have a potentially significant impact on our relatively small grid. We offer the following amendments for consideration:

Page 6. Line 6: Insert the following:

(e) This section shall not apply to a member owned electric cooperative.

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



To: The Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs (EIG)
and
The Senate Committee on Government Operations (GVO)
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026, 3:05pm

In strong support of SB2352

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

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org is in **strong support of SB2352** which requires government entities in the State that issue building permits to establish a self-certification process for behind-the-meter, customer-sited solar distributed energy resource systems that deems permit applications approved and allows applicants to proceed to build solar distributed energy resource system immediately. This measure further requires government entities in the State that issue building permits to develop guidance for determining specific conditions when a Federal Emergency Management Agency-mandated No-Rise Certification is not required for a solar distributed energy resource system located in a regulatory floodway.

SB2352 addresses permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. This bill offers common-sense measures that will streamline solar permitting **without compromising on safety**. Addressing these permitting issues is essential if Hawaii is to achieve its decarbonization goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.

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

With the highest electrical rates in the country and the impacts of climate change already being felt, we need to move forward on smart solutions that will help to stimulate our economy and make us more resilient. The current system for processing permits is untenable and a detriment to Hawaii achieving our clean energy goals. This measure will remove unnecessary barriers and move us to the clean-energy economy we need.

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

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org



ENERGY ADVISORS

February 9, 2026

SUPPORT of SB2352

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

I am writing in strong support of SB2352, which would streamline permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage systems through a self-certification pathway.

Lengthy permitting timelines add real costs to projects and make it harder for Hawaii residents and businesses to invest in clean energy, especially as federal incentives are being reduced. SB2352 is a practical, common-sense reform that lowers soft costs while maintaining safety, professional accountability, and full compliance with applicable codes and floodplain requirements.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass SB2352.

Mahalo for your leadership.

Respectfully,



Anthony Amendola
President/CEO

(808) 688 3216 (480) 510 9197

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energyadvisorshawaii.com

"Making Sustainability Profitable"

Energy Advisors provides turn-key building improvement solutions through the development and funding of renewable energy, energy efficiency, EV Charging, and capital improvements in Hawai'i.



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

Testimony of the Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) Regarding SB2352, Relating to Renewable Energy, Before the Senate Committees on Government Operations and Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Aloha Chairs McKelvey and Wakai, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Chang, and committee members,

The Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) **strongly supports SB2352**, which reduces administrative barriers to the deployment of customer-sited solar and energy storage systems by establishing a permitting self-certification framework and by providing critical clarity regarding the application of FEMA No-Rise Certification requirements in regulatory floodways.

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

SB2352 is an updated and improved version of a self-certification bill considered last year. Importantly, it incorporates **key refinements developed in consultation with Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) staff**, Hawaii's designated administrator of the State's floodplain management program under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). These updates directly address concerns raised last session while preserving full compliance with federal, state, and county floodplain requirements.

Addressing Permitting Barriers to Achieve Hawaii's Clean Energy Goals

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

SB2352 provides a pragmatic solution by requiring permitting authorities to establish a **self-certification pathway** for behind-the-meter, customer-sited solar and energy storage systems, allowing qualified projects to proceed immediately while maintaining strong professional accountability and code compliance.



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
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Lowering Costs While Maintaining Safety and Accountability

By allowing self-certification by **duly licensed design professionals**, SB2352 significantly reduces administrative burdens without sacrificing public health or safety. The bill includes multiple guardrails, including:

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

These provisions modernize permitting workflows while preserving accountability and transparency.

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

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

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

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

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

The expiration of the federal **Section 25D residential solar tax credit** will materially increase out-of-pocket costs for Hawaii homeowners seeking to invest in rooftop solar and energy



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storage. Reducing non-hardware “soft costs” is one of the most effective tools available at the state and county level to mitigate this impact.

Lengthy permitting timelines, redundant reviews, and administrative uncertainty add real costs to projects through extended labor and remobilization requirements, added financing carry costs, and lost installation capacity. By enabling immediate construction through self-certification and establishing predictable, modernized review processes, SB2352 directly lowers project soft costs, shortens installation timelines, and provides meaningful cost relief to interconnecting residents and businesses while supporting local solar businesses and clean energy jobs.

Clarifying FEMA No-Rise Certification Requirements in Regulatory Floodways

A critical improvement in SB2352 is the requirement that permitting authorities develop **FEMA-accepted guidance** identifying specific conditions under which a **No-Rise Certification is not required** for solar distributed energy resource systems located in regulatory floodways.

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

Conclusion

SB2352 is a carefully balanced, forward-looking measure that removes unnecessary administrative barriers while preserving safety, professional accountability, and full compliance with codes regulations. By reducing soft costs at a time of significant federal policy change, and by incorporating lessons learned from last year in coordination with DLNR, this bill strengthens Hawaii’s ability to deploy rooftop solar and energy storage at the scale and pace required to meet our clean energy, affordability, and resilience goals.

HSEA respectfully urges the Committee to **pass SB2352**.

Sincerely,

/S/ Rocky Mould, Executive Director



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

SB-2352

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:24:51 AM

Testimony for EIG on 2/10/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

I am writing in strong support of SB2352, which would streamline permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage systems through a self-certification pathway.

Lengthy permitting timelines add real costs to projects and make it harder for Hawaii residents and businesses to invest in clean energy, especially as federal incentives are being reduced. SB2352 is a practical, common-sense reform that lowers soft costs while maintaining safety, professional accountability, and full compliance with applicable codes and floodplain requirements.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass SB2352.

Paul Orem - CEO

Photonworks Engineering LLP

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Feb. 10, 2026, 3:05 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol
Conference Room 225 and Videoconference

To: Senate Committee on Government Operations

Sen. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

Sen. Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs

Sen. Glenn Wakai, Chair

Sen. Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

Ted Kefalas, Director of Strategic Campaigns

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2352 — RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

Aloha chair, vice chair and other members of the committees,

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii **supports** [SB2352](#), which would require that each county establish a self-certification process for the approval of certain solar energy systems and change certain flood zone rules for solar energy systems.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ted Kefalas
Director of Strategic Campaigns
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

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

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

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



Legislative Testimony of Sunrun Inc.
Before the GVO-EIG Committee
February 9, 2026

IN SUPPORT of SB2352 – Relating to Renewable Energy

Dear Chairs McKelvey and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Wakai and Chang, and distinguished Members of the Committees on Government Operations and Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs,

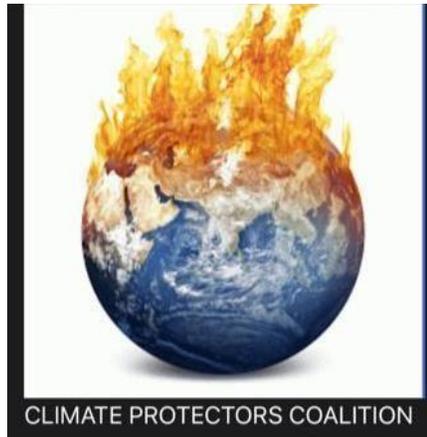
Sunrun is the nation’s leading home solar, battery storage and energy services company, and has a long and proud history in Hawai‘i with office and warehouse locations on O‘ahu, Maui, and Hawai‘i Islands. We directly employ more than 200 professional solar workers across the islands, including sales/marketers,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

Sunrun strongly supports SB2352, which would establish a solar permitting self-certification pathway for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage projects, appropriately maintaining safety and accountability by relying on licensed design professionals and clarifying critical FEMA flood zone requirements. This balanced approach will help reduce delays, lower costs, and support local solar businesses while maintaining full compliance with applicable codes and laws.

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

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

SB2352 would significantly improve the permitting processes for rooftop solar and storage projects, both by establishing a self-certification pathway and clarifying FEMA flood zone requirements. As a national provider of solar, storage, and energy services, Sunrun strongly supports HB1984 and respectfully urges the committee to advance this measure. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this critical legislation.



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

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

Re: Hearing SB2352 RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.

Hearing: Tuesday February 10, 2026 3:05 p.m. CR225

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

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

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB2352!

This bill would require government entities in the State that issue building permits to establish a self-certification process for behind-the-meter, customer-sited solar distributed energy resource systems that deems permit applications approved and allows applicants to proceed to build solar distributed energy resource system immediately. The bill requires government entities in the State that issue building permits to develop guidance for determining specific conditions when a Federal Emergency Management Agency-mandated No-Rise Certification is not required for a solar distributed energy resource system located in a regulatory floodway.

Development of distributed solar power resources must continue to expand to help meet our power needs. This bill would help by streamlining solar permitting with a self-certification process for customer-sited distributed energy resources that will eliminate barriers.

By streamlining distributed solar permitting, this bill will save consumers money, improve the stability of the electricity grid, and reduce the State's greenhouse gas emissions, as will be required to reach the State's net zero legal target by 2045.

Please pass this bill!

Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

SB-2352

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:01:30 AM

Testimony for EIG on 2/10/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

I am writing in strong support of SB2352, which would streamline permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage systems through a self-certification pathway.

Lengthy permitting timelines add real costs to projects and make it harder for Hawaii residents and businesses to invest in clean energy, especially as federal incentives are being reduced. SB2352 is a practical, common-sense reform that lowers soft costs while maintaining safety, professional accountability, and full compliance with applicable codes and floodplain requirements.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass SB2352.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify, Kim Keahiolalo

SB-2352

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:21:14 AM

Testimony for EIG on 2/10/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

I am writing in strong support of SB2352, which would streamline permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage systems through a self-certification pathway.

Lengthy permitting timelines add real costs to projects and make it harder for Hawaii residents and businesses to invest in clean energy, especially as federal incentives are being reduced. SB2352 is a practical, common-sense reform that lowers soft costs while maintaining safety, professional accountability, and full compliance with applicable codes and floodplain requirements.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass SB2352.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Chris Schopen

SB-2352

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:34:57 AM

Testimony for EIG on 2/10/2026 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Saville	Testifying for LegaSea Energy	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in strong support of SB2352, which would streamline permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage systems through a self-certification pathway.

Lengthy permitting timelines add real costs to projects and make it harder for Hawaii residents and businesses to invest in clean energy, especially as federal incentives are being reduced. SB2352 is a practical, common-sense reform that lowers soft costs while maintaining safety, professional accountability, and full compliance with applicable codes and floodplain requirements.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass SB2352.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Scott

SB-2352

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:43:04 PM

Testimony for EIG on 2/10/2026 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julian Kahumana	Testifying for Alternate Energy Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is **Julian Kahumana**, and I am writing on behalf of **Alternate Energy Inc.**, located in Pearl City, to express **strong support** for **S.B. 2352**.

As a local solar company working daily with homeowners, townhome/HOA communities, and small commercial customers, we see firsthand how **permitting delays and inconsistent review processes** can add cost, slow construction schedules, and discourage adoption of solar and energy storage—especially for customers trying to reduce electric bills and improve resilience.

S.B. 2352 makes an important, practical improvement by directing permitting agencies to establish a **self-certification pathway** for qualifying **behind-the-meter, customer-sited solar distributed energy resource systems**. This approach reflects what works in many modern permitting systems: when a project is designed and installed by licensed professionals and meets all applicable codes, the process should be **efficient, predictable, and fast**, while preserving safety and accountability.

In addition, we support the bill’s requirement for permitting agencies to develop **FEMA-accepted guidance** on when a “No-Rise Certification” is not required in regulatory floodways for these systems under defined conditions. Clear, consistent guidance reduces uncertainty for applicants and reviewers while maintaining proper floodplain compliance.

S.B. 2352 supports the public interest by helping Hawai‘i scale distributed renewable energy more quickly—without compromising safety—through a streamlined, professional, and accountable permitting approach.

Mahalo for your consideration, and thank you for your continued leadership on Hawai‘i’s energy future. We respectfully urge you to **pass S.B. 2352**.

Sincerely,

Julian Kahumana
Alternate Energy Inc.
Pearl City, HI 96782

SB-2352

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:13:16 PM

Testimony for EIG on 2/10/2026 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Rudolph	Testifying for Independent Energy	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in strong support of SB2352, which would streamline permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage systems through a self-certification pathway.

Lengthy permitting timelines add real costs to projects and make it harder for Hawaii residents and businesses to invest in clean energy, especially as federal incentives are being reduced. SB2352 is a practical, common-sense reform that lowers soft costs while maintaining safety, professional accountability, and full compliance with applicable codes and floodplain requirements.

By 2030, Hawaii aims to source 70% of its energy from renewable sources, as part of a legally mandated 100% renewable goal by 2045. Key 2030 targets include 50,000+ new distributed renewable energy installations, a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 2005 levels, and 4,300 GWh in energy efficiency savings. How will we get here if we do not act now?

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass SB2352.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

James Rudolph

SB-2352

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:42:33 AM

Testimony for EIG on 2/10/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

I am writing in strong support of SB2352, which would streamline permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage systems through a self-certification pathway.

Lengthy permitting timelines add real costs to projects and make it harder for Hawaii residents and businesses to invest in clean energy, especially as federal incentives are being reduced. SB2352 is a practical, common-sense reform that lowers soft costs while maintaining safety, professional accountability, and full compliance with applicable codes and floodplain requirements.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass SB2352.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Miles Yoshimoto

Project Developer

Alternate Energy Inc.

96-1276 Waihona Street Unit 114

Pearl City HI 96782

SB-2352

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 12:09:42 PM

Testimony for EIG on 2/10/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

I am writing in strong support of SB2352, which would streamline permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage systems through a self-certification pathway.

Lengthy permitting timelines add real costs to projects and make it harder for Hawaii residents and businesses to invest in clean energy, especially as federal incentives are being reduced. SB2352 is a practical, common-sense reform that lowers soft costs while maintaining safety, professional accountability, and full compliance with applicable codes and floodplain requirements.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass SB2352.

Mahalo!

Roy Skaggs

SB-2352

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 12:11:16 PM

Testimony for EIG on 2/10/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

I am writing in strong support of SB2352, which would streamline permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage systems through a self-certification pathway.

Lengthy permitting timelines add real costs to projects and make it harder for Hawaii residents and businesses to invest in clean energy, especially as federal incentives are being reduced. SB2352 is a practical, common-sense reform that lowers soft costs while maintaining safety, professional accountability, and full compliance with applicable codes and floodplain requirements.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass SB2352.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2352

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:24:21 AM

Testimony for EIG on 2/10/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

I am writing in strong support of SB2352, which would streamline permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage systems through a self-certification pathway.

Lengthy permitting timelines add real costs to projects and make it harder for Hawaii residents and businesses to invest in clean energy, especially as federal incentives are being reduced. SB2352 is a practical, common-sense reform that lowers soft costs while maintaining safety, professional accountability, and full compliance with applicable codes and floodplain requirements.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass SB2352.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Thank you,

Radford Nakamura

SB-2352

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:39:35 AM

Testimony for EIG on 2/10/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

My name is Greg Tjapkes (chap-kes), and I have worked in Hawai‘i’s residential solar industry since 2012. SB2352 would streamline permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage through self-certification.

Lengthy permitting timelines raise costs for customers and make clean energy less affordable for local families and small businesses, especially as federal incentives decline. SB2352 lowers soft costs while maintaining safety, accountability, and full code and floodplain compliance—helping everyday Hawai‘i residents better manage the state’s high cost of living.

I respectfully urge passage of SB2352.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2352

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:17:46 PM

Testimony for EIG on 2/10/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

I am writing in strong support of SB2352, which would streamline permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage systems through a self-certification pathway.

Lengthy permitting timelines add real costs to projects and make it harder for Hawaii residents and businesses to invest in clean energy, especially as federal incentives are being reduced. SB2352 is a practical, common-sense reform that lowers soft costs while maintaining safety, professional accountability, and full compliance with applicable codes and floodplain requirements.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass SB2352.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Joshua Powell, AIA, Honolulu

LATE

SB-2352

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 3:37:13 PM

Testimony for EIG on 2/10/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

LATE

SB-2352

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 4:31:20 PM

Testimony for EIG on 2/10/2026 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alan Lennard	Testifying for Alan Lennard	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in strong support of SB2352, which would streamline permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage systems through a self-certification pathway.

Lengthy permitting timelines add real costs to projects and make it harder for Hawaii residents and businesses to invest in clean energy, especially as federal incentives are being reduced. SB2352 is a practical, common-sense reform that lowers soft costs while maintaining safety, professional accountability, and full compliance with applicable codes and floodplain requirements.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass SB2352.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Alan Lennard



SIERRA CLUB
OF HAWAII

LATE

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

February 10, 2026

3:05 PM

Conference Room 225

In SUPPORT of SB2352: RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

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

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS** SB2352, which will help to enhance our islands' climate resiliency by expanding our distributed renewable energy infrastructure in a timely and equitable manner.

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

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

Accordingly, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i respectfully urges the Committees to **PASS** SB2352. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

SB-2352

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 6:38:50 AM

Testimony for EIG on 2/10/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

I am writing in strong support of SB2352, which would streamline permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage systems through a self-certification pathway.

Lengthy permitting timelines add real costs to projects and make it harder for Hawaii residents and businesses to invest in clean energy, especially as federal incentives are being reduced. SB2352 is a practical, common-sense reform that lowers soft costs while maintaining safety, professional accountability, and full compliance with applicable codes and floodplain requirements.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass SB2352.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify

LATE

Testimony of the Contractors License Board

**Before the
Senate Committee on Government Operations
and
Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs**

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

3:05 p.m.

Conference Room 225 and Videoconference

**On the following measure:
S.B. 2352 RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Chair McKelvey, Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Kerrie Shahan, and I am the Executive Officer of the Contractors License Board (Board). The Board will review this bill at its next publicly noticed meeting on February 20, 2026; however, the Board has opposed similar bills in the past.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) require government entities in the State that issue building permits to establish a self-certification process for behind-the-meter, customer-sited solar distributed energy resource systems that deems permit applications approved and allows applicants to proceed to build solar distributed energy resource system immediately, and (2) requires government entities in the State that issue building permits to develop guidance for determining specific conditions when a Federal Emergency Management Agency-mandated No-Rise Certification is not required for a solar distributed energy resource system located in a regulatory floodway.

While the Board does not object to the intent of this bill to lower administrative barriers during the permitting process, it should not be done at the risk of consumer safety. This bill includes commercial on-site solar distributed energy resource systems which raises serious concerns. Commercial and large utility-scale photovoltaic plant projects are complex and do not appear to be suited to a self-certification permit process.

The Board believes that the self-certification permit process is better suited for residential solar distributed energy resource systems, provided that there is an inspection following the completion of the project that deems the installation to be in compliance with all applicable codes and laws.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

LATE

SB-2352

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:52:35 AM

Testimony for EIG on 2/10/2026 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

I am writing in strong support of SB2352, which would streamline permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage systems through a self-certification pathway.

Lengthy permitting timelines add real costs to projects and make it harder for Hawaii residents and businesses to invest in clean energy, especially as federal incentives are being reduced. SB2352 is a practical, common-sense reform that lowers soft costs while maintaining safety, professional accountability, and full compliance with applicable codes and floodplain requirements.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass SB2352.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Jeffrey Kaemmerlen
CEO
Sunspear Energy