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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKUʻĀINA ʻO HAWAIʻI
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
KA ʻOIHANA PILI KĀLEPA
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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
And
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, March 3, 2026
10:16 a.m.
Via Videoconference

On the following measure:
S.B. 2902, S.D. 1, RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Keohokalole, Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committees:

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 "portable solar generation device" and establishes certain requirements for their regulation and use exclusively within units in condominiums organized pursuant to Chapter 514B, Hawaii Revised Statutes; (2) require the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) or a person or organization chosen by the Commission to establish an online registration system; and (3) clarify that portable solar generation devices are subject to certain approval procedures for installation in condominiums. Requires reports to the Legislature.

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

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

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

The Department notes that uncontrolled power flowing back into the electricity lines raises safety and reliability concern for the grid and utility customers. The article by UL Solutions indicates that, "UL 3700 addresses these additional risks by requiring features that mitigate accidental contact with hazardous electric parts, promote safe installation, protect against overloads and prevent electric current from flowing in the wrong direction." However, the Department offers that more information is needed regarding the sufficiency of this or other standards in preventing power flowing back into the lines (e.g., does the standard guarantee that backflow into the utility lines is prevented under all operating conditions or only when there is an electrical outage from the utility). The Department

notes that this resource is helpful to outlining safety and technical considerations that should be considered within the United States: https://www.mdpi.com/1996-1073/18/8/2132.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

STATE OF HAWAIʻI | KA MOKUʻĀINA ʻO HAWAIʻI
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA ʻOIHANA KUMUWAIWAI ʻĀINA
P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

RYAN K.P. KANAKAʻOLE
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

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

Before the Senate Committees on
WAYS AND MEANS
AND
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Tuesday, March 3, 2026
10:16 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2902, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

Senate Bill 2902, Senate Draft 1 defines "portable solar generation device" and establishes certain requirements for their regulation and use exclusively within units in condominiums organized pursuant to Chapter 514B, Hawaii Revised Statutes. Requires the Public Utilities Commission to establish an online registration system and clarifies that portable solar generation devices are subject to certain approval procedures for installation in condominiums. **The Hawaiʻi 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

JON S. ITOMURA
CHAIR

NAOMI U. KUWAYE
COMMISSIONER

COLIN A. YOST
COMMISSIONER

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Testimony of the Public Utilities Commission

To the
Senate Committees on
Commerce and Consumer Protection
And
Ways and Means

March 3, 2026
10:16 a.m.

Chairs Keohokalole and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Moriwaki, and Members of the Committees:

Measure: S.B. No. 2902, S.D. 1
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 allow for portable solar generation devices to be installed with minimal action by consumers. Furthermore, the Commission appreciates the amendments made by the Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR
KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

LATE

MIKE LAMBERT
Director

ERNEST J. ROBELLO
Deputy Director
Administration

JARED K. REDULLA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
Ka 'Oihana Ho'okō Kānāwai
715 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

March 2, 2026

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
State Senate
State Capitol, Room 208
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Committee on Commerce
and Consumer Protection
State Senate
State Capitol, Room 205
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chairs Dela Cruz and Keohokalole:

Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 2902, Senate Draft (SD) 1 Relating to Renewable Energy

I am Sheldon K. Hao, Chair of the State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The SFC provides comments on SB 2902, SD 1, which defines a "portable solar generation device" and establishes certain requirements for their regulation and use exclusively within units in condominiums organized pursuant to Chapter 514B, Hawai'i Revised Statutes; requires the Public Utilities Commission or a person or organization chosen by the commission to establish an online registration system; clarifies that portable solar generation devices are subject to certain approval procedures for installation in condominiums; and requires reports to the legislature.

While accepted in some European countries, plug-in photovoltaic (PIPV) is a nascent technology which has only recently received scrutiny of national organizations that develop safety standards and codes in the United States. In December 2025 Underwriters Laboratories (UL) Solutions published UL 3700, *Outline of Investigation for Interactive PIPV Equipment and Systems*; however, a full consensus-based UL standard on PIPV has not been finalized. As of mid-January 2026, UL Solutions was not aware of any specific PIPV products that had completed the full certification process according to Ken Boyce, Vice President of Principal Engineering at UL Solutions.

The SFC envisions several potential fire and life safety threats from PIPV systems:

- Consumers may be tempted to connect PIPV systems to lithium-ion battery storage systems. Globally, fire departments are responding to a significantly increasing number of fires involving lithium-ion batteries in different environments, including residential, industrial, maritime transportation, aviation, and automotive. The combination of PIPV and lithium-ion batteries in residences could aggravate this growing problem.

- Without close monitoring at the retail supply chain, residents and homeowners of single-family dwellings may attempt to connect PIPV systems to their residential electrical systems, which may or may not be electrical code-compliant.

- The HFD implemented its Life Safety Evaluation (LSE) following the multiunit, multifatality 2017 Marco Polo high-rise condominium fire. The LSE is a methodology to formally quantify and document fire protection systems in condominiums where automatic fire sprinklers are not installed. Only 11 percent of 304 high-rise condominiums under the HFD's jurisdiction have successfully passed the HFD's LSE. Widespread adoption of PIPV by high-rise condominium residents may have an unforeseen negative impact on the HFD's LSE. Furthermore, condominiums built in the 1960s and 1970s may still have aluminum wiring, which is not as robust as copper wiring used in modern construction.

- The 1,200-watt maximum power output per device allowed by SB 2902, SD 1 is sufficient to cause cardiac arrest if accidently contacted. When connected to a 120-volt residential electrical system, a 1,200- watt device produces 10 amperes, which can cause cardiac arrest or death according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

The SFC expects PIPV will be further evaluated by entities, such as the National Fire Protection Association.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at 723-7169 or glum@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

SHELDON K. HAO
Chair

SKH/GL:cn

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

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

10:16AM Conference Room 211

RE: SB2902 SD1 - Portable Solar Energy Devices - Support

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Moriwaki and Fukunaga, and Members of the Committees,

On behalf of the Chamber of Sustainable Commerce (CSC), we write in strong support of SB2902, a common-sense measure that expands access to clean, affordable, and resilient energy for Hawai'i residents. The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce represents more than 580 small businesses, sole proprietors and entrepreneurs across Hawai'i committed to a triple bottom line: people, planet and prosperity.

Plug-in solar systems represent a game-changing opportunity to democratize access to solar energy. For too long, solar power has been out of reach for many residents simply because they do not own a roof. Hundreds of thousands of Hawai'i residents live in condominiums. Balcony solar creates a practical and affordable pathway for these households—including seniors, working families, renters, and low-to-moderate income residents—to participate directly in clean energy generation using a safe plug-in device.

Balcony solar is simple and cost-effective. Compact, lightweight panels can be mounted on lanai railings and plugged into a standard outlet. A typical system costs approximately $2,000 and can generate energy savings of up to $800 per year, allowing it to pay for itself in just a few years. Optional battery storage can also be added, enabling households to use stored solar energy at night or during power disruptions, strengthening household energy resilience.

As electricity prices in Hawai'i remain the highest in the nation, the economic case for plug-in solar continues to grow. This technology allows households to immediately offset everyday electricity use, reduce monthly bills, and increase energy independence while lowering greenhouse gas emissions.

Importantly, this bill requires balcony solar systems to meet UL 3700, a safety certification standard developed by UL Solutions and aligned with the National Electrical Code (NEC). UL 3700 governs the safety of the product itself, while the NEC continues to govern home wiring. Together, these frameworks provide comprehensive protection and ensure these systems are deployed safely and responsibly.

We continue to suggest two amendments to strengthen accessibility and remove unnecessary barriers:

1. Remove the requirement for registration with the utility and/or Public Utilities Commission, which places an unnecessary burden on consumers seeking modest, plug-and-play systems.

2. Remove the requirement for HOA approval. HOAs and condominium associations in Hawai'i generally cannot prohibit solar panels except for non-system-impairing restrictions on placement and aesthetics. Requiring HOA approval could unnecessarily limit access for renters and condo residents who stand to benefit most.

Additionally, we respectfully recommend that the bill be amended to expand eligibility beyond condominium residents so that all Hawai'i residents may access this money-saving, resilience-building technology.

Balcony solar is a practical, equitable solution that strengthens energy democracy, supports working families, reduces strain on the grid through distributed generation, and advances Hawai'i's clean energy and climate goals.

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

SIERRA CLUB
OF HAWAIʻI

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

March 3, 2026 10:16 AM Conference Room 211

In SUPPORT of SB2902 SD1: RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

Aloha Chair Keohokālole, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of our more than 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawaiʻi **supports** SB2902 SD1, which can help condominium owners and renters save on their energy bills, while reducing our collective demand on our electrical grids.

With Hawaiʻi 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 Hawaiʻi 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**.

SIERRA CLUB
OF HAWAIʻI

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.

Balcony solar is not a silver bullet for our energy challenges. But it is **one more tool**—a practical, proven tool—that can help Hawaiʻi's residents lower their power bills, save energy, and take part in our clean energy transition. This measure provides an important first step towards realizing the benefits of balcony solar for our residents, energy security, and planet.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Committees to **PASS** SB2902 SD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2902-SD-1
Submitted on: 2/28/2026 2:05:53 PM
Testimony for CPN on 3/3/2026 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and honorable members of committee,

My name is Susan RobertsEmery, as Co chair of the Green Party of Hawai'i, I write on behalf of our members, in support of SB2902 SD1, With Amendments.

We ask that the two following provisions be REMOVED for the measure

1. restrict plug-in solar to only those that live in a registered condominium association.

2.require approval by the HOA Board, since condo associations generally cannot prohibit solar panels.

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, if passed without these two noted restrictions, will allow everyone, including our kupuna, 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 with Amendments!

Mahalo,

Susan RobertsEmery

Green Party of Hawai'i

Paauiol

Citizens' Climate Lobby Hawaii

cclhawaii.org

March 1, 2026

STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB2902 SD1 - RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

Dear Chairs Dela Cruz and Keohokalole, Vice-Chairs Moriwaki and Fukunaga, and members of the Committees on Ways and Means and Commerce and Consumer Protection,

Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) Hawaii is in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2902 SD1, which defines and provides requirements for the use of a portable solar generation device. SB2902 SD1 facilitates the adoption and sales of portable solar generation devices by exempting them from the net energy metering program and interconnection requirements. The bill defines a portable solar generation device as one with 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 enables them to contribute to grid reliability and the environment.

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

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

SB2902 SD1 has no impact on the State's general fund; it assigns rulemaking and registry administration to the PUC, which may recover any operational costs through existing regulatory mechanisms or nominal registration fees. There is no appropriation, no tax expenditure, and no new State spending authority.

Please pass SB2902 SD1 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.

SB-2902-SD-1
Submitted on: 3/1/2026 7:17:10 AM
Testimony for CPN on 3/3/2026 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

We struggling support SB 2902. This bill makes energy much more convenient. Anything that can simplify, extra streamline and facilitate the transition to solar must be done. We hope that this bill can be amended so that it can be available to all citizens, regardless of where they live. If this bill passes, people will have the ability to charge their cars, as well as power their homes. This can help offset electrical costs and can make life a lot more convenient, since you would be able to bring your energy with you. We urge you to pass this bill and all bills that facilitate the transition from fossil fuels to solar. Thank you very much.

Kauaʻi Island Utility Cooperative
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Testimony Before the Senate Joint Committees on Ways and Means
and Commerce and Consumer Protection

By Beth Amaro
Member Services and Communications Manager
Kauaʻi Island Utility Cooperative
4463 Paheʻe Street, Suite 1, Līhuʻe, Hawaiʻi, 96766-2000

Tuesday, March 3, 2026; 10:16 am
Conference Room #211 & Videoconference

Senate Bill No. 2902, Senate Draft No. 1 – RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

To the Honorable Chairs Donovan M. Dela Cruz and Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Sharon Y. Moriwaki and Carol Fukunaga, and Members of the Committees:

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

KIUC provides 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 Kauaʻi 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 establish a regulatory framework to introduce the use of portable solar generation devices in the State, beginning with units in condominiums. In general, KIUC supports providing a variety of options for managing energy use to our members.

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

- **Limit on the number of devices per service location.** While a single portable solar generation device would likely have minimal impact on the grid, having multiple of these installed at a single service location could easily be problematic for both the grid and as a safety concern for members who may want to install multiple devices. Limiting installations to one device per household would be recommended, however, KIUC does appreciate the limit of devices per service location capped at 1,200 watts.
- **No notification to the utility.** While it is understandable that the bill seeks to avoid a full interconnection agreement, it would still be important for KIUC to know where the devices are installed on the grid. A possible middle-ground solution would be to require customers to provide notice to KIUC prior to installing a portable solar generation device, without triggering a formal interconnection process.
- **Questions regarding enforcement.** Even if the bill is passed with limits on the number of devices or maximum wattage allowed per household to address safety concerns, enforcement of those limitations would likely be problematic.

- **Bill clarification.** The bill states that "Portable solar generation devices may also be paired with battery storage." However, it does not clarify what it is referring to. Is the bill proposing that battery systems be connected to the grid with minimal review as well?
- **Use restrictions to condominiums.** Should this bill be approved, KIUC does not believe that the ability for portable solar generation devices being only available to those in condominiums would be fair to our membership. What about our members in single-family homes?
- **Notification to the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission (PUC).** The bill requires notification to the PUC via an online system, but not the utility. Will the PUC be obligated to share this information with the utility?
- **Exclusion of systems from being classified as "renewable energy system."** This exclusion appears as if it may introduce technicalities in the path to becoming 100% renewable by 2045.

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

March 2, 2026

Re: WAM/CPN hearing of SB 2902 March 3, 2026

Position: Comments only

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and members of the Committee on Ways and Means, and members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer 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. In fact, Nearly 40% of Hawai'i residents live in apartments or multi-unit housing, where they cannot take advantage of traditional rooftop solar systems. 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.

On behalf of solar consumers, we strongly urge your support for the spirit of **SB 2902**, which will begin to pave the way for bringing plug-in solar to Hawai'i and set system requirements to meet national safety standards, ensuring important safety protections for consumers, first responders and lineworkers.

However, there are still critical changes to the current bill that need to be addressed before its passage. These changes are necessary to keep balcony solar simple, accessible, and affordable for all consumers. **We strongly recommend the following three key revisions to SB 2902:**

- **Expand the bill to ensure all households can access balcony solar, not just condo owners.** Solar is for everyone, but not everyone can or wants to install it on their home. Balcony solar is the answer to expanding access to solar and the energy savings it provides. While we are encouraged that the bill removes unnecessary interconnection requirements and net metering agreements for condo residents, plug-in solar rights should be extended to all Hawai'i residents, regardless of whether or not they live in a home or apartment. Plug-in solar reduces electricity bills and improves energy resilience. This is especially relevant given that residents of Hawai'i have the highest energy costs in the country. By unfairly excluding homeowners, renters, and businesses, SB 2902 is arbitrarily

picking winners and losers in the fight for energy affordability and limiting solar rights.

- **Remove language that requires approval from an HOA board.** In many states, including Hawai'i, HOAs or condo associations generally cannot prohibit solar panels. While some non-impairing restrictions on placement and aesthetics can be considered, this potentially restricts access to renters who could benefit the most from balcony solar.

- **Remove any requirements for the customer to register the product with their utility and/or Public Service Commission.** This burdensome requirement adds unnecessary government interference for the everyday consumer. If families choose to buy plug-in solar to save on power bills, they shouldn't have to tell the government what they buy. There are other methods that could track the number of systems sold that don't require bureaucratic measures.

Thank you for considering these important revisions. We hope to see continued collaboration amongst legislators and stakeholders to ensure the best outcome.

Additionally, at recent bill hearings, some safety concerns have emerged that are already addressed in the current bill, including provisions that will ensure plug-in solar systems meet important safety standards. SB 2902 requires plug-in solar systems to meet the latest UL standards, which are already available. In December 2025, a comprehensive national safety standard UL 3700 was released specifically for plug-in photovoltaic systems. UL 3700 is a rigorous, purpose-built framework that layers electrical, mechanical, and human-error safeguards to ensure plug-in solar products cannot cause shock, fire, structural hazards, circuit overload, or dangerous backfeeding during a power outage. UL 3700 is aligned with the National Electrical Code (NEC) and NFPA guidelines.

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

CLIMATE FUTURE FORUM

Date:	March 2, 2026
To:	Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM) Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection (CPN)
From:	Climate Future Forum
Re:	**SUPPORT for SB2902**
Hearing:	03/03/2026, Tuesday, 10:16 AM

As a youth leader of Climate Future Forum (CFF), I thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of SB2902**, on behalf of CFF. The Climate Future Forum empowers youth (ages 14-26) to actively engage in shaping and advocating for climate policy and legislation. This bill represents a crucial step toward meeting Hawaii's clean energy goals while ensuring the transition is equitable and economically sound.

As a 16-year-old resident, this bill is deeply personal to me because climate change is directly threatening my future and has already impacted my life. Growing up in California, I experienced firsthand how the climate crisis is making natural disasters more severe and frequent. The increasing temperatures and prolonged droughts have created dangerously dry conditions, turning chaparrals into tinderboxes. Dead vegetation accumulates while living plants lose moisture, creating perfect conditions for fires to ignite and spread rapidly. In 2021, my family had to evacuate our home due to an approaching wildfire– an experience that brought the reality of climate change into sharp focus. Now living in Hawaii, I see different but equally concerning impacts of climate change, from coral bleaching to coastal erosion. This isn't just about abstract future threats – climate change is already reshaping my life and the lives of young people everywhere. We need bold action like SB2902 to ensure my generation has the opportunity for a stable and sustainable future.

SB2902 expands access to affordable solar energy for people living in apartments and condominiums, helping them lower their electricity bills while supporting Hawaii's clean energy

transition. For many years, solar power has been largely inaccessible to residents who do not own a rooftop, leaving a significant portion of the population unable to participate.

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

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

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

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

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

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

To: The Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection (CPN)
and
The Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Tuesday, March 3, 2026, 10:16am

In support of SB2902 SD1 with requested amendments

Aloha Chairs Keohokalole and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Moriwaki, and members of the CPN and WAM committees,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii is in **SUPPORT of SB2902 SD1, but with suggested amendments**.

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

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

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.

- **It's Proven:** Plug-in solar is already booming in Europe. As many as four million households in Germany have installed the systems, helping families cut electricity costs while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. With millions of the devices installed nationwide, Germany has yet to see any significant safety incidents reported. Further, last year Utah enacted legislation to allow portable solar units, and there have been no safety incidents or fires reported according to early adoption reports.

  This contrasts with data from the National Fire Protection Agency reporting that U.S. fire departments respond to over 3,200 gas-related residency fires per year. In addition, the CDC, when highlighting safety issues related to carbon monoxide fumes, notes the dangers from fuel-burning appliances like gas generators and gas stoves, common sources of these dangerous fumes. The CDC reports that each year, more than 400 Americans die from unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning not linked to fires, more than 100,000 visit an emergency department, and more than 14,000 are hospitalized**. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates more than 100 people die each year from carbon monoxide poisoning associated with portable gas generators.** It is further noted that portable gas stoves and butane fuel are available for purchase throughout our state, including at local grocery stores, and that no registration or special approval is required when purchasing these items.

Ironically, despite the fact that plug-in solar systems must meet strict, mandatory safety standards—notably UL 3700—to prevent electric shock, fire risks, and grid overload, some have raised potential safety-related concerns. In an effort to ensure the CPN and WAM Committees have the most accurate, up-to-date information on this important issue, we want to address some misinformation that came up in a recent hearing on a House bill toward plug-in solar regarding regulatory safety issues, and the perceived need for updating the National Electrical Code (NEC) before authorizing plug-in solar.

Importantly, key requirements for plug-in solar systems include automatic, rapid shut-off of power to the plug if it's disconnected (touch safety), protection against overcurrent (breaker masking), and proper inverter grounding. **The UL 3700 safety standard ensures a rigorous, purpose-built framework that layers electrical, mechanical, and human-error safeguards to ensure plug-in solar systems are safe.**

Bottom line, plug-in solar is not being proposed in a regulatory vacuum. A comprehensive national safety standard [UL 3700] was released in December 2025 specifically for plug-in photovoltaic systems. This standard was developed by UL Standards & Engagement (ULSE), one of the country's leading safety standards organizations. UL 3700 is not a relaxation of safety rules; it is a rigorous, purpose-built framework that layers electrical, mechanical, and human-error safeguards to ensure plug-in solar systems cannot cause shock, fire, structural hazards,

circuit overload, or dangerous backfeeding during a power outage. **In other words, the safety architecture already exists at the national level.**

Importantly, UL 3700 is explicitly aligned with the NEC and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) guidelines. There are layered, redundant safeguards that traditional DIY solar kits have never been required to meet. Grid safety is equally well established. UL 3700 requires anti-islanding functionality so that the inverter immediately stops sending power if the grid goes down. This means plug-in solar cannot endanger line-workers during outages. The system also continuously monitors household voltage and trips offline if conditions become unstable. In short, all components of plug-in solar systems meet the highest safety standards.

The core intent behind "plug-in" or "plug-and-play" solar is the democratization of energy, creating a low-barrier, affordable pathway for renters, apartment dwellers, and those with unsuitable roofs to participate in the clean energy transition. **To this end, while we strongly support SB2902 SD1, we respectfully recommend some important amendments:**

1. To further strengthen this measure, we urge the Committee to **remove provisions in the bill that restrict plug-in solar to only those that live in a registered condominium association.** Plug-in solar is a simple, safe, and an affordable way to receive the financial and resiliency benefits of solar. Plug-in solar systems are meant to democratize access to clean, resilient energy. Restricting plug-in solar to only those who live in condominiums would be a serious, missed opportunity, and leave out many who are renters, low-to-moderate income households, and communities struggling to achieve energy independence.

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. Utah's common-sense legislation eliminated burdensome requirements that were designed for larger solar systems and created safety standards before it is available in stores. This is exactly the type of common-sense action we need to take if we are serious about making Hawaii more affordable for residents, protecting our environment, and doing our part to help mitigate the climate crisis.

2. We respectfully urge the Committee to **remove the specification that installing plug-in solar would require approval by the HOA Board.** In Hawaii, by law, HOAs or condo associations generally cannot prohibit solar panels. While some non-impairing restrictions on placement and aesthetics can be considered, such for reasonable restrictions relating to safety, structural integrity, aesthetics, and common property protections, this is not intended to be a blanket prohibition, as it potentially unfairly restricts access to those who could benefit the most from plug-in solar.

3. **We recommend the Committee remove requirements for the customer to register the product with the Public Service Commission (PUC).** This requirement undermines the intent for plug-in solar, adding an unnecessary hurdle to consumers. While we greatly appreciate the stated intent for including this provision in the measure (i.e. to address and ensure safety for utility workers), plug-in solar systems are designed with safety features that prevent electricity from backfeeding into the grid during a power outage, protecting utility workers from hazardous, live wires. In addition, to ensure safety in residential, plug-and-play scenarios, plug-

in solar systems are subject to rigorous safety standards to mitigate risks of electrical shock, fire, and structural failure. It is important not to impose bureaucratic hurdles and delays on small, safe, consumer-friendly products designed for simplicity. Plug-in solar is meant to avoid additional administrative burdens to the PUC, and is designed to allow residents to simply plug panels into a standard wall outlet, and thereby help to cut through red tape as a means to democratize access to clean energy and lower electric bills.

4. This technology is ever evolving and it is common for Underwriters Laboratories (UL) to regularly review and revise safety standards. As SB2902 SD1 is currently written, if new standards are released, this would require the legislature to pass new legislation to update the statute. Therefore, **to still reference UL and ensure plug-in solar products used meet the latest safety standards, while also providing flexibility and preventing this measure from quickly becoming obsolete, we strongly recommend that the text on page 5 lines 17-21 be amended to read as follows:**

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

Achieving our climate goals while facilitating a Just Transition requires leaving no one behind. That includes efforts such as enabling portable solar, that can help to remove barriers and increase access to affordable, renewable energy, making it easy for everyone to participate.

Plug-in solar provides an opportunity to cut unnecessary red tape and exempt small systems from unnecessary rules that were designed for much larger solar arrays. By avoiding unnecessary restrictive, high-cost interconnection requirements for small-scale, balcony-type solar systems, we can unlock 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. This is the kind of common-sense climate solutions we need to implement in earnest.

Please **PASS SB2902 with the requested amendments**. Plug-in solar rights is a much-needed game-changer that should be extended to **all Hawaii residents**, regardless of whether or not they live in a registered condominium association. Let's keep portable solar as it was intended, simple, accessible, and affordable for all consumers.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

SB-2902-SD-1
Submitted on: 3/2/2026 9:52:00 AM
Testimony for CPN on 3/3/2026 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Mulinix	Testifying for Greenpeace Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Keohokalole and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Moriwaki, and members of the CPN and WAM committees,

My name is Dave Mulinix, Co-Founder & Hawaii State Representative of Greenpeace Hawaii. On behalf of our thousands of members and supporters statewide, we stand in **SUPPORT with amendments of SB2902 SD1** that defines "portable solar generation device" and establishes certain requirements for their regulation and use exclusively within units in condominiums organized pursuant to Chapter 514B, HRS. This measure further requires the Public Utilities Commission or a person or organization chosen by the Commission to establish an online registration system, and clarifies that portable solar generation devices are subject to certain approval procedures for installation in condominiums.

We greatly appreciate the intent of this legislation, which aims to help Hawaii consumers decrease our dependence on fossil fuels, reduce our carbon emissions, and help the state meet our zero emissions goals. As the Hawaii State Legislature wisely asserted in 2021, we are already in a growing Climate Emergency. We are currently experiencing the effects of the growing Climate Crisis here in Hawaii, with ever 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, unfortunately, 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. This bill is an excellent step in the right direction to address this problem, and it helps to fulfill the commitments made in the Navahine vs HDOT settlement.

One very important way to move us off of our dependence on fossil fuels is to make more clean, renewable energy sources, like plug-in solar, available. Unfortunately, not everyone has a roof or home suitable for rooftop solar. In fact, nearly 40% of Hawaii residents live in apartments or multi-unit housing, where they cannot take advantage of traditional rooftop solar systems. That's why we support balcony solar, also called plug-in solar, and legislation which will **allow *everyone* to access the benefits of solar energy.**

Plug-in solar is a simple, safe and affordable way to receive the financial and resiliency benefits of solar. Plug-in solar has been a successfully growing phenomena in Europe for years. Roughly four million households in Germany have installed plug-in solar systems, and only rare incidents of safety issues have occurred. Further, Utah passed a bill last year to allow

plug-in solar systems, and based on available reports, there have been no incidents of fires or safety incidents in Utah as a result of these plug-in solar systems.

By comparison, commonly used gas devices, which include generators and stoves that can be bought without permits or registering them, are responsible each year for more than 400 Americans dying from unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning not linked to fires. In addition, more than 20,000 visit emergency rooms and 4,000 are hospitalized from gas exposure. Specifically, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates more than 100 people die each year from carbon monoxide poisoning associated with portable gas generators. Additionally, the National Fire Protection Agency reports that U.S. fire departments respond to over 3,200 gas-related residency fires per year.

In order for this legislation to have the greatest effect in expanding safe, clean, renewable energy, we encourage the committee to remove provisions in the bill that restrict plug-in solar to only those that live in a registered condominium association. Plug-in solar rights should be extended to all Hawaii residents, regardless of whether or not they live in a home or an apartment.

In that regard we strongly recommend the following three key revisions to SB2902 SD1. These changes are necessary to keep balcony solar simple, accessible, and affordable for all consumers:

* Expand the bill to ensure all households can access balcony solar, not just condo owners. Solar is for everyone, but not everyone can or wants to install it on their home. Balcony solar is the answer to expanding access to solar and the energy savings it provides.

* Remove any requirements for the customer to register the product with their utility and/or Public Service Commission.

* Remove language that requires approval from an HOA board. In many states, including Hawaii, HOAs or condo associations generally cannot prohibit solar panels. While some non-impairing restrictions on placement and aesthetics can be considered, this potentially restricts access to renters who could benefit the most from balcony solar.

Please pass SB2902 SD1 with these important amendments and 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 Nui Loa,

Dave Mulinix, Co-Founder & Hawaii State Representative, Greenpeace Hawaii

Carbon Cashback

March 2, 2026

Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
Senate Ways and Means Committee
SB2902 SD1 — Hearing on March 3, 2026, 10:16 a.m.
Conference Room 211 and Videoconference

STRONG SUPPORT

Carbon Cashback Hawai‘i strongly supports policies that reduce carbon emissions, strengthen Hawai‘i’s energy independence, and lower electricity costs for residents—especially for vulnerable kama‘āina families.

Carbon Cashback Hawai‘i strongly supports SB2902 SD1 because it creates a practical pathway for residents to generate their own clean energy and reduce their electricity bills in a climate-friendly manner.

Balcony solar systems provide a low-cost alternative to traditional rooftop solar. A typical balcony solar device costs approximately $2,000 and can pay for itself within a few years through electricity bill savings. Battery storage may be added at additional cost, allowing households to use solar power at night. Battery prices are steadily declining, making this option increasingly attractive.

Globally, balcony solar has already proven successful. More than one million balcony solar devices are currently operating in Germany. In the United States, Utah recently enacted legislation establishing a regulatory framework for balcony solar, and dozens of other states are actively considering similar measures.

In Hawai‘i, residents currently may not plug in a balcony solar device into an outlet without obtaining an interconnection agreement from their electric utility. For small plug-in systems, this requirement is unnecessary and impractical, posing a significant barrier to adoption. SB2902 SD1 removes this barrier while establishing appropriate safety standards that will encourage widespread use of balcony solar technology.

Importantly, this bill creates new opportunities for residents who have historically been excluded from solar energy, particularly those living in housing units managed by condominium associations. These residents will finally have a pathway to clean, homegrown energy from the sun—reducing reliance on imported fossil fuels while lowering household electricity bills.

Balcony solar is a relatively new technology, and Carbon Cashback Hawai‘i shares the fire safety concerns raised by the Honolulu Fire Chief. We are fully committed to ensuring that any deployment of balcony solar systems prioritizes safety.

At a prior House hearing, the Fire Chief submitted testimony stating: “Once the UL completes its evaluation and establishes product standards, the National Fire Protection Association will update the National Electrical Code to ensure safe installation practices.” This statement may unintentionally suggest that an NEC (National Electrical Code) update would follow soon after standards are established by UL, which is now known as UL Solutions.

However, UL Solutions has already issued UL3700, a comprehensive safety standard specifically for plug-in balcony solar systems that is designed to fit within existing and updated NEC frameworks. The NEC is updated on a fixed three-year cycle, and the 2026 NEC has already been finalized. Therefore, the next update of the NEC will be in 2029.

As stated by UL Solutions: “UL 3700 can support state legislative and regulatory efforts with a clear framework to enable the safety of the product and its installation.”

While Carbon Cashback Hawai‘i strongly supports SB2902 SD1, we respectfully recommend the following amendments to strengthen the bill and expand its benefits:

1. As written, the bill would open the door to balcony, or plug-in, solar only for those living in condominiums. Section 1 of the bill explains that the bill’s purpose is to “... introduce the use of portable solar generation devices in the State, beginning within units in condominiums....” Such a stepwise approach for widespread adoption of this new technology makes good sense if there are risks associated with it, such as grid reliability or public safety risks. We are not aware of any such risks based on testimony on this or similar bills so far. Unless your committees are aware of such risks, we suggest that you remove the condo-only limitation from the bill so as to immediately afford the benefits of balcony solar to all residents of the State. As recognized in section 1 of the bill, “These systems are particularly advantageous to residents of apartments and rental properties.” Many of those, of course, are not condominiums.

2. For the same reason that the bill caps the allowable output for a portable solar generation device at 1.2 kilowatts, the bill should cap the allowable wattage for all portable solar generation devices operating behind a given service meter. This would ensure the intended safety aspects of the wattage limit while allowing people flexibility to use the number and sizes of devices that are best suited for them (e.g., using three separate 0.4 kW devices to take advantage of limited space around different parts of the dwelling). We recommend that Section 2 include an additional subsection to the first of the two new added sections to part I of chapter 269, to read as follows:

([ ]) The maximum aggregate rated power output of all portable solar generation devices connected to the electrical meter shall not exceed 1.2 kilowatts.

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

(5) Is certified by Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., to meet standard UL 3700 or a successor or equivalent UL standard, or certified by an equivalent nationally recognized testing laboratory, as recognized by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration, or each part of the device is so certified, and is installed by the consumer in accordance with the requirements of the certification."

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

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

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

With these amendments, Carbon Cashback Hawai'i strongly urges the joint committee to pass the bill.

BRIGHT SAVER

LATE

SB 2902 Written Testimony

Dear Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer 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 **SB 2902** 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 Hawai'i are occupied by renters, which is notably higher than the 36.9% national average. This technology ensures that access to clean energy is not limited by housing status.

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

While we enthusiastically support SB 2902, we recommend four important revisions:

1. **Remove language that restricts approved plug-in solar devices to a specific UL standard or certification, such as UL 3700** [*Section 3 (1.4) S.B. 2902 (2026)*]. Limiting eligible products to a single, named standard does not reflect the rapidly evolving nature of plug-in solar technology or the regular updates to safety standards issued by UL and the National Electrical Code. If new or revised standards are adopted, the legislature would need to enact additional legislation to update the statute, creating unnecessary delays and administrative burden. Maintaining more general language that references compliance with applicable UL standards will provide flexibility while ensuring products continue to meet the most current safety requirements.

2. **Amend the bill to ensure plug-in solar is accessible across housing types, not just condominiums** *[Section 2(d) of S.B. 2902 (2026)]*. Limiting the authorization of plug-in

solar generation devices exclusively to condominium units governed by Chapter 514B undermines the bill's goal of expanding access to affordable renewable energy by excluding renters and residents of apartments and other multi-family housing.

3. **Remove language that subjects the installation of plug-in solar devices to condominium association board approval** *[Section 5 of S.B. 2902 (2026)]*. This effectively limits access for renters who cannot independently seek or secure such approvals. Amending this section is necessary to prevent the exclusion of those that must seek approval from the benefits of portable solar.

4. **Remove any requirement that customers register plug-in solar devices with an electric utility or the Public Utilities Commission** *[Section 2 of S.B. 2902 (2026)]*. A mandatory registration requirement for portable, plug-in solar devices imposes avoidable administrative burdens on consumers and creates additional work for the Public Utilities Commission, despite these systems posing minimal risk to the electric grid.

Legislators should know that plug-in solar is not being proposed in a regulatory vacuum. UL (*Underwriters Laboratories)* has launched a dedicated testing and certification program for plug-in solar systems. It creates a rigorous, purpose-built framework to prevent shock, fire, structural hazards, circuit overload, and unsafe backfeeding during power outages.

This national product safety standard is designed to work hand-in-hand with the National Electrical Code (NEC) and NFPA guidelines. The NEC governs a home's wiring, while applicable UL standards govern the plug-in solar product itself. Approved systems must be tested and certified by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL). These standards go beyond typical plug-in equipment requirements, including provisions for dedicated receptacles installed by a qualified person, touch-safe "dead-front" plugs, bidirectional ground-fault protection, rapid shutdown capabilities for emergency responders, and built-in protections against circuit overload through power control systems that automatically reduce or stop output if unsafe conditions are detected.

Grid safety protections are equally robust. Applicable UL standards require anti-islanding technology, long used in traditional rooftop solar systems, so systems immediately shut off during a power outage to protect lineworkers. Real-world experience supports this approach, with millions of plug-in solar systems deployed internationally over the past decade without significant safety incidents.

In closing, SB 2902 represents an important step toward expanding access to affordable, safe, and consumer-driven clean energy in Hawai‘i. With targeted amendments to broaden eligibility beyond condominiums, preserve renter access, and avoid unnecessary administrative burdens, this bill can better align with its stated intent and deliver meaningful savings to the residents who need it most. We respectfully urge the Committee to support SB 2902 with these amendments and thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz and Keohokalole , Vice Chairs Moriwaki and Fukunaga, and members of Committees:

I strongly support SB2902 because balcony solar allows households, including renters, seniors, and working families, to participate directly in 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 pays 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

SB-2902-SD-1
Submitted on: 2/28/2026 10:18:36 AM
Testimony for CPN on 3/3/2026 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol Hemington	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

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.

That's why I urge the committee to PASS this measure, **but strongly request removing provisions in the bill that 1. restrict plug-in solar to only those that live in a registered condominium association, and 2. require approval by the HOA Board,** since condo associations generally cannot prohibit solar panels.

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, if passed without these two noted restrictions, will allow everyone, including our kupuna, 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, Carol Hemington

SB-2902-SD-1
Submitted on: 2/28/2026 10:29:36 AM
Testimony for CPN on 3/3/2026 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support SB2902 SD1.

Utilizing residential solar power generation is an important piece in Hawaii's move towards independence from using fossil fuels for power. With the discontinuation of many incentives for adopting renewable power sources, plug-in solar power is a relatively affordable alternative to rooftop solar.
This bill will support adoption of solar power generation by condo owners and residents giving them the chance to reduce their power bills. Importantly, it supports the goal of saving the planet.

Thank you for accepting my testimony.

SB-2902-SD-1
Submitted on: 2/28/2026 11:55:07 AM
Testimony for CPN on 3/3/2026 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

Honorable Members,

I am writing to ask that you support SB2902 SD1 which defines "portable solar generation device" and establishes certain requirements for their regulation and use exclusively within units in condominiums organized pursuant to Chapter 514B, HRS.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

SB-2902-SD-1
Submitted on: 2/28/2026 12:44:27 PM
Testimony for CPN on 3/3/2026 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this legislation

David Ball

Waialae-Kahala

SB-2902-SD-1
Submitted on: 2/28/2026 1:00:29 PM
Testimony for CPN on 3/3/2026 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANDREW ISODA	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.

That's why I urge the committee to PASS this measure, **but strongly request removing provisions in the bill that 1. restrict plug-in solar to only those that live in a registered condominium association, and 2. require approval by the HOA Board,** since condo associations generally cannot prohibit solar panels.

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, if passed without these two noted restrictions, will allow everyone, including our kupuna, 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.*

-- Plug-in solar is a common sense, clean energy solution, and can make cheap, clean energy a viable option for **everyone**, which is **sorely needed** to help make electricity more affordable. 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, and unlock immediate, and much needed consumer savings for ratepayers.

--“Plug-in” solar is low cost, and works for renters, apartments, and homes with unsuitable roofs, and most importantly, **PLUG-IN SOLAR IS SAFE**. A safety standard has been developed for plug-in solar systems by Underwriters Laboratories. These systems include several **safety features**, including those that prevent electricity from backfeeding into the grid during a power outage, protecting utility workers from hazardous, live wires. Real-world experience reinforces the strength of these safeguards. After ten years of adoption in Germany, approximately four million plug-in solar systems are in use with no significant safety incidents reported. And after Utah passed a plug-in solar bill last year, again, there have been no safety incidents reported.

--The solar revolution is leaving behind thousands of people living in Hawai'i — precisely the people who most need relief from rising energy bills. We need to cut unnecessary red tape and exempt small systems from rules designed for much larger arrays. By doing so, we can unlock 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!

Andrew Isoda
Lahaina, Mau'i

SB-2902-SD-1
Submitted on: 2/28/2026 1:56:17 PM
Testimony for CPN on 3/3/2026 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members,

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, and the safety standards will ensure that the devices are safe for users as well as for lineworkers and the electricity grid.

One concern I have about the bill is that it limits balcony solar to people living in condos. I urge your committees to amend the bill in a way that allows all residents of Hawaii to take advantage of this money-saving clean-energy technology.

Mahalo,

Thomas Graham, Honolulu

SB-2902-SD-1
Submitted on: 2/28/2026 2:29:58 PM
Testimony for CPN on 3/3/2026 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill because it gives those who live in condominiums a practical, affordable pathway 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.

Hundreds of thousands of Hawaii residents live in condominiums. Balcony solar creates an opportunity for these households, including seniors and working families, to participate directly in solar energy generation using a safe plug-in device.

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 addresses the challenge of Hawaii having the highest residential electricity rates in the nation. By creating a pathway for those who live in condominiums to produce clean energy from the sun, this bill reduces household electricity costs while cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

This bill requires balcony solar systems to meet UL 3700, a safety certification standard developed by UL Solutions, a global company that tests, inspects, and certifies products so they meet safety, quality, and regulatory standards. UL 3700 is explicitly aligned with the National Electrical Code (NEC). The NEC continues to govern the home's wiring, while UL 3700 governs the product itself. Together, these frameworks provide comprehensive protection.

Balcony solar is a common-sense, equitable solution that benefits families, strengthens energy resilience, and advances Hawaii's climate goals. My only concern about the bill is that it limits balcony solar to people living in condominiums. I recommend that your committees amend the bill so that all Hawaii residents can have access to this money-saving technology.

SB-2902-SD-1
Submitted on: 2/28/2026 3:07:49 PM
Testimony for CPN on 3/3/2026 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cris and Eric Lindborg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We strongly support this bill because it gives those who live in condominiums a practical, affordable pathway 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. I also feel that eligibility should be expanded to include all homeowners.

SB-2902-SD-1
Submitted on: 2/28/2026 3:16:29 PM
Testimony for CPN on 3/3/2026 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

I strongly support this bill because it gives those who live in condominiums a practical, affordable pathway 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.

Sincerely,

Diane Ware Volcano 96785

SB-2902-SD-1
Submitted on: 2/28/2026 3:31:00 PM
Testimony for CPN on 3/3/2026 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill because it gives those who live in condominiums a practical, affordable pathway 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.

Hundreds of thousands of Hawaii residents live in condominiums. Balcony solar creates an opportunity for these households, including seniors and working families, to participate directly in solar energy generation using a safe plug-in device.

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 addresses the challenge of Hawaii having the highest residential electricity rates in the nation. By creating a pathway for those who live in condominiums to produce clean energy from the sun, this bill reduces household electricity costs while cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

This bill requires balcony solar systems to meet UL 3700, a safety certification standard developed by UL Solutions, a global company that tests, inspects, and certifies products so they meet safety, quality, and regulatory standards. UL 3700 is explicitly aligned with the National Electrical Code (NEC). The NEC continues to govern the home's wiring, while UL 3700 governs the product itself. Together, these frameworks provide comprehensive protection.

Balcony solar is a common-sense, equitable solution that benefits families, strengthens energy resilience, and advances Hawaii's climate goals. My only concern about the bill is that it limits balcony solar to people living in condominiums. I recommend that your committees amend the bill so that all Hawaii residents can have access to this money-saving technology.

Mahalo,

Virginia

Honolulu

SB2902, **I strongly support this bill** because it gives those who live in condominiums, townhomes, and duplexes a practical, affordable pathway 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.

Paul Spencer
Kula Maui

SB-2902-SD-1
Submitted on: 2/28/2026 5:01:35 PM
Testimony for CPN on 3/3/2026 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

Accordingly, I urge the committee to PASS SB902 SD1.

However, **I strongly request removing provisions in the bill that 1. restrict plug-in solar to only those who live in a registered condominium association, and 2. require approval by the HOA Board**, since condo associations generally cannot prohibit solar panels. If passed without these two restrictions, this bill will allow everyone to adopt plug-in solar energy, and reduce both their monthly bills and their carbon footprint.

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

SB-2902-SD-1
Submitted on: 2/28/2026 4:33:20 PM
Testimony for CPN on 3/3/2026 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

Plug-in solar systems can help more people access clean energy. They are affordable and suitable for renters and lower-income households, supporting energy independence in our communities.

I urge the committee to pass this measure but request **removing two restrictions: 1. limiting plug-in solar to registered condominiums, and 2. requiring HOA Board approval**, since condo associations cannot block solar panels.

Hawai'i has the highest electricity rates in the nation, which affects many households, especially seniors and low-income families. Removing these restrictions will help everyone, including our elders, lower their electricity bills. With rising costs, plug-in solar can reduce bills and provide clean energy.

Plug-in solar is a practical solution for affordable clean energy. Lawmakers should update outdated rules and remove unnecessary barriers. With smart changes, plug-in solar can help many people save on energy costs.

Plug-in solar is low-cost, works for renters and apartments, and is safe. Underwriters Laboratories has established safety standards, ensuring these systems prevent power backflow during outages. In Germany, four million plug-in solar systems have been used for ten years without serious safety issues. After Utah passed a plug-in solar bill, there were no reported safety incidents.

Many people in Hawai'i are missing out on solar energy’s benefits. We need to cut unnecessary rules for small systems so more can join in. Plug-in solar is a win-win for consumers and the community!

Mahalo,
Jen Lum, ‘Ewa Beach

SB-2902-SD-1
Submitted on: 2/28/2026 5:33:18 PM
Testimony for CPN on 3/3/2026 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

To: Joint Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection and Ways and Means

This testimony is in strong support of SB2902 Relating to renewable energy. My name is Ruth Robison. I have lived in Hilo since 1982. Because I own my own home and because it is a single-family dwelling, I was able to install 17 solar panels on my roof. I have long supported any efforts to help other people, who live in condominiums or apartments, also be able to take advantage of solar energy to supply, all or part of the energy needed to run appliances in their homes. Balcony solar panels are a great way to do that. I understand that a balcony solar panel cost about $2000 and will save a person up to $800 a year in the cost of electricity.

This bill requires balcony solar systems to meet UL 3700, a safety certification standard developed by UL Solutions, a global company that tests, inspects, and certifies products so they meet safety, quality, and regulatory standards. UL 3700 is explicitly aligned with the National Electrical Code (NEC). The NEC continues to govern the home's wiring, while UL 3700 governs the product itself. Together, these frameworks provide comprehensive protection.

I know that helping the people of Hawai‘i with the high cost of living is one of the priorities for the legislature. Please pass SB 2902. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2902-SD-1
Submitted on: 2/28/2026 8:05:48 PM
Testimony for CPN on 3/3/2026 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB2902 helps to democratize the benefits of clean electric energy from the sun, which belongs equally to all of us. I support SB2902, which provides both economic and environmental benefits to the citizens of Hawaii.

SB-2902-SD-1
Submitted on: 2/28/2026 7:20:32 PM
Testimony for CPN on 3/3/2026 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Buck Joiner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have had PV on my home for 19 years. Apartment/condo dwellers need this same opportunity.

SB-2902-SD-1
Submitted on: 2/28/2026 8:17:13 PM
Testimony for CPN on 3/3/2026 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

Balcony Solar makes sense for the many renters and condo dwellers

SB-2902-SD-1
Submitted on: 2/28/2026 10:57:22 PM
Testimony for CPN on 3/3/2026 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JON BRODZIAK	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My goal is to expand access to safe, affordable clean energy through plug in solar while keeping the rules simple and fair. The problem is that SB2902, as drafted, limits use to units in condominiums and requires HOA board approval, which turns a practical consumer tool into a permission and paperwork process. The solution is to pass the bill's clear definitions and safety requirements, but remove the condo only and HOA approval restrictions so more households can easily benefit.

Chair and members of the committee, I support SB2902 because defining "portable solar generation device" and setting clear statewide requirements can help plug in solar become a practical option for more residents. Clear rules protect consumers, support safe installation and use, and reduce confusion for utilities and the public.

Plug in solar matters in Hawai‘i because electricity costs strain many households, especially kupuna on fixed incomes and families living paycheck to paycheck. Small systems can still provide meaningful bill relief, and they offer a path into clean energy for people who cannot install rooftop solar.

Plug in solar is also safe when regulated with sensible standards. Modern systems include features that prevent dangerous backfeed during outages and support safe grid interaction, and recognized safety testing standards exist for this technology.

The bill's condo only limitation and HOA approval requirement create unnecessary red tape and exclude the very residents who most need relief. Renters, apartment residents, and homeowners with unsuitable roofs should not be barred from an affordable clean energy option simply because they do not live in a registered condominium association or because an HOA board refuses to act.

I urge you to pass SB2902, but revise it to remove the condo only restriction and the HOA board approval gate. A simple framework based on clear definitions, basic safety certification, and reasonable use rules can protect the public while bringing plug in solar within reach for far more people in our state.

SB-2902-SD-1
Submitted on: 3/1/2026 10:30:24 AM
Testimony for CPN on 3/3/2026 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Kathryn Afable	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB2313.

Many do not trust our state government after relevations of corrupt legislators. Increasing funding for public campaign financing will be one step in restoring this trust.

SB-2902-SD-1
Submitted on: 3/1/2026 11:05:29 AM
Testimony for CPN on 3/3/2026 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
An Vo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is An and I'm a public health student on O'ahu. I am a member of Climate Future Forum who shared this bill with me. Please support SB2902 SD1.

Mahalo,
An
Honolulu

SB-2902-SD-1
Submitted on: 3/1/2026 11:25:09 AM
Testimony for CPN on 3/3/2026 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill because it gives those who live in condominiums a practical, affordable pathway 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.

Hundreds of thousands of Hawaii residents live in condominiums. Balcony solar creates an opportunity for these households, including seniors and working families, to participate directly in solar energy generation using a safe plug-in device.

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 addresses the challenge of Hawaii having the highest residential electricity rates in the nation. By creating a pathway for those who live in condominiums to produce clean energy from the sun, this bill reduces household electricity costs while cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

This bill requires balcony solar systems to meet UL 3700, a safety certification standard developed by UL Solutions, a global company that tests, inspects, and certifies products so they meet safety, quality, and regulatory standards. UL 3700 is explicitly aligned with the National Electrical Code (NEC). The NEC continues to govern the home's wiring, while UL 3700 governs the product itself. Together, these frameworks provide comprehensive protection.

Balcony solar is a common-sense, equitable solution that benefits families, strengthens energy resilience, and advances Hawaii's climate goals. My only concern about the bill is that it limits balcony solar to people living in condominiums. I recommend that your committees amend the bill so that all Hawaii residents can have access to this money-saving technology.

Thank you,

Jaymen, Honolulu

SB-2902-SD-1
Submitted on: 3/1/2026 1:17:40 PM
Testimony for CPN on 3/3/2026 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
robin knox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii residents who do not own their homes need access to the benefits of solar. This bill would allow that. Solar is especially important to be able to afford air conditioning. Heat kills, and ALL residents need ways to stay cool

SB-2902-SD-1
Submitted on: 3/1/2026 2:51:52 PM
Testimony for CPN on 3/3/2026 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taurie Kinoshita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Committee,

I am writing in support of SB2902 SD1.

We need to cut unnecessary red tape and exempt small systems from rules designed for much larger arrays. By doing so, we can unlock 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.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Taurie Kinoshita

SB-2902-SD-1
Submitted on: 3/1/2026 4:42:58 PM
Testimony for CPN on 3/3/2026 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

In support of. Thank you.

SB-2902-SD-1
Submitted on: 3/1/2026 4:57:34 PM
Testimony for CPN on 3/3/2026 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

SUPPORT FOR SB2902 SD1 (RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY)

Dear Chairs Dela Cruz and Keohokalole, Vice-Chairs Moriwaki and Fukunaga, and members of the Committees on Ways and Means and Commerce and Consumer Protection,

I'm a long-time advocate for sustainable energy in Hawaii. I support SB2902 SD1, which "defines "portable solar generation device" and establishes certain requirements for their regulation and use exclusively within units in condominiums organized pursuant to Chapter 514B, HRS. Requires the Public Utilities Commission to establish an online registration system. Clarifies that portable solar generation devices are subject to certain approval procedures for installation in condominiums. Requires reports to the Legislature."

SB2902 SD1 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 SB2902 SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Noel Morin

Climate, Sustainability, and Resilience Advocate

Hilo, Hawaii

SB-2902-SD-1
Submitted on: 3/1/2026 5:58:37 PM
Testimony for CPN on 3/3/2026 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Cooney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need balcony solar - everyone in Hawaii deserves cheap clean energy, not just those who live in single family homes and own their roofs. This is a wonderful pathway forward to that. Please expand this bill to make balcony solar accessible to all residents!

SB-2902-SD-1
Submitted on: 3/1/2026 7:40:35 PM
Testimony for CPN on 3/3/2026 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB2902 will allow people who live in condominiums to install on their lanai affordable, compact photovoltaic devices that reduce electricity bills and reduce their carbon footprint. I believe the bill should be amended to expand access to everyone—not just those living in condominiums.

SB-2902-SD-1
Submitted on: 3/1/2026 9:19:49 PM
Testimony for CPN on 3/3/2026 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Keohokalole and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Ways and Means,

My name is Jackie Keefe, and I **support the intent of SB2902 SD1** to create a regulatory framework for portable solar generation devices. Expanding access to plug-in solar represents an important step toward democratizing clean energy and providing lower-cost options for residents who cannot install rooftop systems.

However, I respectfully request consideration of two amendments to ensure the bill fulfills its equity and access goals.

1. Remove the limitation restricting portable solar to condominium units only.

As drafted, the bill allows installation only within units in condominiums organized under chapter 514B. This restriction unintentionally excludes a significant number of renters and residents who live in apartment buildings, duplexes, and other multi-family housing that are not organized as condominiums.

Portable plug-in solar is especially well suited for renters because it is movable and does not require permanent structural modification. Limiting eligibility to condominium units restricts access for many of the very households who could benefit most from lower energy costs. Expanding the bill to allow use in additional residential settings would better align with the Legislature's stated goal of broadening renewable energy access.

2. Reconsider the requirement for HOA board approval.

While Hawaii law already protects solar energy devices from being unreasonably prohibited, the bill maintains a requirement for written approval from condominium boards. Even where boards cannot unreasonably deny installation, the procedural requirement itself can create delay, uncertainty, and potential friction for residents.

Because portable solar devices are plug-in systems with built-in safety protections and no grid export capability, they pose minimal impact to common elements when properly installed. The Legislature may wish to consider streamlining or clarifying this approval process to reduce unnecessary barriers while still allowing reasonable safety and aesthetic oversight.

This bill takes a meaningful step toward expanding clean energy access. By broadening eligibility beyond condominiums and reducing procedural barriers within associations, the Legislature can ensure that portable solar truly serves renters and households who have historically had limited access to rooftop systems.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Jackie Keefe, Lahaina

SB-2902-SD-1
Submitted on: 3/1/2026 9:37:45 PM
Testimony for CPN on 3/3/2026 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

I believe we need to quickly move away from burning fossil fuels to help minimize climate change. With this measure, condominium and apartment users can help and reduce their cost for electricity at the same time. I think the bill should be expanded to include all homes, not just condominiums and apartments.

Thank you,

Charles E. Cox, Honolulu

SB-2902-SD-1
Submitted on: 3/1/2026 11:15:30 PM
Testimony for CPN on 3/3/2026 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

2902 SB RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.

SB-2902-SD-1
Submitted on: 3/2/2026 8:15:21 AM
Testimony for CPN on 3/3/2026 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adam Orand	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Balcony solar is the next step in unlocking clean energy for ALL Hawaiians, not just homeowners. As a renter, the option to be able to purchase a retail device, offset some of my utility bill, and transport it with me between apartments would be incredibly beneficial to my pocket book and my sense of conservation and community. I moved here to enjoy the beauty of the islands and anything I can do to protect the land and wisely use its limited resources is something I hope the legislature will support. Our state is unfarily overlooked in a lot of ways related to innovation. This bill would be the start of technical, energy, and environmental innovation - democratizing the grid and making affordability a little easier.

SB-2902-SD-1
Submitted on: 3/2/2026 8:41:09 AM
Testimony for CPN on 3/3/2026 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

I strongly support this bill because it provides residents who live in condominiums with a practical and affordable way to reduce their electricity bills while helping Hawai‘i transition to a clean energy future. For far too long, access to solar power has been limited to those who own a roof, excluding hundreds of thousands of residents who live in multi-unit housing.

Many Hawai‘i residents—including seniors, working families, and people on fixed incomes—live in condominiums. Balcony solar offers these households an opportunity to participate directly in clean energy generation through safe, plug-in solar systems designed for residential use.

Balcony solar is simple and cost-effective. Compact, lightweight solar panels can be securely mounted to lanai railings, with a typical system costing approximately $2,000. These systems can generate energy savings of up to $800 per year, allowing them to pay for themselves in just a few years. Optional battery storage can also be added, enabling residents to use solar energy at night or during power outages, further strengthening household energy resilience.

This bill directly addresses Hawai‘i’s status as having the highest residential electricity rates in the nation. By creating a pathway for condominium residents to generate clean energy from the sun, it reduces household electricity costs while cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

Importantly, the bill includes strong safety standards. It requires balcony solar systems to comply with UL 3700, a safety certification developed by **UL Solutions**, a globally recognized organization that tests and certifies products to ensure they meet rigorous safety and quality requirements. UL 3700 is explicitly aligned with the National Electrical Code. While the National Electrical Code continues to govern home wiring, UL 3700 governs the product itself. Together, these frameworks provide comprehensive safety and consumer protection.

Balcony solar is a common-sense, equitable solution that lowers energy costs, strengthens energy resilience, and advances Hawai‘i’s climate goals. My only concern with the bill is that it limits access to balcony solar solely to residents living in condominiums. I respectfully recommend that the committee consider amending the bill so that all Hawai‘i residents can benefit from this affordable, money-saving clean energy technology.

Me ke aloha ʻāina,

Nanea Lo, 96826

Sierra Club of Hawaiʻi Member

Hawaiʻi Workers Center Board Member

Clean Elections Hawaiʻi Member

Honolulu Tenants Union Member

350 Hawaiʻi Member

Carbon Cashback Hawaiʻi Member

Hawaiʻi Tax Fairness Coalition Member

SB-2902-SD-1
Submitted on: 3/2/2026 9:03:43 AM
Testimony for CPN on 3/3/2026 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lana Brodziak	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee members,

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. I am so pleased to see this legislation move forward.

I don't live in a condo and I want a plug-in solar system for my house.

Please PASS this measure, **but I strongly request removing provisions in the bill that 1. restrict plug-in solar to only those that live in a registered condominium association, and 2. require approval by the HOA Board**.

This measure, if passed without these two noted restrictions, will allow everyone, including our kupuna, to reduce their monthly bill by utilizing plug-in solar.

Respectfully submitted, Lana Brodziak

Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
Senate Ways and Means Committee
SB2902 SD1 — Hearing on March 3, 2026, 10:16 a.m.
Conference Room 211 and Videoconference

STRONG SUPPORT

My name is John Kawamoto, and I strongly support SB2902 SD1 because it creates a practical pathway for people to generate their own clean energy and reduce their electricity bills in a climate-friendly manner.

Balcony solar systems provide a low-cost alternative to traditional rooftop solar. A typical balcony solar device costs approximately $2,000 and can pay for itself within a few years through electricity bill savings. Battery storage may be added at additional cost, allowing households to use solar power at night. Battery prices are steadily declining, making this option increasingly attractive.

Globally, balcony solar has already proven successful. More than a million balcony solar devices are currently operating in Germany. In the United States, Utah recently enacted legislation establishing a regulatory framework for balcony solar. More than 20 other states are actively considering similar measures.

In Hawai‘i, residents currently may not plug in a balcony solar device into an outlet without obtaining an interconnection agreement from their electric utility. For small plug-in systems, this requirement is unnecessary and impractical, posing a significant barrier to adoption. This bill removes this barrier while establishing appropriate safety standards that will encourage widespread adoption of balcony solar technology.

Importantly, this bill creates new opportunities for residents who have historically been excluded from solar energy, particularly those living in housing units managed by condominium associations. These residents will finally have a pathway to clean, homegrown energy from the sun—reducing reliance on imported fossil fuels while lowering household electricity bills.

From a safety standpoint, this bill requires balcony solar systems to meet UL 3700, a safety certification standard developed by UL Solutions. This international company tests, inspects, and certifies products so they meet safety, quality, and regulatory standards. UL 3700 is explicitly aligned with the National Electrical Code (NEC). The NEC continues to govern the home’s wiring, while UL 3700 governs the product itself. Together, these frameworks provide comprehensive protection.

While this bill is a big step forward for reducing electricity costs through solar energy, it can do even more. The restriction to housing units managed by condominium associations can be removed. Balcony solar should be made available to all. I support the amendments suggested by Carbon Cashback Hawaii.

With these amendments, I urge the joint committee to pass the bill.

SB-2902-SD-1
Submitted on: 3/2/2026 11:05:47 AM
Testimony for CPN on 3/3/2026 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diana King	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support passage of SB2902. I am extremely concerned about climate change and view plug in solar as one more tool individuals can use to reduce fossil fuel use while increasing their own energy security. Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-2902-SD-1
Submitted on: 3/2/2026 11:53:02 AM
Testimony for CPN on 3/3/2026 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Bernstein	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the CPN and WAM committees:

I strongly support SB2902 SD1 because it gives those who live in multi-family housing a practical, affordable pathway 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.

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.

SB2902 SD1 has no impact on the State's general fund; it assigns rulemaking and registry administration to the PUC, which may recover any operational costs through existing regulatory mechanisms or nominal registration fees. There is no appropriation, no tax expenditure, and no new State spending authority.

Last, safety concerns have been raised over small plug-in solar units. But this bill requires these systems to meet UL 3700, a safety certification standard developed by UL Solutions, a global company that tests, inspects, and certifies products so they meet safety, quality, and regulatory standards. UL 3700 is explicitly aligned with the National Electrical Code (NEC). The NEC continues to govern the home's wiring, while UL 3700 governs the product itself. Together, these frameworks provide comprehensive protection.

Balcony solar is a common-sense, equitable solution that benefits families, strengthens energy resilience, and advances Hawaii's climate goals. My only concern about the bill is

that it limits balcony solar to people living in condominiums. I recommend that your committees amend the bill so that all Hawaii residents can have access to this money-saving technology.

Please pass SB2902 SD1 out of your committee as an important step in protecting our planet and helping our kama'aina.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo nui,

Paul Bernstein

Honolulu

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

LATE

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

HEARING:
Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 10:16 am
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2902, SD1 - RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Fukunaga, Senator Hashimoto for my Maui district, Senator DeCoite of Maui, Senator McKelvey of Maui, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christine Andrews, and I am a long-term resident of Wailuku, Maui, an attorney licensed for over 25 years, and have been an expert in renewable energy regulation and integration since 2010. I began working on renewable energy policy in 2010, when I took a rooftop solar installation course at UHMC. I was a Project Co-Director of the Maui Electric Vehicle Alliance (Maui EVA) at UHMC in 2012. In 2015, I moved to Minnesota, where I was a founding member of the Minnesota Energy Storage Alliance, an Energy Storage Project Manager at the University of Minnesota Energy Transition Lab, and a member of the Minnesota Distributed Generation Working Group of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. I have submitted comments regarding the integration of emerging renewable energy to regulatory agencies that include the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, the Midwest Independent System Operator (MISO), and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

Let me begin my comments with the lived experience of sitting at the regulatory table with utilities, small and utility scale renewable energy installers, consumer advocates, and renewable energy policy experts. It has consistently been my experience that utilities and engineers, with their concerns about liability and safety, raise a lot of concerns when it comes to the introduction of any new technology. I appreciate their concerns, but let us please not let fear of the new dictate and restrict us when that fear is not reasonable. I remember being at hearings before MISO, which regulates and manages wholesale energy transmission in the Midwest, and even before FERC, where there was a lot of concern about safely integrating solar plus energy storage systems when more experienced colleagues at CAISO, the California Independent System Operator, had been safety integrating those kinds of systems for years. Just because a technology is new and unfamiliar to you does not mean that capable engineers and regulators have not recognized the potential issues, addressed them, and safely worked with the technology for years.

Safety must come first, as a resident of Maui I respect that there is fear related to electricity that has been heightened since the wildfires. That said, I have read the concerns brought up in comments by others on SB 2902, SD1 and would like to try to address them. Plug-in solar technology is not new. It has been used successfully in Germany for several years where **at least one million homes already use plug-in solar systems**.[1] It is important to differentiate between rooftop solar and plug-in solar. Rooftop solar systems are much larger and they can export excess power to the grid. For example, my rooftop solar system has seventeen panels. Plug-in solar systems consist of just two or three panels, pair them with a microinverter, generally **do not export energy to the grid**, and can include an integrated battery. Plug-in solar systems are designed and built to address many of the safety concerns that interconnection rules for larger rooftop solar manage. Plug-in solar is much smaller scale,

[1] Jigar Shah and Lacey Shaver, World Resources Institute, "'Plug-In Solar' Has Faced Major Red Tape in Most States. That Could Soon Change." Feb. 26, 2026. Available at: https://www.wri.org/insights/enabling-plug-in-solar-states

typically designed to be zero export, and they have built-in protections such as anti-islanding, which automatically shuts the device off if grid power is lost. They meet recognized testing standards and so should be treated like household appliances under U.S. electrical safety codes.

There were some comments about fears of plug-in solar systems needing to be wind resistant or somehow not safe for use on balconies. I suggest that any type of balcony furniture can be a projectile under the right conditions. I have a hot-tub on my second story deck and the cover for it blew off in a storm. Window air conditioning units can fall out of windows. Plug-in solar systems are designed to be safe, and properly installed, plug-in solar systems have been shown to be safe in Germany for years.
We cannot regulate human error and we should not do so here in a way that limits a promising technology.

Utah became the first state to fully legalize plug-in solar last year through House Bill 340 which passed the legislature unanimously. The Utah law created a clear category for portable solar generation devices of up to 1,200 watts and removed interconnection, utility approval, and permitting requirements.[2] This year, at least 23 states have introduced similar bills, including SB 2902, SD1. These bills include safety standardization that ensures plug-in solar devices are designed for home use and comply with safety standards such as the National Electrical Code and Underwriters Laboratories.

Plug-in solar is something to be celebrated, not feared. It can bring the cost-savings and climate benefits of solar to a broader segment of our population, and do so in a way that enhances equity and brings us closer to achieving our climate and renewable energy goals. While I am unable to present testimony in person at the March 3 hearing, please consider me a resource to help answer any questions you may have. **I respectfully request your strong support of SB 2902, SD1.**

Christine Andrews, JD
Wailuku, Maui

[2] Ibid.

LATE

SB-2902-SD-1
Submitted on: 3/2/2026 5:09:15 PM
Testimony for CPN on 3/3/2026 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Councilmember Tamara Paltin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair and members,

I am in support of SB2902 SD1

Mahalo,

Tamara Paltin

LATE

SB-2902-SD-1
Submitted on: 3/2/2026 5:40:38 PM
Testimony for CPN on 3/3/2026 10:16:00 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.

That's why I urge the committee to PASS this measure, **but strongly request removing provisions in the bill that 1. restrict plug-in solar to only those that live in a registered condominium association, and 2. require approval by the HOA Board,** since condo associations generally cannot prohibit solar panels.

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, if passed without these two noted restrictions, will allow everyone, including our kupuna, 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.*

-- Plug-in solar is a common sense, clean energy solution, and can make cheap, clean energy a viable option for **everyone**, which is **sorely needed** to help make electricity more affordable. 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, and unlock immediate, and much needed consumer savings for ratepayers.

“Plug-in” solar is low cost, and works for renters, apartments, and homes with unsuitable roofs, and most importantly, **PLUG-IN SOLAR IS SAFE**. A safety standard has been developed for plug-in solar systems by Underwriters Laboratories. These systems include several **safety features**, including those that prevent electricity from backfeeding into the grid during a power outage, protecting utility workers from hazardous, live wires. Real-world experience reinforces the strength of these safeguards. After ten years of adoption in Germany, approximately four million plug-in solar systems are in use with no significant safety incidents reported. And after Utah passed a plug-in solar bill last year, again, there have been no safety incidents reported.

The solar revolution is leaving behind thousands of people living in Hawai'i — precisely the people who most need relief from rising energy bills. We need to cut unnecessary red tape and exempt small systems from rules designed for much larger arrays. By doing so, we can unlock 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!

Mahalo!

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

LATE

SB-2902-SD-1
Submitted on: 3/2/2026 7:41:00 PM
Testimony for CPN on 3/3/2026 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ari Patz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha CPN and WAM,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2902. Plug-in solar should be available for all possible applications, provided it is implemented according to safety regulations.

As the board president of a 109-unit condominium, I can confirm that the vast majority of our owners would welcome the opportunity to save money and lower carbon emissions. Condo owners have largely been excluded from the benefits of solar energy. While our building currently has a large solar array that powers our common areas, our owners are eager to do more. Passing this bill will allow us to do for ourselves what we have already done for our building.

Thank you for your work on this important issue.

Best regards,

Ari Patz