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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Tuesday, March 17, 2026
9:15 a.m.
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 2902, S.D. 2, RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Chair Lowen and Members of the Committee:

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

The purpose of this bill is to: (1) define "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 (HRS); (2) require the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) or a person or organization chosen by the Commission to establish an online registration system; (3) clarify that portable solar generation devices are subject to certain approval procedures for installation in condominiums; and (4) require 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.

The 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>. Importantly, mentioned within the article are a number of safety

standards that should be contemplated. The current version of the legislation in HRS § 269(f) requires the Commission to determine the required certification standard for portable solar generation. The Department notes that per HRS § 269-6(a), which sets forth the general powers and duties of the Commission, the Commission has the duty of general supervision over all public utilities. As such, the Commission would not appear to be the sole entity needed to determine the appropriate certification standard(s) to ensure the safe operation of these systems which flow power over the wires and electrical circuits within a home and potentially the electrical grid itself, which is operated by the electric utilities.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



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Testimony of the Public Utilities Commission

To the
House Committee on
Energy & Environmental Protection

March 17, 2026
9:15 a.m.

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

Measure: S.B. No. 2902, S.D. 2
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.

While the Commission is appreciative of the guidance provided by the Senate Committees on Ways and Means as well as Commerce and Consumer Protection, the Commission respectfully offers additional amendments:

Page 4, Line 15 to Line 20: Additions in Bold and underline

(f) The public utilities commission shall determine, **by rule or order**, the required certification standard for a portable solar generation device, including a standard certified by Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., or an equivalent nationally recognized testing laboratory, as recognized by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration, **by December 30, 2026**.

Page 19, Line 13 to Page 20, Line 4: Deletions in strike, additions in Bold and underline

SECTION 7. The public utilities commission shall submit ~~biannual~~ progress reports on the use of portable solar generation devices to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular sessions of 2027 and 2028 ~~and no later than twenty days after the adjournment sine die of the regular sessions of 2027 and 2028~~. The reports shall include but not be limited to:

- (1) The number of portable solar generation devices registered with the commission **or the commission's delegated person or organization;**
- (2) Any problems encountered by registrants and electric utility companies; and
- (3) The commission's findings, recommendations, and any proposed legislation.

With these proposed amendments, the Commission believes that a docket would be an appropriate avenue to pursue the determination of the required certification standard, allow for appropriate data collection, and facilitate findings and recommendations for additional proposed legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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

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

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

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

**Tuesday, March 17, 2026
9:15 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2902, SENATE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Senate Bill 2902, Senate Draft 2 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 Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) supports this measure.**

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



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

From: Climate Protectors Hawai'i and the Building Decarbonization Task Force of Hawaii Environmental Change Agents (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: **Hearing SB2902 SD2 RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Hearing: Tuesday March 17, 2026 9:15 a.m.

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Energy and Environmental Protection Committee!

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i seeks to educate and engage the local community in climate change action. The Building Decarbonization Task Force of Hawaii Environmental Change Agents seeks to help Hawaii meet its legal target of sequestering more carbon than it emits as soon as practicable and no later than 2045.

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i and HECA Building Decarbonization Task Force
STRONGLY SUPPORT SB2902 SD2 and propose it be amended:

- **to cover renters as well as owners of condominiums and**
- **to not require condo HOA approval.** In Hawaii, by law, HOAs or condo associations generally cannot prohibit solar panels. In Hawaii, by law, HOAs or condo associations generally cannot prohibit solar panels.

Many renters and residents of condominiums are prevented, even with financial assistance for the up-front costs, from accessing less expensive solar power by ownership restrictions, structural limitations, or cost barriers. Development of distributed solar power resources must continue to expand to benefit residents. SB2902 SD2 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 would **open access to solar power** to such residents through safe and effective small-scale, portable plug-in devices. It would eliminate barriers.

The bill 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, but not condominium renters.

This technology is commonly referred to as "**balcony solar.**" Balcony solar would for many residents address 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. 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.

This bill is designed to be safe; it 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.

The bill clarifies that portable solar generation devices are subject to certain approval procedures for installation in condominiums. It requires the Public Utilities Commission or a person or organization chosen by the Commission to establish an **online registration system**.

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

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

Please pass this bill!

Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)



Rep. Nicole Lowen, Chair

Rep. Amy Perruso, Vice Chair

Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

9:15AM Conference Room 325

RE: SB2902 SD2 - Balcony Solar - Support

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

On behalf of the Chamber of Sustainable Commerce (CSC), we write in strong support of SB2902 SD2, a common-sense measure that expands access to cleaner, more affordable and resilient energy for Hawai'i residents. We are also submitting two recommendations for amendments (p2).

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. We support policies that prioritize renewable, distributed, and community-based energy systems.

Plug-in balcony solar represents a practical step toward democratizing access to clean energy. In Hawai'i, many residents cannot install rooftop solar simply because they do not own a roof. Hundreds of thousands of people live in condominiums, apartments, or rental housing and are therefore largely excluded from participating in the clean energy transition.

At the same time, Hawai'i residents pay some of the highest electricity rates in the nation. Expanding access to affordable, distributed energy solutions is essential for a more fair and equitable energy economy.

Under this measure, portable solar generation devices are defined as small systems—up to 1.2 kilowatts—that plug into a standard household outlet and are designed to offset a portion of a customer's electricity use. These systems are intentionally modest in scale and designed to reduce the amount of electricity a household must purchase from the grid.

Hawaii Legislative Council Members

Joell Edwards
Wainiha Country Market
Hanalei

Russell Ruderman
Island Naturals
Hilo/Kona

Dr. Andrew Johnson
Niko Niko Family Dentistry
Honolulu

Robert H. Pahia
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Plug-in solar systems are intentionally simple and accessible. Compact panels mounted on lanai railings plug directly into a standard outlet and generate a modest amount of electricity for household use. A typical system can generate meaningful annual energy savings, allowing it to pay for itself within a few years. Optional battery storage can also be added, enabling households to use stored solar energy at night or during power disruptions.

This technology has already proven successful internationally in Germany, where plug-in balcony solar has been widely adopted since the 2010s. Roughly four million households now use these systems safely.

Importantly, the bill requires these devices to include built-in protections that prevent electricity from flowing back into the grid during outages, ensuring they operate safely alongside existing electrical systems. Plug-in solar devices must also comply with nationally recognized safety standards, while the National Electrical Code (NEC) continues to govern building wiring and electrical systems.

We note that despite the fact that plug-in solar systems must already comply with rigorous safety standards, concerns have been raised in earlier hearings about potential risks or the need to revise the National Electrical Code before allowing their use. In reality, these systems were specifically engineered to operate safely within the existing electrical framework, and the safety standards are already in place.

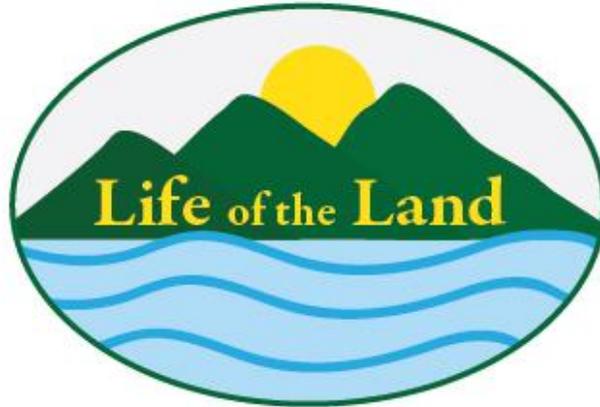
Recommended Amendments

We offer two amendments to strengthen the bill and its impact.

1. We recommend removing language that restricts approved devices to a single UL certification such as UL 3700. Safety standards evolve regularly, and referencing only one standard could quickly become outdated. *Requiring compliance with applicable UL safety standards will ensure continued protection while allowing technology and standards to evolve.*

2. We recommend expanding eligibility beyond condominium units governed by Chapter 514B to include residents of apartments and other multi-family housing so more Hawai'i residents can participate in the clean energy transition.

Respectfully submitted in support. Mahalo for consideration of our testimony.



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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

March 17, 2026
9:15 a.m.
Conference Room 325

SB2902 SD2 Portable Solar

SUPPORT

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

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

The bill states that "A portable solar generation device may be installed only within units in condominiums organized pursuant to chapter 514B ... "shall be allowed upon written consent of the board; and ... shall be allowed on single-family residential dwellings or townhouses pursuant to the provisions in section 196-7."

There is no limit on rental units that are not condos. "These systems are particularly advantageous to residents of apartments and rental properties. Apartment dwellers can install units on balconies and renters can easily relocate their systems when they move to a new home."

The concerns of firefighters are met with the language in SD2

The section allows the Hawaii State Fire Council to have input on certification standards. “

The public utilities commission shall determine the required certification standard for a portable solar generation device.”

This section allows the PUC to transfer the online system to the Hawaii State Fire Council and/or the County Fire Departments

“The public utilities commission shall establish and maintain an online system for registration of portable solar generation devices in the State; provided that the public utilities commission may delegate the authority to establish and maintain the online registration system to any person or organization. No fee shall be required for a customer to register a portable solar generation device.”

Mahalo

Henry Curtis

Executive Director

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 8:43:28 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

My name is Susan RobertsEmery, as Co Chair of the Green Party of Hawai'i, I write today on behalf of all our members. We are in VERY STRONG Support of SB2902 SD2, with some amendments. Please REMOVE these two provisions that weaken the bill.

- 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.

We would like also add that the safety of these plug in units has come a long way. 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.

Allow Hawai'i to lead the way in Safe clean energy, this is a step in the right direction. Dirty fossil fuels need to be replaced and this bill offers us part of the solution. We urge you to Pass SB2902 SD2, with the two provisions removed from the bill.

Mahalo,

Susan RobertsEmery

Green Party of Hawai'i

Paauilo

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee:

Kauai Climate Action Coalition (KCAC), a group of more than 150 Kauai residents, strongly supports SB2902 SD2 because plug-in solar systems represent a game-changing opportunity for families to access 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.

This bill empowers residents without rooftop solar to produce clean energy from the sun. Plug-in solar reduces household electricity costs while cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

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. Residents can add optional battery storage, enabling solar energy to be used at night or during power disruptions.

Balcony solar is a common-sense, equitable solution that is already working in other places. It benefits families, strengthens energy resilience, and advances Hawaii's climate goals. KCAC urges the committee to PASS this measure, **but requests 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 condominium associations generally cannot prohibit solar panels.

We need plug-in solar for **ALL**, not just for the folks who live in condominiums!

Mahalo!

Helen Cox, Kalaheo

Chair Kauai Climate Action Coalition



To: The House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 9:15am

In support of SB2902 SD2 with requested amendments

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

I am Co-Founder of the Hawai'i chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii is in **SUPPORT of SB2902 SD2, 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 EEP Committee has the most accurate, up-to-date information on this important issue, we want to address some misinformation that came up in a previous 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 SD2, 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 Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i, 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.

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

Finally, it is important to note that after Utah unanimously passed and enacted their plug-in solar law last year, 29 states have introduced legislation this year to do the same. However, none but Hawai'i are considering limiting plug-in solar to just a small portion of those who could benefit from it, a restriction that is out of sync with Hawai'i's reputation for being a leader on climate and clean energy. These other states understand how important it is to expand solar to all those who have traditionally been cut out from solar energy's benefits. What a terrible shame if we don't do the same, so as many as possible can reap the energy savings plug-in solar provides, while at the same time, allowing more to participate in our state's clean energy transition. Truly, this is the kind of common-sense climate solutions we need to implement in earnest.

Please **PASS SB2902 SD2 with the requested amendments**. Plug-in solar rights is a much-needed game-changer that should be extended to **all Hawai'i 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-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 8:55:36 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the EEP Committee,

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 STRONG SUPPORT with suggested amendments for SB2902 SD2 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 carbon pollution, 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 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 SD2 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



House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Chair Lowen and members of the EEP
Tuesday, 17 March, 09:15 AM
Room 325
SB 2902 SD2 – Balcony Solar

TESTIMONY

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

Chair Lowen and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii is pleased SB 2902 SD2 is having a hearing in the House and strongly supports this bill, which will give Hawaii residents who live in condominiums an opportunity to take advantage of solar power and will ultimately assist Hawaii in transitioning to a clean energy future. This bill helps Hawaii residents by reducing household electricity costs and helps Hawaii by producing clean energy powered by the sun vice fossil fuels that contribute to greenhouse gas emissions.

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

Currently in Hawaii, residents cannot plug in a balcony solar system without an interconnection agreement with Hawaiian Electric, which is a barrier for these small-scale installations. While balcony solar systems will not solve Hawaii's energy challenges or meet its 100% renewable energy goal by 2045, it is a step in the right direction.

The League of Women Voters US (LWVUS) views climate change as a critical issue that requires action at all levels of government and supports legislation to improve energy efficiency, including shifting to renewable energy. Balcony solar is an evidence based solution already proven successful in Europe. The proposed Balcony Solar bill, SB 2902 SD2, is consistent with the LWVUS' longstanding support for renewable energy solutions.

We also ask for consideration to amend the bill to allow all Hawaii residents access to using balcony solar, not only residents living in condominiums. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and for the work you are doing to help transition Hawaii to a clean energy future.



SB 2902 Written Testimony

Dear Chair Lowen, and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection. My name is Hannah Ellis representing Bright Saver, a non-profit dedicated to building a plug-in solar movement in the US, making solar ownership affordable and accessible to everyone. I am testifying to encourage the Committee to support **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 the recent Underwriters Laboratories (UL) guidance 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.

This technology 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 and as state law requires all of the electricity sold in the state to be produced using renewable resources by 2045.

While we enthusiastically support SB 2902, we recommend one important revision:

1. **Amend the bill to ensure plug-in solar is accessible across ALL 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. **Hawaii is the only state of the 30 states that have introduced plug-in solar legislation this year that includes this limitation.**

Furthermore, while not explicitly calling for an amendment, we believe 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.

Additional safety commentary:

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 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 submit testimony.



Testimony Before the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

By Beth Amaro
Member Services and Communications Manager
Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative
4463 Pahe'e Street, Suite 1, Līhu'e, Hawai'i, 96766-2000

Tuesday, March 17, 2026; 9:15 am
Conference Room #325 & Videoconference

Senate Bill No. 2902 SD2 – RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

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

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

KIUC 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 Kaua'i electric grid at 100% renewable for thousands of hours on sunny days. KIUC's renewable mix currently includes biomass, hydropower, utility-scale solar, utility-scale paired with battery energy storage systems, and distributed (rooftop) solar.

This bill seeks to 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.
- **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. \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. Will the PUC be obligated to share this information with the utility and will the location of the device be included in the notification?
- **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.



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

Testimony of the Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) Regarding SB2902 SD2, Relating to Renewable Energy, Before the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Tuesday, March 17 2026

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

The Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) **supports SB2902 SD2** and believes it can be amended to expand eligibility beyond condominiums and limit the capacity of eligible systems at 1.2 kW or under.

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

Expanding Affordability and Access to Clean Energy

SB2902 meaningfully expands access to renewable energy for households that are often excluded from traditional rooftop solar, including **apartment residents, renters, and condominium owners**. These households face structural, ownership, and cost barriers that make rooftop solar infeasible, even as they bear some of the highest electricity costs in the nation. Portable solar generation devices provide a **lower-cost entry point** allowing households to offset a portion of their electricity usage with minimal upfront investment.

We would support an amendment expanding eligibility beyond condominiums.

Strong Safety and Consumer Protections

While existing, universally understood safety certification requirements under Underwrites Laboratory already exist, and may evolve further, SB2902 adds an additional layer of protection by requiring the PUC to determine the standard. This will ensure that only **tested, certified, and inherently safe equipment** is deployed, protecting residents, first responders, and the electric system.

We would support amendments limiting eligibility to systems 1.2 kW and under.

Regulatory Clarity Without Unnecessary Barriers

The bill appropriately exempts qualifying portable solar generation devices from:



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

- Net energy metering requirements;
- Individual utility interconnection agreements;
- Utility approval, fees, or additional equipment mandates.

At the same time, SB2902 preserves the **Public Utilities Commission's oversight role** through a no-fee online registration system and biannual reporting to the Legislature. This approach provides transparency and accountability while avoiding unnecessary friction for consumers.

Conclusion

SB2902 is a pragmatic, consumer-focused measure that:

- Improves **energy affordability and equity**;
- Enables safe, self-consumed solar generation for underserved households;
- Maintains strong **UL-based safety standards**; and

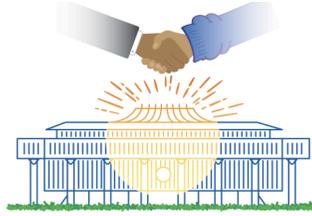
For these reasons, HSEA respectfully urges the Committee to **advance SB2902 SD2** with amendments expanding eligibility beyond condominiums and capping eligible systems to 1.2 kW or under.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

/S/ Rocky Mould

Executive Director



CLIMATE FUTURE FORUM

Date: March 15th, 2026
To: Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Representative Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
From: Climate Future Forum
Re: **SUPPORT for SB2902 SD2**
Hearing: **3/17/26 9:15A**

Aloha Chair Lowen and members of the EEP Committee,

My name is Tahan Bapna, and I'm a junior in high school submitting this testimony on behalf of Climate Future Forum in **strong support** of SB2902 SD2.

As a resident I care deeply about where Hawai'i is headed. Climate change is something I think about seriously, and I believe the energy decisions we make now actually matter for what Hawai'i looks like in twenty years.

Hawai'i leads the nation in rooftop solar per capita, which is great. But a huge portion of Hawai'i residents live in condos and apartments and have never had a real way to participate in that. They don't own a roof. Balcony solar gives them one.

A system that costs \$500 to \$1,000, plugs into a regular outlet, and doesn't require a contractor is something working families and seniors can actually use -- especially when Hawai'i has the highest residential electricity rates in the country.

Climate Future Forum supports this bill. Our one recommendation is to expand eligibility beyond condominiums. Renters in other types of housing face the same problem and should have the same option.

We urge the committee to pass SB2902 SD2 and expand it to cover all Hawai'i residents.

Mahalo for your time.

Sincerely,
Tahan Bapna
Youth Leader of Hawai'i Climate Future Forum

Citizens' Climate Lobby Hawaii

cclhawaii.org



March 16, 2026

STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB2902 SD2 - RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

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

Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) Hawaii is in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2902 SD2, which defines and provides requirements for the use of a portable solar generation device. SB2902 SD2 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 SD2 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 SD2 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.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

March 17, 2026

9:15 AM

Conference Room 325

In **SUPPORT** of **SB2902 SD2**: RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

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

On behalf of our more than 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **supports** SB2902 SD2, which can help condominium owners and renters save on their energy bills, while reducing our collective demand on our electrical grids.

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

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

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

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

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



SIERRA CLUB

OF HAWAII

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 Hawai'i'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 Committee to **PASS** SB2902 SD2. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.



Carbon Cashback

Re: EEP Hearing of SB 2902 SD 2 on March 17, 2026 at 9:15 am

Position: Strong Support

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

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

Carbon Cashback Hawai‘i is in strong support of SB 2902 SD 2.

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

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

More than a million balcony solar devices are already operating in Germany. Utah was the first state that passed a law creating the regulatory framework needed for widespread adoption. Virginia recently followed suit, and many other states are considering similar legislation.

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

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

While the bill deserves to be passed, the following amendments would improve it:

- (1) The option of installing balcony solar devices should be extended to all families and individuals living in all types of housing; and
- (2) For safety reasons, the number of solar generation devices in any particular home should be limited by prescribing that the maximum aggregate rated power output of all portable solar generation devices connected to an electrical meter shall not exceed 1,200 watts.

With the suggested amendments, Carbon Cashback Hawai‘i would further support this bill.

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 1:06:16 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen and members of the EEP Committee:

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.

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

Mahalo!

Virginia

Honolulu

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 1:10:43 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen and members of the EEP Committee:

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.

mahalo for this opportunity to testify,

Diane Ware. Volcano 96785

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 1:16:45 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen and members of the EEP Committee:

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 the Public Utilities Commission to determine the required certification standard for balcony solar devices, including a standard certified by United Laboratories or an equivalent nationally recognized testing laboratory. The National Electrical Code (NEC) continues to govern the home's wiring, and the certification standard for balcony solar would govern 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 committee amend the bill so that all Hawaii residents can have access to this money-saving technology.

Thank you,

Mry Lu Kelley

Koloa, Kauai

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 1:44:01 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
valrie griffith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am infvor of balacony solar sysems. It will help Hawaii reach energy goals . I is a great program for those who live in apts s owners or renters. Please consider passing the bill. Mahahlo valrie a griffith

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 2:02:36 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen and members of the EEP Committee

I write this to express my **strong support** for this bill because it gives many of the residents of our state a practical and affordable pathway to reduce their electricity bills while helping Hawaii become less reliant upon foreign fuel. Many have unfortunately been unable to reap the benefits of solar power simply because they do not own the roof above their heads.

Hundreds of thousands of Hawaii residents currently live in condominiums. Balcony solar creates an opportunity for these households, including seniors and working-class 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. The average system costs about \$2,000, and can generate savings of roughly \$800 per year, allowing it to pay itself off in a handful of years. Additionally, users can purchase battery storage, enabling the solar energy they generate 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 the Public Utilities Commission to determine the required certification standard for balcony solar devices, including a standard certified by United Laboratories or an equivalent nationally recognized testing laboratory. The National Electrical Code (NEC) continues to govern the home's wiring, and the certification standard for balcony solar would govern 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, as it is, is that it limits balcony solar to people living in condominiums. **I strongly recommend that your committee amend the bill so that all Hawaii residents can have access to this money-saving technology.**

Mahalo,

David Murray, Kaneohe

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 2:36:44 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen and members of the EEP Committee:

As I write this testimony, I'm looking out at the storm that is bringing torrential rain and gusty winds. Many people have already lost power and the work to restore power may be slow.

Everyone in Hawaii should be able increase their own energy security if they choose to. For too long, solar power has been out of the reach of many residents simply because they do not own a roof.

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.

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 gives residents the right to choose to reduce their household electricity costs while cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

This bill requires the Public Utilities Commission to determine the required certification standard for balcony solar devices. The National Electrical Code (NEC) continues to govern the home's wiring. This is a safe move.

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

Mahalo nui for your consideration.

Megan Conley, Nu'uanu

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 3:28:45 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen and members of the EEP Committee:

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 the Public Utilities Commission to determine the required certification standard for balcony solar devices, including a standard certified by United Laboratories or an equivalent nationally recognized testing laboratory. The National Electrical Code (NEC) continues to govern the home's wiring, and the certification standard for balcony solar would govern 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 committee amend the bill so that all Hawaii residents can have access to this money-saving technology.

Mahalo,

Jaymen

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 4:00:09 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcia Kemble	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of SB2902, which would lighten regulations on balcony solar systems, thus vastly expanding how many Hawaii residents—particularly renters—could take advantage of solar power to reduce their electric bills. This is a well-tested technology and one very easy for consumers to use. These small-scale systems deserve to be freed from the onerous regulations that make sense for full PV rooftop systems, yet strict safety standards will still be maintained. I see only advantages and no downsides to this legislation. Note: Plug-in solar should not be restricted to only those that live in a registered condominium association; everyone should have access to these systems. Also, plug-in solar systems should not require approval by an HOA Board.

Mahalo for your attention.

Marcia Kemble

Makiki

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 4:42:18 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Perruso, and committee members. I support SB2902, SD2, which I consider improved by the amendments which have been made. This bill would help to democratize clean energy, make it available to more households, and move Hawaii closer to its carbon-neutral goal. I urge you to pass SB2902.

Aloha Chair Lowen and members of the EEP Committee:

I strongly support SB2902_SD2 because balcony solar is a common-sense, enabling solution that benefits families, strengthens energy resilience, and advances Hawaii's climate goals..

Balcony solar is simple and affordable. A typical system pays for itself in just a few years. Optional battery storage can be added, for stored 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 supports individual and community resilience.

I respectfully urge the committee to pass this bill.

Keith Neal
Waimea

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 5:51:41 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen and members of the EEP Committee:

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 the Public Utilities Commission to determine the required certification standard for balcony solar devices, including a standard certified by United Laboratories or an equivalent nationally recognized testing laboratory. The National Electrical Code (NEC) continues to govern the home's wiring, and the certification standard for balcony solar would govern 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 committee amend the bill so that all Hawaii residents can have access to this money-saving technology.

Mahalo!

Seuta'atia Cochran

Ewa Beach, 'Iolani Schools

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 6:07:00 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen and members of the EEP Committee:

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 the Public Utilities Commission to determine the required certification standard for balcony solar devices, including a standard certified by United Laboratories or an equivalent nationally recognized testing laboratory. The National Electrical Code (NEC) continues to govern the home's wiring, and the certification standard for balcony solar would govern 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 committee amend the bill so that all Hawaii residents can have access to this money-saving technology.

Mahalo!

Benjamin Narwold, Kapaa, HI

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 6:36:10 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Honorable Members,

Please support SB2902 SD2 which allows citizens who live in condominiums to install photovoltaic devices on their balcony to reduce energy bills.

Thank you for your consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 7:26:22 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support this legislation to enable a quicker, easier way to allow more solar energy in Hawaii for lower electricity costs and cleaner energy. But why is it limited to condos? Shouldn't this be available for anyone who has a balcony or location for the device?

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 9:38:42 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Energy & Environmental Protection Committee,

My name is An and I'm a public health student on O'ahu. I am in strong support of SB2902 SD2.

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.

Please support SB2902 SD2.

Mahalo,
An Vo
Honolulu, HI

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 11:25:56 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

SUPPORT!

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 12:19:32 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Allowing residents to lower electricity bills and greenhouse gas emissions is obviously a winner.
Mahalo!

Bobbie Best

Wailuku Maui

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair

Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 9:15 am

Conference Room 325 and Via Videoconference

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2902, SD2 - RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, 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).

I write today in strong support of SB 2902, SD2, Relating to Renewable Energy. 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 safely 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

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>

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, 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, SD2. 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, SD2.**

Christine Andrews, JD
Wailuku, Maui

² Ibid.

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 11:17:59 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Balcony solar is a common-sense, equitable solution that benefits families, strengthens energy resilience, and advances Hawaii's climate goals. Europe, and most notably Germany, has significant experience with the technology. It appears to be pre-eminently safe and widely accepted.

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

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 10:40:21 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Plug-in solar systems represent a game-changing opportunity for families to 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.

We need plug-in solar for **ALL**, not just for the folks who live in condos!

mahalo,

Christel Thompson

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 11:04:55 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

My name is Kathy Shimata & I live in Honolulu.

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 restricting it to condo dwellers, will allow everyone, including our kupuna, to reduce their monthly bill by utilizing plug-in solar.** Plug-in solar can help keep electricity costs down and bring clean-energy benefits to more in our communities.

Please support SB2902.

Mahalo,

Kathy Shimata

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 11:39:47 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Plug-in solar systems represent a game-changing opportunity for families to 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.

We need plug-in solar for **ALL**, not just for the folks who live in condos! Mahalo.

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 3:28:03 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

SUPPORT FOR SB2902 SD2 (RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY)

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

I'm a long-time advocate for sustainable energy in Hawai'i. I support SB2902 SD2, 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 Hawai'i'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 and [Virginia recently passed legislation](#) to allow the same.)

I respectfully urge the committee to pass SB2902 SD2 with an amendment to allow the solution to be allowed in all residential properties, including rentals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

[Noel Morin](#)

Climate, Sustainability, and Resilience Advocate

Hilo, Hawai'i

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 3:56:06 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samuel M Mitchell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a condo owner I 100% support this bill. We need porch solar systems in Hawaii and this week long storm proved it.

Samuel Mitchell

Makiki NB-10

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 7:20:46 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Plug-in solar is a common sense, clean energy solution, and can make cheap, clean energy a viable option for **everyone**, which is **solely 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.

I strongly support 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.

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 8:28:34 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

In support of. Thank you.

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 9:51:21 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 10:16:40 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

I am writing in **strong support** of SB2902 SD2, with a crucial request: **expand this bill to benefit everyone, not just those living in condominiums.**

The Promise of Plug-In Solar

With electricity prices skyrocketing, residents across Hawai‘i are desperately searching for ways to reduce their energy bills. Installing a rooftop solar system is a great investment, but for too many, the upfront costs—ranging from \$15,000 to \$30,000—are an insurmountable obstacle. And if you are a renter, live in a high-rise, or your roof isn't right for solar, going solar may not be an option at all.

That's where plug-in solar comes in. These compact, portable systems—popular in Germany, which now has more than a million such installations—allow residents to generate their own renewable energy by simply plugging panels into a standard wall outlet . A typical system costs around \$2,000, can offset 10–20% or more of a household's electricity bill, and pays for itself within a few years. For renters, the portability is transformative—when you move, you simply unplug and take your system with you.

The Current Bill Is a Good Start, But Not Enough

SB2902 SD2 takes an important first step by defining "portable solar generation device" and establishing requirements for their use in condominiums. It rightly addresses the "red tape" that has held back this technology—including the impractical requirement for utility interconnection agreements that are designed for much larger systems .

But as currently written, **only those living in condos will benefit.** This is deeply unfair. Renters, single-family homeowners with shaded roofs, residents of multi-family dwellings that aren't condominiums, and countless others who could benefit from this technology are left out entirely.

Everyone Deserves Access to Clean, Affordable Energy

The technology exists. The benefits are clear. The question is: why should access depend on the legal structure of your housing?

- **Renters** make up a significant portion of Hawai‘i's population. They pay the same high electricity rates as everyone else, but have been completely excluded from the solar revolution because they cannot install permanent rooftop systems.
- **Homeowners with shaded or aging roofs** may want solar but cannot make rooftop installation work. Plug-in solar offers them a path forward.
- **Low- and moderate-income households** who cannot afford the upfront cost of rooftop solar could better afford a \$2,000 plug-in system, especially with the state tax credits for which these systems are eligible.

The 2026 legislative session included the first-ever hearing on plug-in solar technology in Hawai‘i, where lawmakers heard only support. Utah has already passed a law to reduce barriers for this technology, and Hawai‘i could be next. Let's not squander this opportunity by limiting it to one segment of the population.

Safety Is Manageable, Access Is the Goal

Opponents may raise safety concerns about electrical loads and grid interactions. These are legitimate and have been addressed in the bill's framework. UL-certified inverters with "anti-islanding" protection prevent backfeeding during outages. The 1,200-watt cap proposed in similar legislation is a reasonable limit. Technical issues like "breaker masking" can be addressed through consumer education and, where needed, professional outlet inspection.

These safety considerations are important, but they are not reasons to limit access. They are reasons to implement the program thoughtfully—for everyone.

A Simple Amendment

I respectfully request that the committee amend SB2902 SD2 to extend its provisions to **all residents of Hawai‘i**, regardless of housing type. The registration system established by the Public Utilities Commission should be available to any resident who wishes to install a compliant plug-in solar device. The approval procedures should apply uniformly, not just to condominium associations.

Conclusion

Plug-in solar is a simple, safe, and affordable way for everyday people to participate in Hawai‘i's clean energy future. It democratizes solar power and finally extends its benefits to renters, apartment dwellers, and others who have been left behind.

This bill has the potential to fix the red tape holding us back. But to realize that potential fully, it must apply to **everyone**.

I urge the committee to pass SB2902 SD2 with amendments to expand access to all Hawai‘i residents.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

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

I strongly support SB2902 SD2 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.

This bill addresses safety concerns by requiring the Public Utilities Commission to determine the required certification standard for balcony solar devices, including a standard certified by United Laboratories or an equivalent nationally recognized testing laboratory. The National Electrical Code (NEC) continues to govern the home's wiring, and the certification standard for balcony solar would govern the product itself. Together, these frameworks provide comprehensive protection.

Proposed Amendment: 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 SD2 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

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 11:08:40 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen M Kimbrell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii needs solar electricity in all forms and for all citizens. For the sake of the planet, we need to decrease fossil fuels in all manners possible.

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 11:42:10 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
irene kloepfer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Plug-in solar systems represent a game-changing opportunity for families to 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.

We need plug-in solar for **ALL**, not just for the folks who live in condos!
solar is even more vital now. We see how much money is being spent, 1,6 billion dollars a day for the war in Iran - over oil. We need to be renewable yesterday if we want to continue to exist as a human species on planet earth. Mahalo. Irene

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 11:54:53 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of SB 2902. With electricity prices skyrocketing, folks are searching for ways to reduce their energy bills. Installing a rooftop solar system is a great investment, but for too many the upfront costs are an obstacle. And if you are a renter, live in a high-rise, or your roof isn't right for solar, going solar may not be an option. That's where plug-in solar comes in! Plug-in solar is a simple, safe, and affordable way to receive the financial and resiliency benefits of solar. All you need to do is plug them into a standard wall outlet, and it will help power your everyday needs. But red tape is holding us back. This bill has the potential to fix that, but as currently written, **only those living in condos will benefit**. We need to convince the committee that **EVERYONE deserves to have the option to install plug-in solar!**

Mahalo,

Jen Lum, 'Ewa Beach

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 12:43:28 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you for accepting my testimony supporting SB2902 SD2.

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 2:37:06 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 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 SB2902 SD2.

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.

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 3:24:12 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 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 for families to 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.

We need plug-in solar for **ALL**, not just for the folks who live in condos!

Mahalo,

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 8:30:34 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kitty Calhoun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen and members of the EEP Committee:

I strongly support this bill. Additionally, I recommend that it be amended sot that all Hawaii residents can have access to this money saving technology.

Mahalo!

Kitty Calhoun, Kekeha

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 8:43:07 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen and members of the EEP,

I strongly support this bill because it will offer a practical, affordable way for families to reduce their electricity bills.

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 condos. I recommend amending the bill so that all Hawaii residents can have access to this money-saving technology.

Mahalo!

Thomas Graham

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 10:24:49 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
L. Osterer	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge the committee to PASS this measure, **but only after eliminating the restrictions to condominium complexes and requiring HOA Board approval. This is an unnecessary restriction.** We need plug-in solar for **ALL**, not just for the folks who live in condos!

Our electricity rates in our state are the highest in the nation, and likely to rise. This is critical for kupuna on fixed incomes and for low-income families. **This measure, if passed without restricting it to condo dwellers, should allow everyone to reduce bills, at a time when every penny counts.** This is an available cheap solution to utilize clean renewable energy.

We need plug-in solar for everyone, not just the folks who live in condos!

PLUG-IN SOLAR IS SAFE. The safety standard has been developed for plug-in solar systems by Underwriters Laboratories. These systems include preventing electricity from backfeeding into the grid during a power outage. In Germany, approximately four million plug-in solar systems are in use for 10 years with no significant safety incidents reported. Utah passed a plug-in solar bill last year, and no safety incidents were reported since.

Please cut unnecessary red tape and exempt small systems from rules designed for much larger arrays.

Thank you for your consideration.

L. Osterer, a kapuna registered voter.

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SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 7:24:42 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronald "Ron" Reilly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Gabbard, Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Richards, Vice Chair Chang and Members of the AEN and EIG Committees,

My name is Ron Reilly, I live in Volcano Village and I am in strong support of HB1620 HD2 which will increase electric vehicle charging infrastructure and accelerate Hawai'i's shift to clean transportation.

Personally I am fortunate to charge my EV primarily via roof top solar with battery storage. This results in minimal use of grid power and provides the satisfaction knowing my driving miles are essentially sun-powered. **However, for condo dwellers and renters who do not own their roof and therefore cannot install solar PV with battery storage, access to convenient EV charging is a essential component of clean, affordable, electric vehicle ownership.**

By directing additional barrel tax revenue to charging infrastructure HB1620 HD2 uses an existing funding source to deliver long-term cost savings, cleaner air, energy security, and makes EV transportation a more realistic option for families across all our islands.

Please pass HB1620 HD2.

Thank you, Ron Reilly

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 7:52:52 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

Charles E Cox

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 8:44:48 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

My name is **Nanea Lo**, and I respectfully submit testimony **in support of this measure to expand access to plug-in solar systems in Hawai‘i.**

Everyone in Hawai‘i is painfully aware that electricity rates in our state are among the highest in the nation, and they are projected to continue rising. This reality places enormous strain on many households, especially **kupuna on fixed incomes and low-income families** who already struggle with the high cost of living. Measures that allow residents to generate even a portion of their own electricity can make a meaningful difference in reducing monthly expenses.

Plug-in solar represents a simple, accessible solution. These systems allow households to lower their electricity bills by producing their own clean energy without the high upfront costs or structural requirements of traditional rooftop systems. At a time when every dollar matters, plug-in solar can help keep electricity costs down while expanding access to renewable energy.

However, I respectfully urge the committee to **remove provisions that limit plug-in solar systems only to residents living within registered condominium associations and requirements that HOA boards approve installation.** Restricting this technology to condo dwellers unnecessarily excludes many residents who could benefit from it. Hawai‘i needs solutions that work for **renters, single-family homes, apartments, and multigenerational households alike.**

Plug-in solar should be **accessible to all residents**, not just those living in certain housing arrangements. Expanding access will help more households lower their electricity costs while advancing our state’s clean energy goals.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to **PASS this measure with amendments that ensure plug-in solar is available to all Hawai‘i residents.**

Me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, 96826

Sierra Club of Hawai‘i Member

Hawai'i Workers Center Board Member

Clean Elections Hawai'i Member

Honolulu Tenants Union Member

350 Hawai'i Member

Carbon Cashback Hawai'i Member

Hawai'i Tax Fairness Coalition Member

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 9:03:10 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please pass this importnt bill that will allow people who live in apartments and condos to install compact solar devices on their lanais. This will help enormously with our goal of being energy sustainable by 2030!

Mahalo,

Susan Browne

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 9:21:56 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruby Pap	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this important bill! I own a condo and my association will not install solar, as it is cost prohibitive at this time, and they are worried about damage to their roof - a whole litany of reasons. This bill would allow me to use plug in solar on my lanai! A win win for everyone. Please pass it.

--Plug-in solar systems represent a game-changing opportunity for families to 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.

We need plug-in solar for **ALL**, not just for the folks who live in condos!

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 12:40:04 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. Thank you.

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 1:16:44 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill because it gives residents in condominiums and apartments a practical, affordable way to reduce their electricity bills while participating in Hawai‘i’s clean energy transition.

Approximately **40% of Hawai‘i’s residents live in multi-family housing**, yet most cannot access rooftop solar. Balcony solar provides a simple solution—compact panels mounted on a lanai and plugged into a standard outlet using inverters with proven safety features.

These systems are affordable, typically costing around **\$2,000** and saving **up to \$800 per year**, with a payback period of just a few years. At peak output of **600 to 1,000 watts**, they can offset everyday daytime electricity use like refrigeration, lighting, and electronics.

This is especially important in Hawai‘i, where we have the **highest residential electricity rates in the nation**.

Balcony solar is a common-sense, equitable solution that lowers costs, expands access to clean energy, and strengthens household resilience.

I respectfully urge you to pass this bill.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Doug Hagan

Paia, Maui.

LATE

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 8:22:16 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon Cha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

I would like to submit testimony in support of this bill.

Thank you for your time.

LATE

SB-2902-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 10:50:51 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Misakian	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the EEP Committee,

My apologies for my late testimony, as I am preparing for my condominium associations Annual Meeting, where I serve as a Director. I also serve as the President of the Kokua Council, and the Vice President of the Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans.

My testimony is submitted as an individual, but as a kupuna advocate in Hawaii I know that wherever there is a place to save money and help the environment, that's a good bill.

I support SB2902 SD2 and ask that you amend it to include apartments and homes that have a suitable space for these portable solar systems.

Respectfully,

Gregory Misakian