



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs
Thursday, February 5, 2026
3:01 p.m.
Via Videoconference**

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

Chair Wakai 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 establish 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) 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. requirements.

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 Department notes that the testing and development of certain certification standards in the United States may be needed and would contribute to this objective.¹ The Department further notes that the electric utility ultimately is held accountable for the safety and reliability of the grid. Electric utilities have well-established interconnection standards to help ensure customer-sited generation and storage are safely interconnected to the grid and support continued reliability of the grid. Any technology that envisions interconnection based on equipment complying with specific safety standards or certifications must be thoroughly vetted to ensure it complies with the electric utility's interconnection requirements.

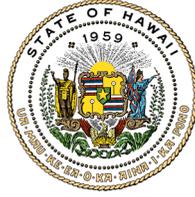
The Department looks forward to hearing more about the experiences of current users of these systems, both in the United States and elsewhere; what issues or barriers have been identified in those locations; what "additional controls or equipment beyond what is integrated into the device" have been required elsewhere (and why), or have been prohibited from being required (and why); what is or is not "moveable;" 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.

¹ Recent popular coverage of this topic includes: PBS News Hour. "Small plug-in solar panels gain popularity across the U.S." December 7, 2025. <https://www.pbs.org/video/plug-in-solar-1765141522/> Hu, Akielly. "Balcony solar took off in Germany. Why not the US?" *Grist*. April 25, 2025. <https://grist.org/energy/balcony-solar-took-off-in-germany-why-not-the-us/>

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
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STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

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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 Senate Committee on
ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

**Thursday, February 5, 2026
3:01 PM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 224 and Via Videoconference

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2902
RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Senate Bill 2902 defines "portable solar generation device" and establishes certain requirements for their regulation and use exclusively within units in condominiums organized pursuant to Chapter 514B, Hawai'i Revised Statutes. Requires the Public Utilities Commission 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.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



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Testimony of the Public Utilities Commission

To the
Senate Committee on
Energy & Intergovernmental Affairs

February 5, 2026
3:01 p.m.

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee:

Measure: S.B. No. 2902
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.

The Commission agrees that it should be allowed to track the portable solar generation devices. The current inability to track portable solar generation devices may lead to safety issues for utility workers. The Commission observes that a lack of technical requirements or technical screens may cause unforeseen issues relating to unregulated deployment of this technology. In the past, the Commission has approved other non-exporting Distributed Energy Resource programs that are sufficiently streamlined with minimal use of technical screens.

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

Page 4, Line 16 to Page 5 Line 3:

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

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

Page 5, Line 18 to Line 20:

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB-2902

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 5:19:09 PM

Testimony for EIG on 2/5/2026 3:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

We support this bill with amendments: we suggest removing provisions in the bill that restrict plug-in solar to only those that live in a registered condominium association, and to remove the specification that installing plug-in solar would require approval by the HOA Board. In 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.



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

Testimony of the Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) Regarding SB2902, Relating to Renewable Energy, Before the Senate Committee on Energy and Intragovernmental Affairs

Thursday, February 5, 2025

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, and Committee Members,

The Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) **supports SB2902**, which establishes a clear and thoughtful regulatory framework for portable solar generation devices -- often referred to as balcony solar or plug-in solar -- beginning with condominium units.

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.

Strong Safety and Consumer Protections

SB2902 includes **clear and important safety requirements**, consistent with national best practices:

- Devices must include **anti-islanding functionality** to prevent energizing a building's electrical system during power outages.
- Devices must be **certified by Underwriters Laboratories (UL)** or an equivalent nationally recognized testing laboratory, ensuring that both the device and its components meet rigorous safety and performance standards.
- Utilities are shielded from liability, and customers retain responsibility for safe operation and use.



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

These provisions ensure that only **tested, certified, and inherently safe equipment** is deployed, protecting residents, first responders, and the electric system.

Regulatory Clarity Without Unnecessary Barriers

The bill appropriately exempts qualifying portable solar generation devices from:

- 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.

Relationship to Other Portable Solar Legislation

HSEA notes that SB2902 differs from other portable solar proposals by **initially limiting installation to condominium units** and by establishing a **registration-based oversight framework**. These differences reflect a more incremental rollout approach.

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 **pass SB2902**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

/S/ Rocky Mould, Executive Director



Re: EIG Hearing of SB 2902 on Feb. 5, 2026 at 3:01 pm

Position: Strong Support

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice-Chair Chang, and members of the Senate Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs 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 SB2902.

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

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.

For the foregoing reasons, Carbon Cashback Hawaii supports this bill.



Testimony Before the Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Relations

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

Thursday, February 5, 2026; 3:01 pm
Conference Room #224 & Videoconference

Senate Bill No. 2902 – RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

To the Honorable Chair Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair Stanley Chang, 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.
- **Lack of specificity regarding anti-islanding and certification standards.** This bill requires anti-island protection and UL Solutions (formerly Underwriters Laboratories) (UL) certification but does not reference the specific standards that must be met. For reference, KIUC requires inverter settings for interconnection based on the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) 1547/UL 1741 standards, which are subject to change.
- **No notification to the utility.** While it is understandable that the bill seeks to avoid a full interconnection agreement, it would still be important for KIUC to know where the devices are installed on the grid. A possible middle-ground solution would be to require customers to provide notice to KIUC prior to installing a portable solar generation device, without triggering a formal interconnection process.

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

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



Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Committee on Energy & Intergovernmental Affairs

Thursday, February 5, 2026
3:01PM Conference Room 224

RE: SB2902 - Portable Solar Energy Devices - Support

Dear Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committees,

On behalf of the Chamber of Sustainable Commerce (CSC), we write in strong support of SB2902, a common-sense measure that expands access to clean, affordable, and resilient energy for Hawai'i residents. The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce represents more than 570 small businesses, sole proprietors and entrepreneurs across Hawai'i committed to a triple bottom line: people, planet and prosperity.

Plug-in solar systems represent a game-changing opportunity to democratize access to solar energy. Unlike traditional rooftop systems, plug-in solar offers an affordable and scalable option for renters, condo residents, kūpuna, low-to-moderate income households, and others who are currently locked out of Hawai'i's clean energy transition.

As electricity prices continue to rise—the highest in the nation—the economic case for plug-in solar only grows stronger. This technology allows households to immediately offset everyday electricity use, reduce monthly bills, and increase energy independence. Yet outdated regulations are holding it back.

We suggest two amendments: 1) Remove requirement for registration with utility and/or PUC, which places unnecessary burden on the consumer, and 2) Remove requirement for HOA approval; HOAs and condo associations in Hawaii generally cannot prohibit solar panels other than non-system impairing restrictions on placement and aesthetics - this language can limit accessibility for renters who can benefit the most from plug in/balcony solar.

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

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
Hawaii Taro Farm
Wailuku

Maile Meyer
Honolulu

Tina Wildberger
Kihei Ice
Kihei

L. Malu Shizue Miki
Abundant Life Natural Foods
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Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs
Chair Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair Stanley Chang
Thursday, 05 February, 3:00 PM
Room 224
SB 2902 – Balcony Solar

TESTIMONY

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

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, and Committee Members:

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

Balcony solar systems are accessible, affordable, provide grid benefits, have educational value, and are flexible. The balcony solar systems enable renters and condominium/apartment residents – who typically cannot install rooftop solar - to participate in renewable energy generation. 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, is consistent with the LWVUS' longstanding support for renewable energy solutions.

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



February 4, 2026

Re: EIG hearing of SB 2902 February 5, 2026

Position: Comments only

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs

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

On behalf of solar consumers, we strongly urge your support for the spirit of **SB 2902**, which will begin to pave the way for bringing plug-in solar to Hawai'i. However, critical changes to the current language need to be addressed. While we are encouraged that the bill removes unnecessary interconnection requirements and net metering agreements for condo residents, plug-in solar rights should be extended to all Hawai'i residents, regardless of whether or not they live in a home or apartment. Plug-in solar reduces electricity bills and improves energy resilience. This is especially relevant given that residents of Hawai'i have the highest energy costs in the country.

We strongly recommend the following three key revisions to SB 2902. These changes are necessary to keep balcony solar simple, accessible, and affordable for all consumers:

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



renters, and businesses, SB 2902 is picking winners and losers in the fight for energy affordability and severely limiting solar rights for all.

- **Remove any requirements for the customer to register the product with their utility and/or Public Service Commission.** This frivolous requirement adds unnecessary government interference for the everyday consumer. If families choose to buy plug-in solar to save on power bills, they shouldn't have to tell the government what we buy. It's an invasion of privacy.
- **Remove language that requires approval from an HOA board.** In many states, including Hawai'i, HOAs or condo associations generally cannot prohibit solar panels. While some non-impairing restrictions on placement and aesthetics can be considered, this potentially restricts access to renters who could benefit the most from balcony solar.

Thank you for considering these important revisions. With several balcony solar bills filed this legislative session, we hope to see continued collaboration amongst legislators and stakeholders to ensure the best outcome.

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

Mahalo nui loa,

Erin Hellkamp
Associate Director, National Solar Activist Network & Policy
Solar United Neighbors Action



SB 2902 Testimony

Dear Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs. My name is Hannah Ellis representing Bright Saver, a non-profit dedicated to building a plug-in solar movement in the US, making solar ownership affordable and accessible to everyone. I am testifying to encourage the Committee to support SB 2902 to allow the people of Hawai'i to access plug-in solar, saving money by reducing their electricity bills. This is a market-driven solution requiring no tax credits or public funds. It's just cutting red tape.

Systems installed according to safety standards cited in the bill will not:

- Shock users
- Overload circuits or create fire hazards
- Backfeed during a power outage, which protects line workers and anyone working on a multi-unit building

Plug-in solar provides meaningful access for renters and apartment residents. According to 2020 Census data, approximately 41.2% of housing units in Hawai'i are occupied by renters, which is notably higher than the 36.9% national average. This technology ensures that access to clean energy is not limited by housing status.

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

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

1. **Amend the bill to ensure plug-in solar is accessible across housing types, not just condominiums** [*Section 2(d) of S.B. 2902 (2026)*]. Limiting the authorization of plug-in solar generation devices exclusively to condominium units governed by Chapter 514B undermines the bill's goal of expanding access to affordable renewable energy by excluding renters and residents of apartments and other multi-family housing.
2. **Remove language that subjects the installation of plug-in solar devices to condominium association board approval** [*Section 5 of S.B. 2902 (2026)*]. This effectively limits access for renters who cannot independently seek or secure such approvals. Amending this section is necessary to prevent the exclusion of those that must seek approval from the benefits of portable solar.
3. **Remove any requirement that customers register plug-in solar devices with an electric utility or the Public Utilities Commission** [*Section 2 of S.B. 2902 (2026)*]. A



mandatory registration requirement for portable, plug-in solar devices imposes avoidable administrative burdens on consumers and creates additional work for the Public Utilities Commission, despite these systems posing minimal risk to the electric grid.

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



To: The Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs (EIG)
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Thursday, February 5, 2026, 3:01pm

In support of SB2902 with requested amendments

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the EIG committee,

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

Plug-in solar provides an opportunity to cut unnecessary red tape and exempt small systems from unnecessary rules that were designed for much larger solar arrays. By avoiding unnecessary restrictive, high-cost interconnection requirements for small-scale, balcony-type solar systems, we can unlock immediate, and much needed consumer savings for ratepayers throughout our state, while at the same time, allowing more to participate in our state's clean energy transition.

With this in mind, we respectfully 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 leave out many who are renters, low-to-moderate income households, and communities struggling to achieve energy independence.

Removing unnecessary barriers can help solar panels go mainstream, and allow more families to have more choice in their energy decisions. In 2025, Utah passed a plug-in solar bill. This bill was cost-neutral for local, state, and federal budgets. Utah's common-sense legislation eliminated burdensome requirements that were designed for larger solar systems and created safety standards before it is available in stores. This is exactly the type of common-sense action we need to take if we are serious about making Hawaii more affordable for residents, protecting our environment, and doing our part to help mitigate the climate crisis.

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

Last, we respectfully recommend the Committee remove any requirements for the customer to register the product with their utility and/or Public Service Commission. This requirement undermines the intent for plug-in solar, adding an unnecessary burden to consumers. Plug-in solar is meant to allow residents to simply plug panels into a standard wall outlet, and thereby help to cut through red tape as a means to democratize access to clean energy.

Achieving our climate goals while facilitating a Just Transition requires leaving no one behind. That includes efforts such as enabling portable solar, that can help to remove barriers and increase access to affordable, renewable energy, making it easy for everyone to participate. Plug-in solar is a practical, immediate step toward a cleaner, more resilient, and equitable

energy future, and the kind of common-sense climate solutions we need to implement in earnest.

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

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

Citizens' Climate Lobby Hawaii

cclhawaii.org
hi.ccl.lobby@gmail.com



February 4, 2022

Dear Chair Wakai, Vice-Chair Chang, and Members of the EIG Committee,

Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) Hawai'i is testifying in strong support of SB2902. CCL Hawai'i has over 900 members across Hawai'i. We are a grassroots organization advocating for effective, efficient, and fair climate legislation.

SB2902 facilitates the adoption and sales of portable solar generation devices by exempting them from net energy metering program and interconnection requirements. The bill defines a portable solar generation device to have a maximum power output of 1.2 kilowatts, designed to be connected to a building's electrical system through a standard 120 volt alternating current outlet.

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

Portable solar generation devices cost around \$2,000, and the payback is generally less than four years. These units should last 10-20 years, thus providing years of energy cost savings for households.

Allowing access to portable solar generation devices would help many people, who until now lacked the ability to participate in the solar revolution. This bill would allow the 40% of residents who live in multi-family housing to make use of inexpensive solar.

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

Please pass SB2902 out of your committee.

Mahalo nui loa,
CCL Hawai'i

SB-2902

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 2:33:05 PM

Testimony for EIG on 2/5/2026 3:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs

My name is Dave Mulinix, Co-Founder & Hawaii State Representative of Greenpeace Hawaii, and on behalf of our thousands members and supporters statewide we Stand in Support, with amendments, of SB2902 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. 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.

We appreciate Senator Wakai promoting and sponsoring this legislation to help Hawaii consumers decrease our dependence on fossil fuels, reducing 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. The bill is an excellent step in the right direction to address this problem and it helps to fulfill the agreement reached in the Navahive 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, which will allow everyone with an electric bill to access the benefits of solar energy.

In order for this legislation to have the greatest effect in expanding clean, renewable energy we encourage the committee to remove unnecessary interconnection requirements and net metering agreements for condo residents, 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. These changes are necessary to keep balcony solar simple, accessible, and affordable for all consumers:

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

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

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

Please pass SB2902 with these important revisions.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Dave Mulinix

Co-Founder & Hawaii State Representative

Greenpeace Hawaii

SB-2902

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 4:50:16 PM

Testimony for EIG on 2/5/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raelene Tenno	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the intent of SB2902.

Unit owners in a Condo building have little options for personal renewable energy options. That said, the renewable energy industry is expanding with new options and Condo building unit owners should be afforded the same as a townhouse or single family home. The barrier is the type, installation and exterior esthetics of the building and any connection points from the building main panel to the individual unit.

Thank you for allowing this testimony.

Raelene Tenno, Condo unit owner since 1990

Cindy Freitas
makainanqi@gmail.com

OPPOSITION TO S.B. 2902

RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY / PORTABLE SOLAR GENERATION DEVICES**

He Mele komo a he mele aloha no na kupuna o ke au i hala Aloha mai kakou.

Aloha,

My name is Cindy Freitas and I'm a Native Hawaiian descended of the native inhabitants of Hawai'i prior to 1778 and born and raised in Hawai'i.

I am also a practitioner who still practice the cultural traditional customary practices that was instill in me by my grandparents at a young age from mauka (MOUNTAIN TO SEA) to makai in many areas.

I respectfully submit testimony **OPPOSING S.B. 2902.**

While expanding access to renewable energy is an important goal, S.B. 2902 establishes a regulatory framework for portable or “plug-in” solar generation devices that is **incomplete and unsafe**, particularly for **multi-unit condominium buildings**. The bill prioritizes access and speed while omitting essential safety, enforcement, and local oversight protections.

First, the bill removes county and building official authority. S.B. 2902 exempts portable solar generation devices from utility approval and interconnection requirements and relies solely on registration with the Public Utilities Commission. The bill provides **no role for county building officials**, no inspections, and no allowance for county-specific conditions such as wind exposure, corrosion, emergency access, or building age.

Second, the bill lacks basic fire and life-safety standards. The bill allows plug-in solar devices and optional battery storage in condominium units without requiring fire department review, battery fire-safety standards, placement or clearance rules, emergency shut-off requirements, or egress protections. These omissions pose serious risks in dense, multi-story residential buildings.

Third, the bill provides no structural or wind-load review. Balcony-mounted or exterior devices may become falling hazards in high winds, yet the bill includes no anchoring, structural certification, or height-based restrictions—an especially serious concern in coastal and high-rise buildings.

Fourth, the bill creates liability gaps. While S.B. 2902 expressly shields electric utilities from liability, it fails to address liability for condominium associations, building owners, neighboring unit owners, or residents affected by device failure, fire, or injury.

Fifth, the bill lacks enforcement and accountability. There are no penalties for unsafe or noncompliant installations, no inspection authority, and no enforcement mechanism tied to the registration system. Compliance is effectively voluntary.

Finally, the bill ignores historic, cultural, and special management considerations. There is no coordination with county planning agencies or historic preservation authorities for installations in historic buildings or sensitive areas.

Because S.B. 2902 **omits minimum safety standards, local oversight, enforcement mechanisms, and liability clarity**, it places residents, first responders, and building owners at risk. Renewable energy policy should not advance by weakening public safety and building protections.

For these reasons, I **strongly oppose S.B. 2902** as written.

Mahalo

Cindy Freitas

SB-2902

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 4:10:40 PM

Testimony for EIG on 2/5/2026 3:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Wakai and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs:

I strongly support this bill because it gives those who live in condominiums and apartments a practical, affordable way to reduce their electricity bills while helping Hawaii transition to a clean energy future. For too long, solar power has been out of the reach of many residents simply because they do not own a roof.

Approximately 40% of Hawaii's residents live in multi-family housing. Balcony solar allows these households, including renters, seniors, and working families, to participate directly in solar energy generation using a safe plug-in device that operates through a standard wall outlet.

Balcony solar is simple and affordable. Its compact, lightweight solar panels can be attached to lanai railings. A typical system costs about \$2,000 and can generate energy savings of up to \$800 per year, allowing the system to pay for itself in just a few years. Optional battery storage can be added, enabling solar energy to be used at night or during power disruptions.

Most importantly, balcony solar addresses the challenge of Hawaii having the highest residential electricity rates in the nation. By empowering residents to produce clean energy from the sun, this bill reduces household electricity costs while cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

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

Mahalo!

Benjamin Narwold, Kapaa, Hawaii

SB-2902

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 4:16:57 PM

Testimony for EIG on 2/5/2026 3:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha from Kauai.

Aloha Chair Wakai and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs:

I strongly support this bill because it gives those who live in condominiums and apartments a practical, affordable way to reduce their electricity bills while helping Hawaii transition to a clean energy future. For too long, solar power has been out of the reach of many residents simply because they do not own a roof.

Approximately 40% of Hawaii’s residents live in multi-family housing. Balcony solar allows these households, including renters, seniors, and working families, to participate directly in solar energy generation using a safe plug-in device that operates through a standard wall outlet.

Balcony solar is simple and affordable. Its compact, lightweight solar panels can be attached to lanai railings. A typical system costs about \$2,000 and can generate energy savings of up to \$800 per year, allowing the system to pay for itself in just a few years. Optional battery storage can be added, enabling solar energy to be used at night or during power disruptions.

Most importantly, balcony solar addresses the challenge of Hawaii having the highest residential electricity rates in the nation. By empowering residents to produce clean energy from the sun, this bill reduces household electricity costs while cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

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

Mahalo!

Mary Lu Kelley, Koloa, Kauai

SB-2902

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 4:27:33 PM

Testimony for EIG on 2/5/2026 3:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Wakai and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs:

This testimony is in strong support of SB2902 Relating to renewable energy. My name is Ruth Robison. I have lived in Hilo since 1982. Because I own my own home and because it is a single-family dwelling, I was able to install 17 solar panels on my roof. I have long supported any efforts to help other people, who live in condominiums or apartments, also be able to take advantage of solar energy to supply, all or part of the energy needed to run appliances in their homes. Balcony solar panels are a great way to do that. I understand that a balcony solar panel cost about \$2000 and will save a person up to \$800 a year in the cost of electricity. I know that helping the people of Hawaii with the high cost of living is one of the priorities for the legislature. Please pass SB 2902. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2902

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 4:28:02 PM

Testimony for EIG on 2/5/2026 3:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hello Chair Wakai and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs:

I strongly support this bill because it gives those who live in condominiums and apartments a practical, affordable way to reduce their electricity bills while helping Hawaii transition to a clean energy future. For too long, solar power has been out of the reach of many residents simply because they do not own a roof.

Approximately 40% of Hawaii’s residents live in multi-family housing. Balcony solar allows these households, including renters, seniors, and working families, to participate directly in solar energy generation using a safe plug-in device that operates through a standard wall outlet.

Balcony solar is simple and affordable. Its compact, lightweight solar panels can be attached to lanai railings. A typical system costs about \$2,000 and can generate energy savings of up to \$800 per year, allowing the system to pay for itself in just a few years. Optional battery storage can be added, enabling solar energy to be used at night or during power disruptions.

Most importantly, balcony solar addresses the challenge of Hawaii having the highest residential electricity rates in the nation. By empowering residents to produce clean energy from the sun, this bill reduces household electricity costs while cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

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

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, 96826

Carbon Cashback Hawai‘i Member

Hawai‘i Workers Center Board Member

Honolulu Tenants Union Member

Hawai'i Tax Fairness Coalition

SB-2902

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 4:56:00 PM

Testimony for EIG on 2/5/2026 3:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

In support of. Thank you.

SB-2902

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 5:08:08 PM

Testimony for EIG on 2/5/2026 3:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Wakai and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs:

I strongly support this bill because it gives those who live in condominiums and apartments a practical, affordable way to reduce their electricity bills while helping Hawaii transition to a clean energy future. For too long, solar power has been out of the reach of many residents simply because they do not own a roof.

Approximately 40% of Hawaii’s residents live in multi-family housing. Balcony solar allows these households, including renters, seniors, and working families, to participate directly in solar energy generation using a safe plug-in device that operates through a standard wall outlet.

Balcony solar is simple and affordable. Its compact, lightweight solar panels can be attached to lanai railings. A typical system costs about \$2,000 and can generate energy savings of up to \$800 per year, allowing the system to pay for itself in just a few years. Optional battery storage can be added, enabling solar energy to be used at night or during power disruptions.

Most importantly, balcony solar addresses the challenge of Hawaii having the highest residential electricity rates in the nation. By empowering residents to produce clean energy from the sun, this bill reduces household electricity costs while cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

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

Mahalo!

Virginia

Honolulu

Date: February 3, 2026
Re: **STRONG SUPPORT for SB2902** RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY
Hearing Date: February 5, 2026 @ 3PM

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice-Chair Chang, and members of the EIG Committee:

I'm writing in **strong support of SB2902.**

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

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

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

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

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

Mahalo nui loa,



Paul Bernstein
Honolulu

SB-2902

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 5:31:09 PM

Testimony for EIG on 2/5/2026 3:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha all those concerned...

I am fortunate to own a home and have a large solar system. The sun is everywhere and can be used to support green energy.... Please vote yes to this important legislation... Lorn Douglas,
Lower Puna

SB-2902

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 6:03:55 PM

Testimony for EIG on 2/5/2026 3:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Wakai and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs:

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

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

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

I respectfully urge the committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo!

Thomas Graham, Honolulu

SB-2902

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 6:05:38 PM

Testimony for EIG on 2/5/2026 3:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support SB2902 with amendment.

I am a lifelong resident of Hawaii, now retired. I am also a homeowner. Although I support renewable energy, I, unfortunately, have not installed rooftop solar. And with the revocation of federal incentives for installation of solar, I cannot afford the cost.

I would like the opportunity to utilize plug in solar, which is far more affordable and can help offset some of my electric bill and also support the state's goal of no reliance on fossil fuel.

The caveat is that I worry having to deal with the PUC will be complex and offputting for me and people like me.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony and for supporting renewable energy.

SB-2902

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 6:30:23 PM

Testimony for EIG on 2/5/2026 3:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

I live in a condo. This would give me the opportunity to lower electricity use and bills

SB-2902

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 6:58:03 PM

Testimony for EIG on 2/5/2026 3:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Wakai and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs:

I strongly support this bill because it gives those who live in condominiums and apartments a practical, affordable way to reduce their electricity bills while helping Hawaii transition to a clean energy future. For too long, solar power has been out of the reach of many residents simply because they do not own a roof.

Approximately 40% of Hawaii's residents live in multi-family housing. Balcony solar allows these households, including renters, seniors, and working families, to participate directly in solar energy generation using a safe plug-in device that operates through a standard wall outlet.

Balcony solar is simple and affordable. Its compact, lightweight solar panels can be attached to lanai railings. A typical system costs about \$2,000 and can generate energy savings of up to \$800 per year, allowing the system to pay for itself in just a few years. Optional battery storage can be added, enabling solar energy to be used at night or during power disruptions.

Most importantly, balcony solar addresses the challenge of Hawaii having the highest residential electricity rates in the nation. By empowering residents to produce clean energy from the sun, this bill reduces household electricity costs while cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

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

SB-2902

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 7:16:22 PM

Testimony for EIG on 2/5/2026 3:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill as another measure to facilitate small-scale transition to renewable, sustainable energy options for the islands.

SB-2902

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 8:48:54 PM

Testimony for EIG on 2/5/2026 3:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Wakai and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs:

I strongly support this bill because it gives those who live in condominiums and apartments a practical, affordable way to reduce their electricity bills while helping Hawaii transition to a clean energy future. For too long, solar power has been out of the reach of many residents simply because they do not own a roof.

Approximately 40% of Hawaii’s residents live in multi-family housing. Balcony solar allows these households, including renters, seniors, and working families, to participate directly in solar energy generation using a safe plug-in device that operates through a standard wall outlet.

Balcony solar is simple and affordable. Its compact, lightweight solar panels can be attached to lanai railings. A typical system costs about \$2,000 and can generate energy savings of up to \$800 per year, allowing the system to pay for itself in just a few years. Optional battery storage can be added, enabling solar energy to be used at night or during power disruptions.

Most importantly, balcony solar addresses the challenge of Hawaii having the highest residential electricity rates in the nation. By empowering residents to produce clean energy from the sun, this bill reduces household electricity costs while cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

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

Mahalo!

SB-2902

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 10:46:13 PM

Testimony for EIG on 2/5/2026 3:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Wakai and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs:

I strongly support this bill because it gives those who live in condominiums and apartments a practical, affordable way to reduce their electricity bills while helping Hawaii transition to a clean energy future. For too long, solar power has been out of the reach of many residents simply because they do not own a roof.

Approximately 40% of Hawaii’s residents live in multi-family housing. Balcony solar allows these households, including renters, seniors, and working families, to participate directly in solar energy generation using a safe plug-in device that operates through a standard wall outlet.

Balcony solar is simple and affordable. Its compact, lightweight solar panels can be attached to lanai railings. A typical system costs about \$2,000 and can generate energy savings of up to \$800 per year, allowing the system to pay for itself in just a few years. Optional battery storage can be added, enabling solar energy to be used at night or during power disruptions.

Most importantly, balcony solar addresses the challenge of Hawaii having the highest residential electricity rates in the nation. By empowering residents to produce clean energy from the sun, this bill reduces household electricity costs while cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

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

Mahalo!

Jaymen Laupola, Honolulu

SB-2902

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 1:27:24 AM

Testimony for EIG on 2/5/2026 3:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Strong support unamended.

SB-2902

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 5:19:27 AM

Testimony for EIG on 2/5/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Neil Frazer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Wakai and Committee Members,

I strongly support this SB2902. Balcony solar is enormously popular in much of Europe, and Hawaii should try to set a good example for the U.S.A. by implementing it at scale. In addition to saving energy, balcony solar gives apartment dwellers important psychological satisfaction.

Mahalo for your unselfish service to the people of Hawaaii (and in the case of SB292, everyone on earth!)

Sincerely/ Neil Frazer, PhD

SB-2902

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 8:02:29 AM

Testimony for EIG on 2/5/2026 3:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Wakai and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs:

I am writing to express my strong support for this bill because it gives those living in condominiums and apartments a practical, affordable way to reduce their electricity bill while contributing to Hawaii's transition from fossil fuel dependence to clean energy independence. For too long, solar power has been out of reach for many simply because they do not own the roof above their heads.

Approximately 40% of Hawaii's residents live in multi-family housing. Balcony solar allows these households, including renters, seniors, and working-class families, to participate in and benefit from solar energy generation using a safe plug-in device that operates through a standard wall outlet.

Balcony solar is straight-forward and affordable. It is compact and light-weight, able to be attached to lanai railings. The average system costs about \$2,000 and can generate savings of up to \$800 per year, allowing users to effectively pay off the cost of the system in a handful of years. Optionally, these systems can be equipped with battery storage, allowing users to benefit from solar energy during nights, or during power disruptions.

Most importantly, however, balcony solar addresses the challenge Hawaii is facing in having the highest residential electricity rates in the nation. By empowering residence to produce clean energy via sunshine (a resource abundant in our islands), this bill reduces household electricity costs and our state's greenhouse gas emissions.

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

Mahalo!

David Murray, Kaneohe

SB-2902

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:58:09 AM

Testimony for EIG on 2/5/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cindy Nawilis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, and other Committee Members,

I am writing in support of HB2435. Everyone, not just homeowners and commercial property owners with rooftops, should have the opportunity to go solar. The portable solar generation device makes going solar more accessible and more immediate (unlike signing up for a community-based solar project), which means everyone can benefit from solar's cost-savings more immediately too. With electricity rates on the rise, the ability for people to off-set any electricity cost will be critical as they juggle all every bill that needs to be paid, and each one will only get more expensive.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2902

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 1:47:21 PM

Testimony for EIG on 2/5/2026 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas Hagan	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

STRONGLY SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Wakai and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs:

I strongly support this bill because it gives those who live in condominiums and apartments a practical, affordable way to reduce their electricity bills while helping Hawaii transition to a clean energy future. For too long, solar power has been out of the reach of many residents simply because they do not own a roof.

Approximately 40% of Hawaii’s residents live in multi-family housing. Balcony solar allows these households, including renters, seniors, and working families, to participate directly in solar energy generation using a safe plug-in device that operates through a standard wall outlet.

Balcony solar is simple and affordable. Its compact, lightweight solar panels can be attached to lanai railings. A typical system costs about \$2,000 and can generate energy savings of up to \$800 per year, allowing the system to pay for itself in just a few years. Optional battery storage can be added, enabling solar energy to be used at night or during power disruptions.

Most importantly, balcony solar addresses the challenge of Hawaii having the highest residential electricity rates in the nation. By empowering residents to produce clean energy from the sun, this bill reduces household electricity costs while cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

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

Mahalo

Doug Hagan

Paia, HI

SB-2902

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 2:48:35 PM

Testimony for EIG on 2/5/2026 3:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

SUPPORT FOR SB2902 (RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY)

Dear Chair Wakai, Vice-Chair Chang, and members of the Committee,

I'm a long-time advocate for sustainable energy in Hawaii. I support SB2902, 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 extends access to solar energy to Hawaii's 40% of residents living in condominiums and apartments, who are currently excluded from rooftop photovoltaic systems and the opportunity to benefit from local solar energy production.

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

I respectfully urge the committee to pass SB2902.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

[Noel Morin](#)

Climate, Sustainability, and Resilience Advocate

Hilo, Hawaii

LATE

SB-2902

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 4:36:29 PM

Testimony for EIG on 2/5/2026 3:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Wakai and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs:

I strongly support this bill because it gives those who live in condominiums and apartments a practical, affordable way to reduce their electricity bills while helping Hawaii transition to a clean energy future. For too long, solar power has been out of the reach of many residents simply because they do not own a roof.

Approximately 40% of Hawaii's residents live in multi-family housing. Balcony solar allows these households, including renters, seniors, and working families, to participate directly in solar energy generation using a safe plug-in device that operates through a standard wall outlet.

Balcony solar is simple and affordable. Its compact, lightweight solar panels can be attached to lanai railings. A typical system costs about \$2,000 and can generate energy savings of up to \$800 per year, allowing the system to pay for itself in just a few years. Optional battery storage can be added, enabling solar energy to be used at night or during power disruptions.

Most importantly, balcony solar addresses the challenge of Hawaii having the highest residential electricity rates in the nation. By empowering residents to produce clean energy from the sun, this bill reduces household electricity costs while cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

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

Mahalo!

Diane Ware Volcano HI 96785-0698

LATE

SB-2902

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:57:49 AM

Testimony for EIG on 2/5/2026 3:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Honorable Members,

Please support SB2902.

Thank you,

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI