

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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

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**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 MANAGEMENT**

**Tuesday, March 24, 2026
10:00 AM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 3254, SENATE DRAFT 2, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET**

Senate Bill 3254, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds to be expended by the Department of Health as a grant for the Hawai'i Primary Care Association to support solar-plus-storage microgrid implementation at community health centers in medically underserved communities and to provide programmatic services, project management, contract management, reporting and fiscal stewardship responsibilities, and develop future scalable plans for the development and deployment of solar-plus-storage microgrids at nonprofit community health centers. **The Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) Supports this measure.**

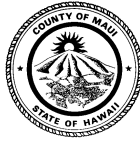
The Commission consists of a multi-jurisdictional effort between 20 departments, committees, and counties with the purpose of promoting ambitious, climate-neutral, culturally responsive strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The 2025 Hawai'i Climate Action Pathways (CAP) recommended establishing a resilience grant program to support programs that build community resilience to climate hazards, threats, risks and impacts including microgrids. The CAP also states, "Energy infrastructure mitigation measures such as vegetation management, pole hardening, undergrounding, and microgrids that benefit disadvantaged communities, and protect community lifelines, and have a high likelihood of implementation are increasingly needed as wildfire risk increases." The actions proposed in this bill support resilient community health centers. Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

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Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

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COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
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March 23, 2026

TO: The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 24, 2026; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 3254, SD2, HD1, RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET**

I **support** this measure to appropriate funds to be expended by the Department of Health as a grant for the Hawai'i Primary Care Association to support solar-energy infrastructure at community health centers in medically underserved communities.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I **support** this measure for the following reasons:

1. This measure would benefit Maui County communities, as Hāna Health and Molokai Community Health Center are among the nonprofit community health centers identified for solar-plus-storage microgrid projects under the grant program.
2. Residents in geographically isolated areas of Maui County depend heavily on these community health centers for primary medical, dental, and behavioral health services, making it especially important that these facilities remain operational during power outages or emergencies.
3. Solar-plus-storage microgrids could reduce electricity costs for participating health centers by an estimated \$30,000 to \$100,000 annually, allowing facilities such as those serving Hāna and Molokai to stretch limited resources and reinvest savings into patient care and essential services.

Thank you for your consideration.

SB-3254-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 9:11:54 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Climate Protectors Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT!



To: The House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2026, 10am

In strong support of SB3254 SD2 HD1

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.org is in **strong support** of this measure that appropriates funds to be expended by the Department of Health as a grant for the Hawai'i Primary Care Association to support solar-plus-storage microgrid implementation at community health centers in medically underserved communities, and provide programmatic services, project management, contract management, reporting and fiscal stewardship responsibilities, and developing future scalable plans for the development and deployment of solar-plus-storage microgrids at nonprofit community health centers.

Community Health Centers are invaluable resources, especially in remote, rural areas where access to an alternative, like a hospital, can mean traveling very long distances. These facilities are a critical part of the healthcare safety net, serving low-income, uninsured, and underserved populations. It is essential that these centers be able to remain open and operational through a power outage.

Implementing solar+storage systems builds energy resilience in Community Health Centers, allowing them to improve access to reliable health care in low-income, rural communities. Clean, resilient solar+storage systems ensure energy reliability for critical medical equipment, refrigeration of insulin and vaccines, and continuity of care during grid outages and natural disasters. This ensures continuity of care for patients most in need. Moreover, these systems allow health centers to reduce operating costs --directing more dollars back to core health services, while also decreasing harmful carbon pollution. With Hawai'i's frequent power outages, maintaining uninterrupted care is critical. Let's ensure essential healthcare services continue even when the grid goes down.

We urge you to **PASS SB3254 SD2 HD1**.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this very important bill.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

SB-3254-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 5:21:55 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

We strongly support SB 3254. Clearly the intent of this legislation is to implement a reliable and secure source of energy for emergency services such as hospitals. It's a good idea because it can keep things running even in a disaster when the grid goes down. None of us know when we'll end up in the hospital, but it's virtually guaranteed that we all will. It will be nice to know that you're not gonna die because life support functions went down. Solar and battery storage are the most reliable sources of energy and the most affordable and the most dependable. This legislation should actually be statewide for all sectors of the economy. This is the goal for the entire world. This is a good place to start.

SB-3254-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 12:57:39 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurel brier	Kauai Climate Action Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Community Health Centers are a critical part of the healthcare safety net, serving low-income, uninsured, and underserved populations. It is essential that these centers be able to remain open and operational through a power outage. Ultimately we should be supporting solar and storage on all state and county facilities - save money, save the environment, save lives.

SB-3254-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 7:49:30 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

My name is Susan RobertsEmery, as Co Chair of the Green Party of Hawai'i, and on behalf of our members we offer VERY STRONG SUPPORT for SB3254 SD2 HD1. We live in the land of Sunshine, we know solar power can help save lives in underserved communities. The solar-plus-storage microgrid implementation, at community health centers make our safety nets stronger. Let us protect our communities.

The Green Party of Hawai'i humbly urges you to Pass SB3254 SD2 HD1.

Mahalo,

Susan RobertsEmery

Green Party of Hawai'i

Paauilo

House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Tuesday, March 24, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Via Videoconference

Re: SB 3254 – HD1, Relating to the State Budget

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

My name is Cindy Kan. I am the Director of Programs + Strategic Partnerships, Hawai'i with Collective Energy, serving as the technical project implementation partner for the Hawai'i Primary Care Association (HPCA) on the proposed solar-powered microgrids initiative referenced in SB 3254, HD1.

I respectfully provide technical and financial context to assist the Committee in its fiscal evaluation of this measure.

Federal Leverage and Timing

SB 3254, HD1 represents a time-sensitive opportunity to leverage federal incentives and private funds already committed to support solar-powered microgrids for nonprofit community health centers located in medically underserved communities throughout Hawai'i.

Participating health centers have secured private philanthropic funding to safe harbor these projects and preserve eligibility for the federal 30% Direct Pay incentive under the Inflation Reduction Act.

If projects do not proceed within the allowable federal timeline, that **30% federal incentive for these projects will be permanently lost.**

The appropriation proposed in HD1 functions as gap-closing capital to enable implementation and ensure Hawai'i captures available federal dollars before expiration.

From a financing perspective, the structure includes:

- Federal Direct Pay incentive: 30% of eligible project costs
- Private philanthropic funds: already committed
- State appropriation to close the remaining financing gap

Without timely state participation, the participating health centers risk forfeiting federal eligibility, the benefit of private philanthropic funds already committed, and associated long-term cost reductions.

Operational Cost Impact

The financial impact is measurable. These solar-powered microgrids will significantly reduce electricity expenses, allowing the nonprofit health centers to redirect operating dollars toward patient care, staffing, and essential services.

The combined annual electricity cost across the nine sites is approximately \$683,000, with projected average annual savings of approximately \$640,000.

Across all sites identified in the bill — Hilo, Kea’au, Ka’ū, Hana, Moloka’i, Waimānalo, and Wahiawā — projected electricity savings total approximately \$16 million over 25 years.

Annual Electricity Cost & Estimated Average Annual Savings by Site

Health Center Site	Current Annual Electricity Cost	Average Annual Cost Savings (w/ Solar + Storage)*
Hawai’i Island Community Health Center – Hilo	\$89,000	\$109,000
HICHC – Ka’ū Family Health & Dental	\$30,000	\$37,000
HICHC – Kea’au Family Health & Dental	\$51,000	\$63,000
Hana Health (Main Clinic + Hale Ku’ola)	\$70,000	\$31,000
Moloka’i Community Health Center	\$92,000	\$87,000
Waimānalo Health Center – ‘Akahi	\$67,000	\$39,000
Waimānalo Health Center – ‘Alua	\$198,000	\$161,000
Wahiawā Center for Community Health	\$86,000	\$113,000
TOTAL	\$683,000	\$640,000

**Average annual savings reflect projected average annual electricity cost reductions over a 25-year system life, based on modeled system production and current utility rate assumptions. Actual savings may vary on future rates and system performance.*

Operational Grant Component (HD1)

The operational appropriation included in HD1 supports centralized program management, contract oversight, compliance reporting, and fiscal stewardship across five independent nonprofit

entities. Centralized coordination reduces implementation risk, supports accountability, and preserves economies of scale across the portfolio.

Health Center Ownership and Community Benefit

The proposed systems are structured so that the nonprofit community health centers own and directly benefit from the assets, ensuring long-term cost savings and resilience remain within the communities they serve.

Recent Storm and Outage Context

Over the past week, a major storm brought flooding and power outages across the state.

Preliminary feedback from health centers indicates:

- Temporary service disruptions and closures
- Missed appointments across medical, dental, and behavioral health services
- Loss of vaccines, medications, and food-as-medicine inventory
- Continued operations in limited capacity during outages

Examples from recent conditions include:

- One health center reported ~\$50,000 per day in combined operational and revenue impacts when services are disrupted
- A rural site maintains ~\$90,000 in vaccine inventory at risk during outages, requiring emergency transport under normal conditions
- A clinic reported loss of vaccine inventory and food-as-medicine supplies, along with two days of cancelled services
- Another site relied on diesel backup generation until fuel depletion, resulting in loss of critical IT and system functionality

These examples reflect the operational risks that outages pose to healthcare delivery, particularly in rural and medically underserved communities.

Estimated Outage Impact

Based on prior analysis of health center operations and county-level outage data — including experience across approximately 70 community health centers — estimated impacts from power outages are as follows:

- ~\$8,800 estimated loss from a 1-hour outage
- ~\$35,000 estimated loss from a 4-hour outage
- ~\$46,000+ estimated loss from a full-day outage

These estimates include impacts to clinical services, staffing, temperature-sensitive medicines and vaccines, and food-as-medicine programs. Actual impacts will vary by site and event severity, but they illustrate the scale of disruption associated with power outages.

Risk Mitigation and Service Continuity

Battery storage can support continuity of operations during grid failures and Public Safety Power Shutoffs by maintaining power for refrigeration, electronic medical records, and essential clinical services. These systems can also support community-level needs during regional outages and emergency events.

Energy and Environmental Context

This measure also relates to energy and environmental issues associated with health center facilities. Solar + storage systems at healthcare sites may reduce grid electricity consumption, decrease reliance on diesel backup generation during outages, and may help maintain functions such as refrigeration, communications, and facility operations.

Recent statewide Kona low storm events have also highlighted operational conditions including flooding, road closures, infrastructure damage, and power outages across multiple islands while recovery efforts remained ongoing. These conditions provide recent factual context regarding energy resilience and backup power considerations at health center facilities.

Estimated environmental metrics associated with participating projects:

- Annual greenhouse gas reduction: 700 tons CO₂e
- Equivalent gasoline avoided: +78,000 gallons
- Equivalent trees planted: +11,000

These comments are submitted to provide informational context regarding the operational, patient care, energy, environmental, and resilience considerations associated with SB 3254, HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide technical input. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 808-724-6010, or ckan@collectiveenergyco.com.

Cindy Kan
Director of Programs + Strategic Partnerships Hawai'i
Collective Energy (Technical Implementation Partner)



To: The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
The Honorable Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

From: Paula Arcena, Senior Vice President of External Affairs
Mike Nguyen, Senior Director of External Affairs
Maria Rallojaj, Public Policy Specialist

Hearing: Tuesday, February 24, 2026, 10:00am, Conference Room 325

RE: **SB3254 SD2 HD1 Relating to the State Budget**

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support with comments on SB3254 SD2 HD1**. This measure appropriates funds to be expended by the Department of Health as a grant for the Hawai'i Primary Care Association (HPCA) to support solar-plus-storage microgrid implementation at community health centers in medically underserved communities.

AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan founded by Hawai'i's Community Health Centers (CHCs) and the Queen Emma Clinics. We serve over 66,000 Medicaid and Medicaid-Medicare dual-eligible residents on all islands. Since 1994, AlohaCare has partnered with providers, government entities, and community-based organizations to meet the evolving needs of our safety net community as Hawai'i's only health plan focused solely on Medicaid-eligible individuals. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating for equitable access to quality, whole-person care for all.

Consistent with our commitment to improving access to high-quality care, AlohaCare supports this measure to support HPCA and CHC safety-net serving providers with their long-term energy needs and operating costs. HPCA is an association of non-profit, federally quality health centers (FQHCs or CHCs) which substantively make up our state's critical safety net as providers open to all regardless of the ability to pay.

As a safety-net health plan, AlohaCare is very appreciative of the critical services our fellow safety-net partners provide for the health and well-being of our community. AlohaCare is grateful for the high-quality, comprehensive care that CHCs provide to our members across the state. FQHCs currently serves about 50 percent of AlohaCare members annually. We support this measure as a critical and effective way to strengthen the healthcare safety net, allowing these safety-net providers to focus on increasing access to care for all residents, especially those in underserved urban and rural communities.

This measure is related to HPCA's two grant-in-aid (GIA) requests for a proposed project which would address energy and environmental challenges but also enables CHCs to access and leverage resilient, sustainable, and cost-effective energy infrastructure that ensures that FQHCs can continue providing essential public services before, during, and after emergencies. The project seeks a total of \$2.5 million in the Capital Improvement Project



(CIP) GIA, and \$196,000 in a separate Operational GIA. However, this measure as presently drafted appropriates funds for the CIP GIA requested for the project but not for the Operational GIA request. As such, we respectfully request that the bill be amended by adding a new Section 3:

"SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$196,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 as a grant pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for the Hawaii Primary Care Association to provide programmatic, project management, contract management, reporting and fiscal stewardship responsibilities, and developing future scalable plans for the project specified by this Act. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of health for the purposes of this Act."

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **support with comments on SB3254 SD2 HD1.**



Testimony to the Senate Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Tuesday March 24, 2026; 10 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225
Via Videoconference

RE: SENATE BILL NO. SB 3254-HB1, SENATE DRAFT 2, RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

My name is Milton Cortez, CEO for Molokai Ohana Health Care, Inc., dba Molokai Community Health Center, and I am presenting written testimony in strong support of Senate Bill No. 3254-HB1.

Molokai Community Health Center (MCHC), is the only Federally Qualified Health Center on the island of Molokai. For more than 20 years, MCHC has served as a vital access point and classic safety net for the island's uninsured and underinsured populations.

The proposed cuts to Medicaid, coupled with rising utility costs, directly threaten our ability to invest in patient care. We already operate on thin margins while serving the island's vulnerable patients who rely on Medicaid, Medicare and sliding fee services. ***If approved, this investment will save Molokai Community Health Center up to \$87,000 annually in electricity costs; more than \$2.1 million in energy costs over a 25-year span.*** More importantly, this investment will strengthen continuity of care and ensure that MCHC can remain operational during emergencies and natural disasters.

While MCHC experienced moderate flooding during the historic storm last week, even a brief power outage can have severe consequences. A loss of power for several hours could result in the loss of over \$90,000 in vaccine inventory and approximately \$50,000 per day in operating costs. More critically, any disruption in services places patients at risk by delaying access to essential care.

This project will fundamentally change that reality – enhancing resilience, protecting critical resources, and ensuring uninterrupted care for the Molokai community and other health centers facing similar vulnerabilities.

I respectfully urge your strong support for this critical investment.

Milton Cortez, CEO
Molokai Ohana Health Care, Inc., dba Molokai Community Health Center

Mission: To provide and promote accessible comprehensive individual and community health care to the people of Molokai with respect and aloha.

Visit us at <http://molokaichc.org/>

30 Oki Place, PO Box 2040 Kaunakakai, HI 96748 Phone: (808) 553-5038 Fax: (808) 553-3780



**Testimony to the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Tuesday, March 24, 2026; 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325
Via Videoconference**

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 3254, SENATE DRAFT 2, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

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

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill No. 3254, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1, RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

This bill, as received by your Committee, would appropriate:

- (1) An unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal year 2026-2027, to be expended by the Department of Health (DOH) as a grant-in-aid (GIA) pursuant to Chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to support the development and deployment of solar-plus-storage microgrids at nonprofit community health centers located in medically underserved communities across the State; and
- (2) An unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal year 2026-2027, to be expended by DOH as a GIA to provide programmatic, project management, contract management, reporting and fiscal stewardship responsibilities, and developing future scalable plans for the project.

The bill would take effect on July 1, 3000.

I. The Project

The HPCA, in partnership with Collective Energy, a mission-driven social benefit company specializing in clean energy and resilience solutions for community health centers, seeks to establish and deploy solar and storage microgrids at nonprofit community health centers across the State. These systems will strengthen energy reliance, reduce operational disruptions, and ensure that essential health services remain available to the public during grid failures.

FQHCs serve as frontline hubs for health, safety, and recovery during emergencies. We are trusted, community-based sites that provide services, dispense medications, offer safe gathering points, and protect vulnerable populations when other infrastructure is compromised.

Hawaii's geographic isolation, heavy reliance on imported fossil fuels, and exposure to hurricanes, wildfires, tsunamis, and extreme weather events significantly heighten the risks of prolonged power disruptions. The implementation of public safety power shutoffs by Hawaiian Electric in July 2024 further underscores the urgent need for reliable, decentralized, and clean energy sources for public-serving facilities.

Traditional diesel generators -- used by many FQHCs today -- are expensive to operate, require frequent maintenance, rely on fragile fuel supply chains, and contribute to harmful emissions. The proposed project directly addresses these challenges by enabling resilient, sustainable, and cost-effective energy infrastructure that ensures that FQHCs can continue providing essential public services before, during, and after emergencies.

The project seeks a total of \$2.5 million in Capital Improvement Project (CIP) GIA, and \$196,000 in a separate Operational GIA. The CIP GIA funding, leveraged with federal and State solar and energy storage incentives, will enable the development of up to nine solar plus storage microgrid systems, totaling approximately \$6.2 million in capital improvement. The Operational GIA funding represents programmatic, project management, contract management, reporting and fiscal stewardship responsibilities, as well as developing future scalability plans.

If approved, this project will:

- Save participating FQHCs an estimated \$16 million in electricity costs over twenty-five years, allowing them to repurpose scarce funds into patient care, delivery, staffing, and essential community health services;

- Add battery energy storage to increase resiliency during outages and reduce service disruptions, materially improving project return on investment by avoiding an estimated \$11.9 million in power-outage losses across all sites over the system life;
- Ensure continuity of critical health center services during disasters and grid outages;
- Advance energy equity for medically underserved, low-income, and rural communities;
- Enable FQHCs to function as community resilience hubs;
- Support local workforce development and clean energy development by collaborating with Hawaii-based partners; and
- Establish a replicable and scalable model for future cohorts.

II. The Need

This project is vital for the financial stability of participating FQHCs. The enactment of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act has fundamentally changed our Medicaid system. We anticipate that in the worst-case scenario, Hawaii's uninsured population will at least double within the next three years. Most of the new uninsured will be former Medicaid enrollees who will lose their coverage.

FQHCs are required by law to provide services to all patients regardless of their ability to pay. For the uninsured, federal law prescribes a sliding fee schedule we can charge based on patient income. Most of the time, the amount received does not cover the cost of the services provided.

When there is no insurance reimbursement, the FQHC must rely on their operational funds to offset the losses. Under the worst-case scenario, if availability and level of services are kept at what we provide today, FQHCs will have less than three months of resources before we'd have to shut down.

This project will allow funds that would pay for electricity to go to patient services. This will provide the participating FQHCs with greater flexibility to meet the demands of their patients. Since most of these patients are Medicaid enrollees situated in the most geographically isolated communities throughout the State, support for this bill directly boosts our social safety net.

For these reasons, we urge your favorable consideration of this measure.

For your information and files, attached please find the transmittal receipt confirming submission of HPCA's CIP and Operational GIA applications to the Legislature on January 23, 2026, in accordance with Chapter 42F, HRS,

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 3254, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1
Tuesday, March 24, 2026; 10:00 a.m.
Page 4

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.

attachment



**Testimony to the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Tuesday, March 24, 2026, 10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325
Via Videoconference**

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

Aloha and mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of SB 3254 SD2, HD1** Relating to the State Budget, which would appropriate funds to be expended by the Department of Health as a grant for the Hawaii Primary Care Association to support solar-plus-storage microgrid implementation at community health centers in medically underserved communities, and provide programmatic, project management, contract management, reporting and fiscal stewardship responsibilities, and developing future scalable plans for the project specified in this Act.

Waimānalo Health Center (WHC) is one of those health centers that would tremendously benefit from these resources. WHC is a federally qualified health center, serving the Koʻolaupoko community since 1992, with comprehensive health services. Serving 6,451 patients through 32,469 visits in 2025, WHC provided primary care, behavioral health, vision, dental, pharmacy, health promotion disease prevention, Native Hawaiian healing, transportation, care management, WIC, mobile medicine, school health, and youth mentoring services. WHC serves 53% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders, 54% Medicaid, 8% uninsured, and 52% at 100% and below the Federal Poverty Level.

WHC has been working with Collective Energy to plan for the installation of solar panels at two sites in Waimānalo. Currently paying about \$15,000/month for electricity for both sites, this project will reduce our annual electricity costs by 28% at one site, and 45% at our second site, with a combined average annual energy savings of \$200,000. Thereby, reducing operating costs and directing more dollars back to core health services. Currently relying on diesel generators during power outages, the solar installation will strengthen energy reliance, reduce operational disruptions, and above all, help us to remain available/open to the public during grid failures to ensure continuity of care for patients.

With support through the Federal Rebates, Hawaii State Incentive, and funding received from Direct Relief, Collective Energy has calculated WHC's request from State GIA to be a total of \$463,754 (for both sites). We respectfully urge the committee to pass SB 3254 SD 2 to support solar-plus-storage microgrid implementation.

Thank you for your support, consideration and the opportunity to offer testimony. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mary Frances Oneha, APRN, PhD, FAAN
Chief Executive Officer
(808)954-7107

moneha@waimanalohealth.org



Testimony to the COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Tuesday, March 24, 2026
State Capitol, Conference Room 325
Via Videoconference
IN SUPPORT

RE: SENATE BILL NO. 3254, SD2, HD1 RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

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

My name is Bev Harbin, and I am the Chief Executive Officer of Wahiawa Center for Community Health, a look-alike Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that provides essential primary care services to the citizens of Central Oahu. I also serve on the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Primary Care Association as the Chair of their External Affairs Committee. On behalf of all FQHCs participating in the project proposed in this bill, I SUPPORT Senate Bill No. 3254, RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

This bill would appropriate general funds for a grant to support the development and deployment of solar-plus-storage microgrids at nonprofit community health centers located in medically underserved communities across the State.

Wahiawā Health is a 501(c)(3) Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alike (FQHCLAL), established in 2012 and is one of Senator Daniel K. Inouye's legacy projects. Wahiawā Health serves the medically underserved communities of Central O'ahu, including Wahiawā, Mililani, and Waialua, Schofield Barracks, Wheeler Air Force Base—areas designated by HRSA as both a Medically Underserved Population (MUP) and a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA). As a safety-net provider meeting all federal FQHC standards without Section 330 grant funding. Wahiawa Health is the only UNFUNDED community health center in Hawaii.

During Covid-19, numerous Federal, State and City and County funds were entrusted to the HPCA which in turn worked with community health centers to direct funding aid to support caring for our communities. This bill will deliver the same need of helping communities with protection and access to care during electrical emergencies. As for instance, Wahiawa Health has a 340b in house pharmacy. We have suffered losses of stored drugs during times of electrical failures. Having these solar and storage microgrids at the building housing Wahiawa Health will keep our pharmacy safe, our elevators working (we have had to carry wheelchair and handicapped patient's down our stairs at times of outage) and to ensure continued health services during grid failures. AS a community Hub we will be able to supply need energy for our community to charge their phones and a place of safety for electrical needs.

With recent changes to federal Medicaid policy, FQHCs are even more hard-pressed to find sufficient resources to serve Hawaii's most isolated and vulnerable populations. With the shifting of



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Wahiawā, HI
96786

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FAX (877) 759-6943
WEBSITE www.wahiawahealth.org

Medicaid enrollees to uninsured, FQHCs must continue to provide services to citizens regardless of their ability to pay. When unable to obtain insurance reimbursement, federal law requires the charging of fees on a sliding fee schedule based on the patient's ability to pay. Most of the time, this does not cover the costs of services.

For these situations, limited federal grant funds are available to offset the losses, but have not expanded to address the likely increase that will result from the enactment of House Resolution No. 1, the "Big Beautify Bill Act". Once federal grant funds are exhausted, FQHCs will have to reduce or eliminate services.

The project that this bill would make possible will provide FQHCs with greater revenue flexibility to meet the expected demand from uninsured patients. By establishing infrastructure improvements and providing essential program resources, this bill will allow FQHCs to experience enormous costs savings that will translate directly to affordable and accessible health care services to our patients.

Below is an anticipated revenue projection that will help our health centers with maintaining our services to our communities.

<u>FQHC</u>	<u>Average Annual Energy Savings</u>	<u>Estimated 25-Year Energy Savings</u>
Wahiawa Center for Community Health	\$113,000	\$2,826,000
Hawaii Island Community Health Center	\$210,000	\$5,243,000
Waimanalo Health Center	\$200,000	\$4,991,000
Hana Health	\$31,000	\$785,000
Molokai Community Health Center	\$87,000	\$2,177,000
TOTALS	\$641,000	\$16,022,000

Please pass this bill to ensure that further conversation can be encouraged

LATE



Hawai'i Island Community Health Center

TESTIMONY OF RICHARD TAAFFE

Chief Executive Officer

Hawai'i Island Community Health Center (HICHC)

Date: 3/23/2026

In Strong Support of S.B. 3254

Relating to the State Budget

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Hawai'i Island Community Health Center (HICHC), I respectfully urge your strong support for S.B. 3254.

Community health centers are the healthcare safety net for Hawai'i's most rural, geographically isolated, and medically underserved communities. Nowhere is this more evident than on Hawai'i Island, where our Hilo, Kea'au, and Ka'u Family Health & Dental clinics serve some of the most rural and vulnerable regions in the entire state.

These three sites are in areas historically and consistently impacted by the most severe adverse weather conditions in Hawai'i. Hurricanes, heavy rain, volcanic activity, and severe storms regularly destabilize the power grid. As a result, our clinics experience frequent and prolonged power outages. When the power goes out, our ability to serve patients stops. Clinics must close. Appointments are cancelled. Patients with chronic conditions lose access to care. Our ability to respond during emergencies is compromised at the very moment our communities need us most.

Equally alarming is the direct impact on vaccine storage. As a federally qualified health center, we maintain strict refrigeration requirements to safeguard thousands of doses of life-saving vaccines. Power instability jeopardizes that responsibility. In 2023 alone, HICHC lost \$70,000 worth of vaccines due to power outages. In 2024, we lost an additional \$65,000. Beyond the financial loss, this represents disrupted immunization schedules, delayed protection for children and kūpuna, and unnecessary strain on our public health infrastructure.

Stabilizing power at our rural health centers is not a luxury - it is a necessity. Solar-plus-storage microgrids will allow us to keep our doors open during grid failures, protect vaccine integrity, and maintain continuity of care when disasters strike. This is about health security, disaster readiness, and protecting our most vulnerable residents.

The benefits extend well beyond resilience:

- **\$3.8 million in projected electric cost savings over 20 years**, allowing us to reinvest those dollars directly into patient care.
- **An estimated reduction of 288 metric tons of CO₂ emissions annually**, supporting Hawai'i's clean energy goals and strengthening our environmental stewardship.
- Enhanced sustainability and ESG leadership, demonstrating responsible use of public funds and long-term operational planning.

This initiative leverages private, philanthropic, and incentive-based funding. The State's investment closes a critical financing gap and ensures that these projects move forward before federal incentives are lost. Without timely support, this opportunity and the long-term savings it generates may disappear.

For Hilo, Kea'au, and Ka'u, this is not simply an energy project. It is a healthcare continuity project. It is a vaccine protection project. It is a rural equity project. It is a disaster preparedness project.

S.B. 3254 represents a strategic and fiscally responsible investment in the stability of Hawai'i's healthcare safety net. We respectfully ask for your support to ensure that our most rural and weather-impacted communities are not left vulnerable when the power grid fails.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your continued commitment to the health and resilience of Hawai'i's communities.

Respectfully,

Richard Taaffe
Chief Executive Officer
Hawai'i Island Community Health Center

LATE

SB-3254-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 9:47:56 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and EEP Committee Members,

My name is Dave Mulinix, Co-Founder & Hawaii State Representative for Greenpeace Hawaii. On behalf of Greenpeace Hawaii's thousands of members and supporters statewide we stand in STRONG SUPPORT of SB3240 that Appropriates funds to be expended by the Department of Health as a grant for the Hawai'i Primary Care Association to support solar-plus-storage microgrid implementation at community health centers in medically underserved communities, and provide programmatic services, project management, contract management, reporting and fiscal stewardship responsibilities, and developing future scalable plans for the development and deployment of solar-plus-storage microgrids at nonprofit community health centers.

Community Health Centers are invaluable resources, especially in remote, rural areas where access to an alternative, like a hospital, can mean traveling very long distances. These facilities are a critical part of the healthcare safety net, serving low-income, uninsured, and underserved populations. It is essential that these centers be able to remain open and operational through a power outage.

Implementing solar+storage systems builds energy resilience in Community Health Centers, allowing them to improve access to reliable health care in low-income, rural communities. Clean, resilient solar+storage systems ensure energy reliability for critical medical equipment, refrigeration of insulin and vaccines, and continuity of care during grid outages and natural disasters.

This measure would allow health centers to reduce operating costs --directing more dollars back to core health services, while also decreasing harmful carbon pollution. With Hawai'i's frequent power outages, maintaining uninterrupted care is critical.

Please pass SB3240 which will literally help save lives!

Mahalo

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

SB-3254-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 3:46:20 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolyn Eaton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Carolyn Eaton. I am a resident of Honolulu and I strongly support this bill.

SB-3254-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 9:37:10 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Comment CHANGE THE FISCAL YEAR BECAUSE THE IRAN WAR IS COSTING TAXPAYERS!!

1BILLION DAYS A DAY. IRAN WAR IS COST TAXPAYERS 1B A DAY!!

THIS LEGISLATORS MUST BE FISCAL MORE RESPONSIBLE THEN PREVIOUS YEARS BECAUSE OF THE UNCERTAINTY OF THE WH ADMINISTRATION.

SB-3254-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 5:46:08 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Implementing solar+storage systems builds energy resilience in Community Health Centers, allowing them to improve access to reliable health care in low-income, rural communities. Clean, resilient solar+storage systems ensure energy reliability for critical medical equipment, refrigeration of insulin and vaccines, and continuity of care during grid outages and natural disasters. This measure would allow health centers to reduce operating costs --directing more dollars back to core health services, while also decreasing harmful carbon pollution. With Hawai'i's frequent power outages, maintaining uninterrupted care is critical.

SB-3254-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 6:35:16 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB3254 SD2 HD1. Providing community health centers with solar-plus-storage microgrids would reduce their carbon emissions and electricity costs, while also ensuring a dependable power supply during grid outages.

Community Health Centers are invaluable resources, especially in remote areas where the nearest hospital may be many miles away, or where travel may be hazardous during severe weather. These facilities are a critical part of our healthcare safety net, serving low-income, uninsured, and underserved populations. With Hawai'i's frequent power outages, and with our growing risk of weather-related emergencies due to climate change, maintaining uninterrupted care is critical.

SB-3254-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 7:59:55 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Implementing solar+storage systems builds energy resilience in Community Health Centers, allowing them to improve access to reliable health care in low-income, rural communities. Clean, resilient solar+storage systems ensure energy reliability for critical medical equipment, refrigeration of insulin and vaccines, and continuity of care during grid outages and natural disasters.

-- This measure would allow health centers to reduce operating costs --directing more dollars back to core health services, while also decreasing harmful carbon pollution. With Hawai'i's frequent power outages, maintaining uninterrupted care is critical.

Please support this important bill. Mahalo.

SB-3254-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 8:00:16 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Georgia L Hoopes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members Implementing solar+storage systems builds energy resilience in Community Health Centers, allowing them to improve access to reliable health care in low-income, rural communities. Clean, resilient solar+storage systems ensure energy reliability for critical medical equipment, refrigeration of insulin and vaccines, and continuity of care during grid outages and natural disasters.

This measure would allow health centers to reduce operating costs --directing more dollars back to core health services, while also decreasing harmful carbon pollution. With Hawai'i's frequent power outages, maintaining uninterrupted care is critical.

Mahalo,

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

SB-3254-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 8:28:26 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support SB3254

Samuel Mitchell Maikiki NB-10 & Narfe Hawaii

SB-3254-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 9:07:01 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

This bill provides a double whammy for a state that has difficulty retaining health care providers and providing reliable electricity for rural area health care. -- Implementing solar+storage systems builds energy resilience in Community Health Centers, allowing them to improve access to reliable health care in low-income, rural communities. Clean, resilient solar+storage systems ensure energy reliability for critical medical equipment, refrigeration of insulin and vaccines, and continuity of care during grid outages and natural disasters.

-- This measure would allow health centers to reduce operating costs --directing more dollars back to core health services, while also decreasing harmful carbon pollution. With Hawai'i's frequent power outages, maintaining uninterrupted care is critical. Please support SB3254.

SB-3254-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 10:49:25 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cory Harden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

Solar plus storage helps avoid blackouts like those still going on from the kona low storm. Please support this bill.

mahalo,

Cory Harden, Hilo

SB-3254-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 11:10:25 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of SB3254, which provides for a grant for the Hawai'i Primary Care Association. This grant would support the implementation of SOLAR-PLUS-STORAGE microgrids at Community Health Centers in this state.

I recently submitted strong testimony highlighting the essential services of Primary Care Physicians, who are sorely lacking in rural, uninsured, and underserved populations. Several dedicated PCPs struggle to provide medical care in Community Health Centers. It is all the more crucial that these centers are equipped with an uninterrupted energy source so that they can *remain open and functional in a power outage. These can involve life-and-death medical needs.*

I happen to receive the bulletins of the Kaua'i Island Utilities Cooperative. From these bulletins, I am aware that Kaua'i has been a leader in the implementation of solar energy, including the **storage of unused solar power** when it is sunny. If I understand correctly, this means that when solar is not available, the stored energy can be drawn upon. Surely this economically practical system could be applied to times of power outages!!

I urge the EEP Committee to pass SB3254!

Mahalo nui loa,

Cheryl Ho, Nu'uaniu

SB-3254-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 12:48:56 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brodie Lockard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

SB-3254-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 8:40:40 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha. Please pass this bill. It's time we take care of the people and the environment. We need to focus on sustainability now and this bill is a much needed step in a healthy direction. Mahalo.
Irene

SB-3254-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 8:47:03 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

My name is Mary Afable and I live in Hilo.

I support this legislation because This measure would allow health centers to reduce operating costs --directing more dollars back to core health services, while also decreasing harmful carbon pollution. With Hawai'i's frequent power outages, maintaining uninterrupted care is critical.

SB-3254-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 10:47:35 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANDREW ISODA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

-- Implementing solar+storage systems builds energy resilience in Community Health Centers, allowing them to improve access to reliable health care in low-income, rural communities. Clean, resilient solar+storage systems ensure energy reliability for critical medical equipment, refrigeration of insulin and vaccines, and continuity of care during grid outages and natural disasters.

-- This measure would allow health centers to reduce operating costs --directing more dollars back to core health services, while also decreasing harmful carbon pollution. With Hawai'i's frequent power outages, maintaining uninterrupted care is critical.

Mahalo,
Andrew Isoda
Lahaina, Mau'i

SB-3254-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 6:27:00 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Honorable Members,

I am writing to ask that you support SB3254 SD2 HD1 which appropriates funds to be expended by the Department of Health as a grant for the Hawaii Primary Care Association to support solar plus storage microgrid implementation at community health centers in medically underserved communities.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

SB-3254-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 6:58:09 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Perkinson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha.

I am a resident of Honolulu and a professor, testifying in my personal capacity in strong support of SB3254.

I support this bill because it is exactly the kind of practical, forward-looking investment Hawai'i should be making right now. SB3254 would appropriate funds through the Department of Health for a grant to the Hawai'i Primary Care Association to support solar-plus-storage microgrids at community health centers in medically underserved communities. The bill recognizes that these systems can preserve access to essential health services, protect vulnerable populations, and strengthen disaster readiness and energy resilience.

This is not simply an expense; it is an infrastructure investment that will pay dividends for years to come. By lowering electricity costs, these systems will help community health centers reduce operating expenses over the long term, freeing up more resources for patient care and essential services. In that sense, this appropriation will multiply its value over time rather than being spent only once. The Legislature's support here would help create lasting savings for organizations that already do so much with limited resources.

SB3254 will also improve disaster resilience. Community health centers must be able to continue operating during power outages, including keeping vaccines refrigerated, maintaining communications, and continuing care for patients who rely on them. As outages and emergencies become more frequent and disruptive, solar-plus-storage systems can help these facilities remain open and functional when they are needed most.

In the most serious disasters, these systems could allow community health centers to serve as real neighborhood survival hubs, giving residents a place to charge phones, connect with services, and find support. That is especially important for the communities these centers already serve every day.

I heard about this bill from a friend who works at Kokua Kalihi Valley, and it struck me immediately as just the sort of measure the Legislature should support, especially during a period of difficulty as federal funds are being cut. Community health centers in Hawai'i already do

more than their fair share to help our communities thrive and to care for those who need it most. This bill is a smart, lasting way for us to help them in return.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB3254.

SB-3254-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 8:08:39 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am Jon Brodziak from Kaimuki, and I strongly support SB3254 SD2 HD1.

This measure matters because it would help keep community health centers open and functioning during power outages. SB3254 SD2 HD1 appropriates funds to the Department of Health as a grant for the Hawai'i Primary Care Association to support solar-plus-storage microgrids at community health centers in medically underserved communities. That is a wise and practical investment in public health and community resilience.

Community health centers are essential to Hawai'i's healthcare safety net. In rural and underserved areas, they often provide the most direct path to care for low-income, uninsured, and medically vulnerable residents. When the power fails, the need for care does not disappear, and these centers must be ready to serve.

Reliable power supports reliable care. Solar-plus-storage systems can keep critical medical equipment operating, protect insulin and vaccines through refrigeration, and allow continuity of care during outages and natural disasters. In Hawai'i, where power disruptions are a real concern, that kind of resilience can make all the difference.

This bill also makes sound economic and environmental sense. Lower energy costs can return more dollars to patient care, while cleaner energy reduces pollution and strengthens local resilience. SB3254 SD2 HD1 is a practical, hopeful step toward a healthier and more dependable future for Hawai'i.

Please pass SB3254 SD2 HD1.

SB-3254-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 8:20:37 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Fitzpatrick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is John "Fitz" Fitzpatrick, and I am a resident of Kihei and a Science Educator at Kūlanihāko‘i High School. I am writing to express my strong support for SB3254, HD1.

This bill represents a critical intersection of scientific innovation and community safety. As an educator who teaches the principles of renewable energy and biology, I see first-hand the importance of building systems that are resilient to environmental stressors. Community health centers, such as Hana Health and others across our islands, serve our most vulnerable populations. During power outages or natural disasters, these centers must remain operational to provide life-saving care.

The transition to solar-plus-storage microgrids is not just an environmental win; it is a mechanical necessity for modern resilience. By decoupling these vital facilities from the centralized grid during emergencies, we ensure:

- **Reliability:** Continuous power for refrigeration of vaccines and medications.
- **Fiscal Responsibility:** Significant reduction in long-term energy costs for non-profit health providers.
- **Scientific Leadership:** Hawaii continues to lead by example in microgrid deployment and battery storage integration.

In my work advocating for school infrastructure, I often emphasize that our public institutions must be the "last buildings standing" in a crisis. This bill ensures our health centers meet that same standard.

I urge the committee to pass SB3254, HD1 to strengthen our energy independence and protect the health of all Hawaii residents, especially those in underserved rural areas.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

John Fitzpatrick Science Educator, Kūlanihāko‘i High School

Kihei, Maui

SB-3254-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 9:49:07 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

My name is Jackie Keefe, and I am **in strong support of SB3243 SD2 HD1**, which appropriates funds to be expended by the Department of Health as a grant for the Hawai'i Primary Care Association to support solar-plus-storage microgrid implementation at community health centers in medically underserved communities.

Implementing solar+storage systems builds energy resilience in Community Health Centers, allowing them to improve access to reliable health care in low-income, rural communities. Clean, resilient solar+storage systems ensure energy reliability for critical medical equipment, refrigeration of insulin and vaccines, and continuity of care during grid outages and natural disasters.

This measure would allow health centers to reduce operating costs --directing more dollars back to core health services, while also decreasing harmful carbon pollution. With Hawai'i's frequent power outages, maintaining uninterrupted care is critical.

Maui County (and across the pae'āina) are recovering from multiple devastating storms, during which countless residents lost power for prolonged periods of time. Please **pass SB3254 SD2 HD1**, which will save lives!

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Jackie Keefe, Lahaina

SB-3254-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 6:23:06 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karin Hoida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The storms we've seen the past few weeks are hopefully helping us all realize the urgency of passing bills like this one.

Implementing solar+storage systems builds energy resilience in Community Health Centers, allowing them to improve access to reliable health care in low-income, rural communities. Clean, resilient solar+storage systems ensure energy reliability for critical medical equipment, refrigeration of insulin and vaccines, and continuity of care during grid outages and natural disasters.

This measure would allow health centers to reduce operating costs --directing more dollars back to core health services, while also decreasing harmful carbon pollution. With Hawai'i's frequent power outages, maintaining uninterrupted care is critical.

Mahalo

SB-3254-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 6:31:48 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

The recent storms drive home the need for energy independence which is exactly what funding battery storage for solar enjoy does! Mahalo for supporting this bill!

SB-3254-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 9:00:14 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

In support of. Thank you.

SB-3254-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 9:01:40 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/24/2026 10:00:00 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 am writing in **strong support of SB3254 SD2 HD1**.

Community Health Centers are a lifeline for many of our communities across Hawai‘i, especially in rural and medically underserved areas where access to hospitals can require long and difficult travel. These centers serve as a critical safety net for low-income, uninsured, and underserved populations—ensuring that people can access care when they need it most.

Investing in solar-plus-storage microgrids for these facilities is a necessary and forward-thinking step toward protecting that care. Hawai‘i is no stranger to power outages and climate-related disruptions, and when the grid goes down, the consequences for patients can be life-threatening. Reliable energy is not a luxury in these settings—it is essential.

Solar-plus-storage systems would allow Community Health Centers to remain operational during outages, ensuring continuity of care for patients who rely on critical services. This includes powering life-saving medical equipment, preserving temperature-sensitive medications like insulin and vaccines, and maintaining basic clinical operations during emergencies. In moments of crisis, these centers often become hubs of care and stability, and we must ensure they are equipped to fulfill that role.

Additionally, this investment supports long-term sustainability and cost savings. By reducing reliance on fossil fuels and lowering energy costs, health centers can redirect limited resources back into patient care and essential services. This bill strengthens both our healthcare infrastructure and our commitment to a clean energy future.

At its core, SB3254 SD2 HD1 is about protecting people—ensuring that our most vulnerable communities are not left without care when they need it most.

I respectfully urge you to **PASS SB3254 SD2 HD1**.

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-3254-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 9:51:05 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tanya Aynessazian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Tanya Yamanaka Aynessazian, and I support SB3254 SD2 HD1.

Care should never be interrupted.

In many of our communities, especially here on Hawai‘i Island, community health centers are lifelines. They serve families who often have no other accessible option for care. But when the power goes out, that care is at risk.

This bill is about resilience where it matters most.

Solar plus storage allows these centers to stay open, keep medicines refrigerated, power essential equipment, and continue serving patients during outages. That is not just energy security—it is health security.

It is also about equity. The communities most vulnerable to outages are often the same communities with the least access to care. This helps close that gap.

At the same time, it lowers operating costs, allowing more resources to go directly into patient care.

If we want a resilient Hawai‘i, our places of care must be able to withstand disruption.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support.

SB-3254-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 10:20:25 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann V Saffery	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support

Mahalo,

Ann V Saffery

Honolulu, HI

SB-3254-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 11:59:18 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Molly Mamaril	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Molly Mamaril from Kaimukī, O‘ahu and I support [SB 3254, SD2, HD1](#) which would appropriate funds to be expended by the Department of Health as a grant for the Hawai‘i Primary Care Association to support solar-plus-storage microgrid implementation at community health centers.

Building resilience across our healthcare system is critical for our residents, especially during times of need. of The recent Kona Low storms highlighted how vulnerable some communities remain due to weak infrastructure. Ensuring that community health centers can maintain operations during outages is essential.

Solar-plus-storage microgrids are a practical, scalable solution that can strengthen energy reliability, protect critical services, and support long-term sustainability for underserved communities. I strongly urge your support of this measure.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Molly Mamaril