



**LATE**

**Hawaii Solar Energy Association**  
*Serving Hawaii Since 1977*

**January 28, 2010**  
**2:45 PM**

**Senate**  
**Committee on Energy and Environment and**  
**Committee on Transportation, International, and**  
**Intergovernmental Affairs**  
**SB2235**

**Mark Duda**  
**President**

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Gabbard and English and Committee Members:

HSEA supports this bill as a common sense measure that will generate considerable savings for Hawaii homeowners at no cost to the general fund. There are two sources of savings.

First, a portion of the work that our industry does could be done much more easily and cheaply during the construction phase of the home, rather than as a retrofit project. The best example of this is running conduit from the roof to the homes electrical panel. The cost of doing this is on the order of a few hundred dollars at the time of construction and several thousands later on. Further, when the PV industry has to run conduit there is often no alternative to putting it on the outside of the home in ways that can be unsightly. Everyone involved is better off if the home is pre-designed for PV at very modest additional cost than if the project must be done as a retrofit.

The second way that homeowners pay more when homes are not designed with PV in mind is if the roof is difficult for siting PV modules. We can usually place a system somehow, but more panels may be required to make the same amount of power if the tilt or orientation of the roof is challenging. The solar industry realizes that not all of the proposed changes are easy for homebuilders. However, these concerns must be balanced against the desire of homeowners for clean renewable energy at a reasonable cost.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Mark Duda  
President, Hawaii Solar Energy Association

**About Hawaii Solar Energy Association**

*Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) is comprised of installers, distributors, manufacturers and financers of solar energy systems, both hot water and PV, most of which are Hawaii based, owned and operated. Our primary goals are: (1) to further solar energy and related arts, sciences and technologies with concern for the ecologic, social and economic fabric of the area; (2) to encourage the widespread utilization of solar equipment as a means of lowering the cost of energy to the American public, to help*

*stabilize our economy, to develop independence from fossil fuel and thereby reduce carbon emissions that contribute to climate change; (3) to establish, foster and advance the usefulness of the members, and their various products and services related to the economic applications of the conversion of solar energy for various useful purposes; and (4) to cooperate in, and contribute toward, the enhancement of widespread understanding of the various applications of solar energy conversion in order to increase their usefulness to society.*