



LATE

Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

January 28, 2010
3:00PM

Senate
COMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Mark Duda
President

SB2294

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

We in the solar industry are fortunate relative to many other industries in our state. Despite the fact that our customers are highly exposed to the credit markets, our 2009 appears to have modestly exceeded our 2008. We are still finding our feet as an industry and we owe the legislature a great deal of thanks for this. Without our existing tax incentive the solar industry in Hawaii would simply not exist and many of our member companies would have failed. Our residential and commercial solar hot water and PV projects cannot be financed without this it. We in the solar industry are very thankful for this and look forward to gaining strength as our markets develop, both locally and globally.

In this context, I feel compelled to tell the committee that our existing credit levels are appropriate and do not need to be raised. Solar hot water and PV projects are financeable at various scales under the current 35 percent non-refundable and 24.5 percent refundable options in section 235-12.5. I believe that raising the credit levels would result mostly in paying entities that are already planning to put in solar systems more, rather than increasing the number of people who are able to purchase systems. Likewise, although the current caps in 235-12.5 are inconvenient, they are something that we have learned to live with and that we do not think need to be addressed during this most challenging of budget years.

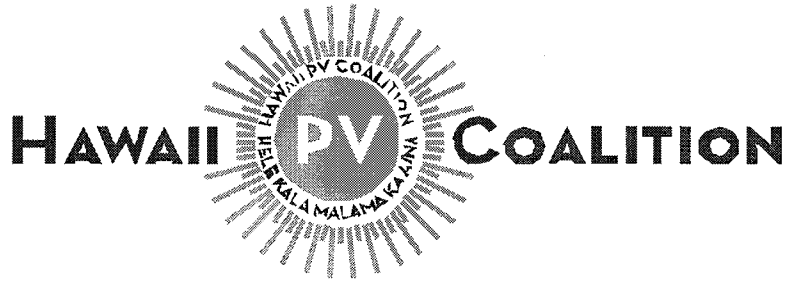
Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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.



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Brad Albert
President

SB2294

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

My name is Bradley Albert and I represent The Hawaii PV Coalition, HPVC's member companies are well placed to comment on this particular measure because they install the majority of net-metered PV systems on Oahu, Hawaii Island, and Maui. In addition the HPVC has done extensive community outreach to educate the public about NEM and State and Federal energy tax credits.

The solar industry showed strong growth and job creation in 2009. We need to have a tax credit in place that is stable and meaningful to keep this trend going. In this context, I feel compelled to tell the committee that our existing credit levels are appropriate and do not need to be raised. Solar hot water and PV projects are financeable at various scales under the current 35 percent non-refundable and 24.5 percent refundable options in section 235-12.5. I believe that raising the credit levels would result mostly in paying entities that are already planning to put in solar systems more, rather than increasing the number of people who are able to purchase systems. Likewise, although the current caps in 235-12.5 are inconvenient, they are something that we have learned to live with and that we do not think need to be addressed during this most challenging of budget years.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Brad Albert
President, Hawaii PV Coalition

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