SCR 61

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DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

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Statement of Richard C. Lim, Director Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism before the SENATE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT and WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING March 15, 2012 2:45 p.m. State Capitol, Conference Room 225 in consideration of **SCR 61**

Chairs Gabbard and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs English and Solomon, and Members of the Committees.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports Senate Concurrent Resolution 61, which recognizes the importance of encouraging builders of single-family residences in Hawaii to adopt, whenever practical, design features that would help facilitate the installation of photovoltaic systems on the rooftops of new homes. DBEDT supports the nine design elements listed in SCR 61. We believe, as the price of PV systems continue to fall, the installation of residential PV systems will become increasingly cost effective and will offer new home buyers a practical way of tapping into a clean energy source, thus helping our State reduce its reliance on imported oil.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments in support of SCR 61.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE GOVERNOR

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Hawaii Solar Energy Association Serving Hawaii Since 1977

Testimony before the Senate Committees on Energy and Environment and Water, Land, and Housing On SCR 61 Encouraging Single-Family Residence Builders to Consider Certain Factors That Will Facilitate Installation of Photovoltaic Systems When Constructing and Developing Single-Family Residences

Chairs Gabbard and Dela Cruz, Vice-Chairs English and Solomon, Members of the Committees,

My name is Rick Reed and I am the senior policy advisor for the Hawaii Solar Energy Association, a non-profit trade association dedicated to facilitating the transition to clean energy for Hawaii's residents.

I served on the working group, established by Act 198, to study the feasibility of requiring all new single-family residential construction to incorporate design elements to make the structure photovoltaic-ready at the time of initial construction.

I submit testimony in support Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 61 that encourages single-family residence builders to consider certain factors when constructing and developing single-family residences.

I would like to note that the wording for Item (7) on page 3, lines 12-13 "A structure's electrical panel contains adequate space to house a photovoltaic circuit breaker" may be too restrictive to "satisfy the structure's electrical load requirement."

I respectfully request that the language for Item (7) be changed to "house one or more photovoltaic system inverter output circuits." The justification for the recommended change is that in some instances a single photovoltaic system capacity may exceed the rating of a single circuit breaker. In other instances the structure may require more than one photovoltaic system resulting in the need for more than one circuit breaker.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony