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Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

Before the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Friday, February 21, 2014, 10:30 a.m., Room 229
SB 2657 SD 1: Relating to Renewable Energy

Aloha Chair Baker Vice-Chair Taniguchi, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

On behalf of the Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA), I would like to testify in support for SB 2657 SD 1, which transfers responsibility of the roof warranty with regards to penetrations made to install solar to the solar contractor who installed the system. HSEA is a non-profit trade organization that has been advocating for solar energy since 1977, with an emphasis on residential distributed generation and commercial for both solar hot water (SHW) and photovoltaics (PV). We currently represent 79 companies, and our members include installers, contractors, manufacturers, distributors, the utility, and others. With 37 years of advocacy behind us, HSEA's goal is to work for a sustainable energy future for all of Hawaii.

As HRS 196-7 currently reads, the homeowner who has a solar system installed on his or her roof is mandated to obtain confirmation in writing from the company that issued the warranty that the installation of the solar energy device will not void the roof warranty. This requirement serves as a constant roadblock to homeowners whose properties fall under the control of an homeowner's association as very few roofing contractors are willing—with good reason—to warranty the work of another contractor. This creates a frustrating loop where by the homeowner is unable to obtain confirmation from the roofing contractor, and is thus unable to install a solar device.

SB 2657 SD 1 reaches a compromise by which the solar contractor may warranty his own work, with notice to the HOA under certain conditions. The language in SB 2657 SD 1 provides some options which more closely reflects standard industry practice.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Leslie Cole-Brooks
Executive Director
Hawaii Solar Energy Association

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SB2657

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Testimony for CPN on Feb 21, 2014 10:30AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
pamela burrell	apollo kauai,	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Senators, This bill is probably long overdue as I am sure there are quite a few disappointed solar customers with leaky roofs. We encourage the installation of renewable energy and it being installed in a responsible manner. Regards, Pamela Burrell for Apollo Kauai

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