



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

GWEN S. YAMAMOTO LAU
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HAWAII GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY

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Testimony of
Gwen Yamamoto Lau
Executive Director
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Friday, February 11, 2022
Time: 10:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room No. 312 & Videoconference
In consideration of
HOUSE BILL NO. 2409
RELATING TO THE ECONOMY

Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2409 relating to the economy. This bill proposes to establish a public policy framework and appropriates funds to implement specific projects, including \$2.5 million for Solarize Waianae and other Under-Resourced Communities statewide. The Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority (“HGIA”) **supports** this bill.

Nationwide, promoting energy justice¹ is a high priority. With the highest energy costs in the nation, it is even more urgent in Hawaii. While HGIA has been providing financing for underserved ratepayers, one rooftop at a time, we have found that in addition to financial barriers, further exacerbated by the pandemic, the complexity of understanding how energy produced by the solar system, household behaviors and interconnection programs interrelate, is another steep obstacle toward adoption.

Solarize Campaigns not only leverages the power of the community, with neighbors helping neighbors drive down the cost of solar, it is also co-created by the community, designed to meet their needs and priorities, whether it be educational workshops, workforce development programs, financing programs, and more.

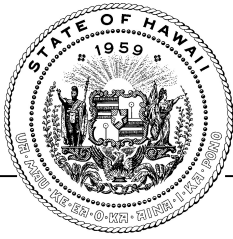
While most participants will “finance” the cost of the solar system utilizing energy savings, there will be some low-income families that will need subsidies (similar to a rebate) to help lower the system cost to make their loan payments affordable. Funding from this bill will promote energy justice by ensuring that our most vulnerable families are not locked-out the State’s clean energy transition.

Hawaii Energy, City & County of Honolulu’s Office of Climate Change, Sustainability & Resiliency, Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, Makaha Learning Center, Hawaiian Electric, State Energy

¹ Energy justice refers to the goal of achieving equity in both the social and economic participation in the energy system. iejusa.org

Office and HGIA are working with Waianae community organizations and leaders to co-create a Solarize Waianae Campaign to reduce their energy burden. The funding will provide much needed resources to implement at least **seven (7)** Solarize Campaigns in Waianae and other vulnerable communities statewide. HGIA defers to DBEDT on the other projects identified on the bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2409.



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF PLANNING
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DIRECTOR

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Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development
before the
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
AND TOURISM**

Friday, February 11, 2022
10 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 312 & Videoconference

in consideration of
HB 2409
RELATING TO THE ECONOMY.

Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt, and Members of the House Committee on Economic Development.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **strongly supports** HB 2409. This measure would establish a public policy framework that addresses state goals in the areas of economic disaster mitigation, economic diversification, import substitution, and community development, and appropriates funds to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) to implement specific projects that address those goals.

As the designated recipient of the Economic Development Administration's Statewide Planning Grant, OPSD's Special Plans Branch is developing the Hawaii Economic Recovery and Resilience (HIERR) Plan to coordinate statewide efforts to minimize the impacts of future economic disruptions. The HIERR Plan will build on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS), which is currently undergoing a five-year update, and align to the State's economic, sustainability, and equity goals and objectives as set forth in the Hawaii State Plan and Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan. The HIERR Plan will focus on three interconnected goals which are intentionally directly aligned to the first three goals addressed by the public policy framework proposed in SB 3337: economic disaster mitigation, economic diversification, and import substitution.

This measure creates the opportunity to align OPSD's statewide economic planning assets with implementation through DBEDT programs and projects, and ensure consistency with the Hawaii State Plan. The proposed public policy framework will affirm the HIERR Plan's focus, while the funding appropriated under this measure will ensure DBEDT programs and projects are prioritized and implemented consistently with the HIERR Plan. Furthermore, this measure calls for an objective evaluation of these projects, which would provide valuable input

for updating and maintaining the HIERR Plan to ensure that it remains a relevant tool to guide the State's economic recovery and resilience and continues to advance the State's goals, objectives, and policies as set forth in the Hawaii State Plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**HAWAII COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SUSAN TODANI
CHAIRPERSON

DEEPAK NEUPANE, P.E., AIA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Statement of
DEEPAK NEUPANE
Executive Director
Hawaii Community Development Authority
before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Friday, February 11, 2022
10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 312, & Videoconference

In consideration of

HB 2409
RELATING TO THE ECONOMY.

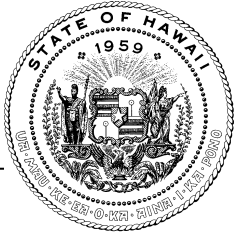
Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt, and members of the Committee. The Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA), an agency attached to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT), **supports** HB 2409, which establishes a public policy framework that addresses state goals in the areas of economic disaster mitigation, economic diversification, import substitution, and community development, and appropriates funds to DBEDT.

The bill also identifies additional capital improvement projects, included in the executive budget, that will be implemented by DBEDT, for improvement projects within HCDA's Kakaako and Kalaeloa community development districts:

- **Kalaeloa: Saratoga Avenue electrical and communications infrastructure improvements (\$12,125,000).** This corridor will bring much needed and reliable electrical and communications infrastructure improvements to Saratoga Road from Enterprise Road to Hornet Avenue in this downtown area of Kalaeloa. The current Navy-owned electrical system is not available for hook ups to new development projects. Economic Impact: This project will bring reliable utilities to Saratoga Road that will spur community development along this "downtown" area of Kalaeloa.
- **Kakaako: Repair of Fisherman's Wharf bulkhead (\$25,000,000).** This bulkhead/dock (Dock) in the Kewalo Basin harbor has deteriorated and is unsafe for use by vessels and landside users. This necessary health and safety repair project

will allow full use of the Dock. This project includes significant repairs of concrete spalling at the beams, pile caps, and piles. Economic Impact: The repaired Dock will promote economic development by allowing fishing and recreational vessels and landside users to safely use the Dock.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this measure.



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SCOTT J. GLENN
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

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Testimony of
SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Friday, February 11, 2022
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312 & Videoconference

**SUPPORT
HB 2409
RELATING TO THE ECONOMY.**

Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports HB2409, which establishes a public policy framework that addresses state goals in the areas of economic disaster mitigation, economic diversification, import substitution, and community development and appropriates moneys to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) to implement specific projects that address those goals.

Act 122 in 2019 established HSEO as an agency attached to DBEDT with a mission to transition Hawai'i to a resilient, clean energy economy through the promotion of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation. HSEO works closely with DBEDT and other state and county agencies, businesses, labor organizations, and communities to develop policies, programs, and projects to accomplish this mission. The collaboration with the Legislature and development of the policy matrix called for in the bill will assist HSEO in these efforts.

HSEO would like to offer for the Committee's consideration two items to further the purpose of import substitution as described in section 2(a)(4) in the bill:

- \$10 million to fund the Sustainable Aviation Fuel program in the Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) as established in [Act 180, Session Laws of Hawai'i \(SLH\) 2021](#).

- \$5 million to accelerate the state fleet transition to zero emission vehicles as set forth in [Act 74, SLH 2021](#).

The Sustainable Aviation Fuel program established in HTDC is currently unfunded. Act 180, SLH 2021, authorized HTDC to provide matching grants to any small business developing products related to sustainable aviation fuel or greenhouse gas reduction from commercial aviation operations. These grants can support business development, technology development, engineering, and research toward sustainable aviation fuel production, airborne operations fuel efficiency, ground support equipment fuel replacement and fuel efficiency, and operational improvements to reduce overall jet fuel consumption. All of these activities involve a high-skilled workforce and promote economic diversification.

Moreover, nearly one-third of the energy consumed in Hawai'i is for jet fuel, the majority of which comes from imported crude petroleum refined in state. Advancing sustainable aviation fuels would reduce Hawai'i's reliance on imported oil, further keeping dollars at home instead of supporting hostile governments around the world and exacerbating climate change. HSEO is aware of several businesses exploring sustainable aviation fuel options for Hawai'i. Funding this program would be an important market signal that Hawai'i supports this type of innovation and energy security.

Act 74, SLH 2021, established a goal for the State to transition the State's light-duty passenger cars to 100% zero emission vehicles by 2030 and all light-duty motor vehicles by 2035. The State, through the Department of Transportation, currently has a contract in place to lease zero emission vehicles and charging/fueling infrastructure as a service. This arrangement saves the State operational and capital improvement project dollars, in turn saving taxpayers money. Further, this positions the State to lead by example in the broader transition to zero emission vehicles, reduces reliance on imported gasoline and crude oil, and improves energy security.

Appropriating monies to DBEDT for these specific projects would further align the State with becoming a resilient, clean energy, knowledge-based, zero-emission, digital

economy while putting Hawai'i on the path toward more economic prosperity by keeping local dollars home instead of being exported to import fossil fuels.

HSEO defers to the appropriate agencies on the administrative requirements in the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

DAVID Y. IGE
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MIKE MCCARTNEY
DIRECTOR

CHUNG I. CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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Statement of
MIKE MCCARTNEY
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Friday, February 11, 2022

10:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 312 & Videoconference

In consideration of

HB2409

RELATING TO THE ECONOMY.

Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports HB2409 which establishes a public policy framework that addresses state goals in the areas of economic disaster mitigation, economic diversification, import substitution, and community development.

The intent of the measure is to pave a path for the legislature and DBEDT in this legislative session and to be a model for future public policy framework to better collaborate and coordinate in identifying, funding, executing, and reporting on projects that address those goals. Additionally, this framework allows elaborating on and compliments projects authorized in the state budget to be implemented by DBEDT.

This testimony for DBEDT and its divisions and testimonies provided by our attached agencies—Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD), Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO), Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority (HGIA), Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC), Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC), Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA), Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority (NELHA), and Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA)—represent our collective efforts to initiate this collaboration with the legislature and provide more details of the identified projects:

Section 3. (1) – (Business Development and Support Division) \$500,000 for community-based economic development revitalization grants to provide funding for communities to hold economic development activities. Communities, especially rural communities, have been hard hit by the devastating economic impacts of the pandemic. Funding will help promote economic development activities and increase business within these distressed communities to hold events such as farmers markets, farm to table projects, visit "our town" days; town ho'olaule'a, and community expos.

Section 3. (2) (A) – (Broadband Office) \$1,000,000 for carrier-neutral cable landing infrastructure to develop pre-construction specifications for the design and engineering of carrier-neutral cable landing infrastructure on the islands of Oahu, Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai. In collaboration with University of Hawaii (UH), the goal is to complete 10 pre-construction engineering and design projects. The \$1,000,000 will enable DBEDT to be the first four projects, and with \$1,500,000 from ARPA that the governor announced, UH will be able to procure the remaining six projects.

Section 3. (2) (B) – (Broadband Office) \$1,000,000 for digital literacy training in partnership with state libraries and Hawaii Literacy. This project is a collaboration amongst DBEDT, the libraries, Workforce Development Division (WDD), Hawaii Literacy, and community partners. This project was originally developed as the Workforce Resilience Initiative with federal funding. Since federal funding is unlikely at this point, state support is needed for this project.

Section 3. (2) (C) – (Remote Work) \$500,000 for Instant Teams Phase 2. We have entered initial discussions with Instant Teams on the viability of creating a Hawaii based Instant Teams project that would work with the DBEDT effort to expand traded professional services outside of the State of Hawaii. This would leverage the Business Development Representative positions in Instant Teams to create remote Business Development Representative to expand business solutions for Instant Teams with the intent of creating more remote work positions for the residents of Hawaii.

Phase 2 tasks includes:

1. Streamlining and improving the recruitment and screening process by finding a work around the video interview and increasing the frequency of the start dates to strengthen the needs of Hawaii's applicants.
2. Leveraging the current Hawaii based Business Development Representatives to work with the Instant Teams Hawaii Business Development Support Division to serve as a sales engine to increase the export of professional services.
3. Expanding the employment opportunities beyond Customer Service Representatives and Business Development Professionals to include Data Analytics and Reporting and Software Engineering and Implementation Specialists.

Section 3. (2) (D) – (Remote Work) \$300,000 for Remote Work website Business resource build out. The initial Hawaii Remote Work project was designed to create opportunities for Hawaii's residents to obtain employment in the immediate aftermath (2020 and early 2021) that followed the safer at home and stay at home orders which shuttered many of Hawaii's businesses. Mid 2021 DBEDT began refocusing this initiative to address the issues Hawaii's labor force issues associated COVID-19 and the numerous variant which appear to have changed many worker priorities resulting in a significant labor shortage. This labor shortage phenomena termed the "Great Resignation" on the national level and later labeled "Great Reshuffle." In response to Hawaii's labor shortage, the Hawaii Remote Work Project will expand its focus to provide additional support to Hawaii's businesses.

Phase 2 tasks includes:

1. Improving digital upskilling opportunities for Hawaii's incumbent labor force by integrating the website with LinkedIn Learning micro-certifications and learning paths.
2. Providing virtual remote work certifications through existing virtual solutions. Identifying market valued, portable online remote work certifications. (ie. CertiProf)
3. Further integration with the DLIR WDD workforce development digital literacy and digital work readiness programs.

Section 3. (2) (E) – (Creative Industries Division) \$1,310,000 to expand creative space studios statewide, to include equipment, retrofit and digital certification training in new media technologies at Entrepreneurs Sandbox location.

Request to add clarifying language that is highlighted and underscored above. This aligns with digital transformation and our need to improve broadband fiber connectivity, software, and technology required for CID/UH workforce training for digitally based jobs and business creation, locally and remotely. CID is in discussions with WDD, DLIR, and UH Office of Innovation to provide training in these facilities.

Section 3. (2) (F) – (Creative Industries Division) \$150,000 for creative hub portal and application development to market Hawaii's creatives to drive business and entrepreneurial opportunities for regional and global export of local intellectual property. \$50,000 for a film permitting digital system to streamline the permit process; and \$100,000 to build an online hub for all creative sectors including film component.

Request to add \$100,00 for a total of \$150,000 and adding in the details into the measure for a creative hub portal as highlighted and underscored above. Creating a robust database and directory of the 13 sectors of Hawaii's creative economy are critical to create community engagement with businesses who can utilize their services, talent and companies.

Section 3. (2) (G) – (NELHA) Ocean economy innovation village details to be provided in NELHA testimony.

Section 3. (2) (H) – (BDSD) \$400,000 to establish an office of international affairs. The Legislature passed statute in 2017 establishing within DBEDT, the Office of International Affairs (HRS 201-17). However, due to lack of funding, the Office was never implemented. This funding aims to establish the Office with the goal to promote and strengthen relations with other countries in areas of commerce, economy, culture and the arts; exports, foreign direct investments, international student attraction and educational exchanges; sports exchanges and other goodwill activities. This Office will

also oversee sister state relations, the state's foreign offices in Beijing and Taipei, and protocol matters.

Section 3. (2) (I) – (BDSD) \$500,000 for a cyber leaders programs to provide educational and technical cybersecurity assistance to local businesses to maintain compliance with cybersecurity requirements. Develop a cadre of students, individuals and professionals with accredited certifications prioritized by employers in cybersecurity and IT intelligence to help businesses better compete for federal/military contracts that have cybersecurity requirements. Includes the matching of employers with prospective hires for jobs, contracts, internships, apprenticeships; as well as matching subject matter experts willing to serve in adjunct teaching roles and mentors with academic institutions in need of additional expertise. Also includes support for the establishment and management of internships/intern pools and match-making with prospective employers.

Section 3. (3) – (HGIA) Solarize Hawaii testimony to be provided by HGIA.

Section 4. (HCDA) Saratoga Avenue and Fisherman's Wharf projects testimony to be provided by HCDA.

The Hawaii State Energy Office submits testimony to add \$10,000,000 for aviation fuel program and \$5,000,000 for zero emission vehicles to this measure. Details are provided in the HSEO testimony.

The Hawaii Technology Development Corporation requests consideration to convert two of their FTE positions at its Hawaii Center for Advanced Transportation Technologies program from Federal Funds to General Funds, totaling \$150,000. Due to lack of congressional-add-on funding provided for the project, the HCATT program is at risk of being suspended. HCATT operates the only operational renewable hydrogen production and dispensing station on Oahu and over the years has brought more than \$40 million in federal funds into the State, matched by another \$23 million from private

partners. The program has already been reduced from five full time staff to two. Federal funding has not been appropriated for the past two years so HTDC may not be able to retain the remaining two employees.

DBEDT believes that to be an effective facilitative catalyst, the state needs to work with the counties, businesses, investors, labor unions, and the community to achieve economic prosperity. Through the intent of this bill, we are hopeful that we will all come to alignment as we forge ahead to emerging, knowledge-based, zero emission, digital, and global economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
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ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2409

February 11, 2022
10:00 a.m.
Room 312 and Videoconference

RELATING TO THE ECONOMY

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill (H.B.) No. 2409 establishes a public policy framework that addresses State goals in the areas of economic disaster mitigation, economic diversification, import substitution, and community development; appropriates a total of \$26,060,000 in general funds to the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) for FY 23 for various project areas; identifies capital improvement projects (CIP) authorized in the Executive Budget to be implemented by DBEDT in furtherance of these goals; and requires reports to the Legislature summarizing project outcomes and effectiveness in achieving these goals.

B&F notes that the CIPs identified in Section 4 of this measure are included as part of the Governor's FY 23 Executive Supplemental Budget for DBEDT in the amounts prescribed in H.B. No. 2409.

Finally, B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriations in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II

funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



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David Y. Ige
Governor

John De Fries
President and Chief Executive Officer

Statement of
JOHN DE FRIES

Hawai'i Tourism Authority
before the
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

February 11, 2022
10:00 a.m.
State Capitol
via videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL NO. 2409
RELATING TO THE ECONOMY

Aloha Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt, and members of the Committee on Economic Development.

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) appreciates the opportunity to offer this testimony in **support** of HB2409, which establishes a public policy framework that addresses state goals in the areas of economic disaster mitigation, economic diversification, import-substitution, and community development as part of the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism's overall goals and objectives.

As we continue on our path to recovery, now is the time to invest in and support projects and programs that will lead to a more sustainable and resilient economy. The projects outlined in the measure such as the carrier-neutral landing infrastructure, expansion of the creative space studio, streamlining the film permitting system, and the ocean economy innovation village combined with programs such as the digital literacy training partnership, remote work opportunities and website, establishing an international affairs office, providing educational and technical cybersecurity assistance to local business, and addressing import substitution through Solarize Wai'anae will most certainly move us in the right direction.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony in **support** of HB2409. Mahalo.



Before the House Committee on Economic Development
Friday, Feb. 11, 2022 at 10:00a.m.

Testimony providing comments on HB2409: Relating to the Economy

Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill 2409. Our testimony is focused on the Solarize portion of this bill. Hawai'i Energy supports the intent of the portion of the bill to provide \$2.5 million in funding for the Solarize campaigns. Solarize O'ahu's mission is to support efforts to (1) reduce high energy burden for area residents and (2) empower the community to provide their own responsive solutions. The communications and outreach campaign aims to educate and help interested households in underserved communities get rooftop solar at discounted rates through community bulk purchase.

Hawai'i Energy works to empower island families and businesses on behalf of the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to make smart energy choices to reduce energy consumption, save money, and pursue a 100% clean energy future. Energy efficiency is the cheapest option to help us achieve our 100% clean energy goal by eliminating waste and being more efficient.

One of Hawai'i Energy's core pillars is Accessibility & Affordability, which carves out specific resources to address energy-related equity issues faced by many Hawai'i residents and businesses. This work involves partnering with government and community-based organizations to introduce, educate and implement energy efficient and clean energy information as well as offer programs for vulnerable populations who have high energy burden and low access to or participation in clean energy programs.

One of the projects we're involved with is Solarize O'ahu, an initiative to expand access to rooftop solar and energy efficiency to those who have been left behind in our transition to a renewable energy economy. These have primarily been low- to moderate-income households and Native Hawaiian families. The program's first targeted campaign is in Waianae on O'ahu and involves Hawai'i Energy, the City & County of Honolulu's Office of Climate Change, Sustainability & Resiliency (OCCSR), the Hawai'i Green Infrastructure Authority (HGIA)'s GEMS program, and community organizations and leaders.

Solarize campaigns are a great way to lower the cost and educational barriers to renewable energy technologies by increasing affordability through leveraging economies of scale. Not only will it decrease energy burden for LMI households, the campaigns will increase green jobs and diversify our economy. We recommend the bill be amended to name **Solarize O'ahu** and identify the targeted areas as "Waianae and other vulnerable communities statewide."

We appreciate the efforts made by the State Legislature, DBEDT, and various stakeholders to support Solarize O'ahu through this funding. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB2409.

Sincerely,
Stephany Vaioleti
Community Engagement Navigator
Hawai'i Energy



NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY



An Authority of the State of Hawaii attached to the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism

Statement of
Gregory P. Barbour
Executive Director

Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority
before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Friday, February 11, 2022
10:00 am

State Capitol, Conference Room 312 & Videoconference

in consideration of

HB 2409 **RELATING TO THE ECONOMY.**

The Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority (NELHA) strongly supports HB 2409 which provides a policy matrix to grow and accelerate economic diversification. This measure appropriates funds to serve as an investment in State infrastructure which will expand our existing research campus at NELHA.

Our existing research campus is at 100 percent capacity with over 20 business and agencies in the fields of renewable energy, ocean conservation, ocean technology, and aquaculture. This existing six-acre research campus and incubator office building provides a focal point to facilitate a “pipeline” for pre-commercial and commercial ventures to “graduate” into the adjacent 890-acre Hawaii Ocean Science and Technology Park (HOST Park) which we administer.

This expansion project is in the planning/design phase and will be “shovel ready” next year. It will be partially funded from the \$6.5M we received from FEMA and insurance companies from the destruction of NELHA’s buildings in Puna due to the 2018 Kilauea volcanic eruption. When completed this project will be very comparable to our existing research campus and add a total of 4 acres and includes a 20,000 sf incubator office and wet laboratory building and approximately 60,000 sf for outdoor tanks and demonstration projects for start-up companies.

With additional demonstration incubator facilities, we will be better suited to fill the “gap” between R&D and commercialization by providing a site to advance research and stimulate scale-up models to gain market acceptance; nurture business development; and market production of goods in focus areas related to the ocean economy. In this regard, we will continue to target start-ups with interest in validating technology and marketing and/or manufacturing in Hawaii and whose involvement will enhance the viability of HOST Park.

It is important to note that we are a self-sufficient agency and receive no general funds for our operations and the over 50 businesses in HOST Park generate over 600 jobs and pay over \$5 million annually in State taxes. As such, this investment in additional infrastructure to support new businesses will further diversify our economy and generate additional jobs and tax revenues makes good business sense.

We would like to point out one technical correction in the measure. Section 3, Item 2G on line 18-19 page 7 should be in Section 4 as it is a capital improvement project. In addition, the amount should be amended to \$13 million.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

LATE

Testimony of
Danielle Irwin
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Friday, February 11, 2022
Time: 10:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room No. 312 & Videoconference
In consideration of
HOUSE BILL NO. 2409
RELATING TO THE ECONOMY

Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2409 relating to the economy. This bill proposes to establish a public policy framework and appropriates funds to implement specific projects, including \$2.5 million for Solarize Waianae and other Under-Resourced Communities statewide. I, Danielle Irwin support this bill.

While rooftop solar has the potential to reduce the energy burden in communities of color (or under-resourced communities), it has not yet lived up to its potential due to systematic barriers including (1) lack of solar education and outreach; (2) financial challenges such as lower income and access to credit, and (3) issues related to home ownership, such as lower ownership rates or roof condition.¹ The Rocky Mountain Institute (“RMI”), a non-profit organization accelerating the clean energy transition and improving lives, has found that *Solarize Campaigns* have been effective in addressing these barriers across the country.

The benefits of the proposed funding go far beyond that of a traditional subsidy. Solarize Waianae is/will:

- Community driven – solarize campaigns are organized and led by local communities, which empower residents to leverage community buying power to negotiate fixed/reduced pricing.
- Reduces reliance on public services – every dollar saved from going solar is another dollar not spent on electricity from oil, resulting in less burden on our state budget and tax dollars.

¹ “Solarize Campaigns: Helping Communities of Color Access Rooftop Solar”, July 28, 2020, Lacey Shaver, Ryan Shea

- Encourages wide-spread adoption of solar – as more people go solar, awareness increases and the cost of installation goes down, making solar more attainable for under-resourced communities.
- Creates sustainable jobs in the solar industry – workforce development initiatives are wrapped into each solarize project to train installers and technicians who will keep Hawaii powered.
- Communities become part of the solution—driving Hawaii closer to its clean energy goals.

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, Makaha Learning Center, RMI, Hawaii Energy, City & County of Honolulu’s Office of Climate Change, Sustainability & Resiliency, Hawaiian Electric, and the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority are working with Waianae community organizations and leaders to co-create a Solarize Waianae Campaign to reduce their energy burden. The funding will provide much needed resources to implement at least seven (7) Solarize Campaigns in Waianae and other vulnerable communities statewide.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2409.

Mahalo,

Danielle Irwin



Written Statement of

Len Higashi
Acting Executive Director
Hawaii Technology Development Corporation
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Friday, February 11, 2022
10:00 a.m.
Videoconference

In consideration of
HB2409
RELATING TO THE ECONOMY.

Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt and Members of the Committee.

The Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) **supports** the intent of HB2409 that establishes a public policy framework that addresses state goals in the areas of economic disaster mitigation, economic diversification, import substitution, and community development and appropriates moneys to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to implement specific projects that address those goals. Identifies additional projects authorized in the executive budget to be implemented by the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism in furtherance of those goals and requires DBEDT to submit annual reports to the Legislature summarizing project outcomes, including an assessment of each project's effectiveness in achieving those goals.

HTDC supports initiatives aimed at promoting technology and manufacturing jobs. HTDC believes the policy framework is a better way of coordinating the many needs of the State. HTDC has been working with DBEDT and its attached agencies on the Creative Space Studio and Ocean Economy Village, as well as the State Small Business Credit Initiative, Sustainable Aviation Fuel project, Dual Use Task Force, and e-commerce and export training.

HTDC requests consideration to convert two FTE positions supporting the Hawaii Center for Advanced Transportation Technologies program from Federal Funds to General Funds, totalling \$150,000. Due to lack of congressional-add-on funding, the HCATT program is at risk of being suspended. HCATT operates the only operational renewable hydrogen production and dispensing station on Oahu and over the years has brought more than \$40 million in federal funds

into the State, matched by another \$23 million from private partners. The program has been reduced from five full time staff to two. Federal funding has not been appropriated for the past two years so HTDC may not be able to retain the remaining two employees. At the same time, the legislature and federal government have both signaled an increasing need for innovation programs that are aligned with HCATT's strengths and mission: renewable energy, microgrid infrastructure including cybersecurity, hydrogen, and sustainable aviation fuel. HTDC intends to leverage our HCATT program to support these types of projects and to compete for federal grants in these areas.

HTDC looks forward to working with all stakeholders in moving Hawai'i's economy forward. Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

Testimony of
Jason Lucas
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Friday, February 11, 2022
Time: 10:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room No. 312 & Videoconference
In consideration of
HOUSE BILL NO. 2409
RELATING TO THE ECONOMY

Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2409 relating to the economy. This bill proposes to establish a public policy framework and appropriates funds to implement specific projects, including \$2.5 million for Solarize Waianae and other Under-Resourced Communities statewide. I, Jason Lucas **support** this bill.

While rooftop solar has the potential to reduce the energy burden in communities of color (or under-resourced communities), it has not yet lived up to its potential due to systematic barriers including (1) lack of solar education and outreach; (2) financial challenges such as lower income and access to credit, and (3) issues related to home ownership, such as lower ownership rates or roof condition.¹ The Rocky Mountain Institute (“RMI”), a non-profit organization accelerating the clean energy transition and improving lives, has found that *Solarize Campaigns* have been effective in addressing these barriers across the country.

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, Makaha Learning Center, RMI, Hawaii Energy, City & County of Honolulu’s Office of Climate Change, Sustainability & Resiliency, Hawaiian Electric, and the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority are working with Waianae community organizations and leaders to co-create a Solarize Waianae Campaign to reduce their energy burden. The funding will provide much needed resources to implement at least **seven (7)** Solarize Campaigns in Waianae and other vulnerable communities statewide.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2409.

¹ “Solarize Campaigns: Helping Communities of Color Access Rooftop Solar”, July 28, 2020, Lacey Shaver, Ryan Shea

Testimony of
Jessie L Ferguson
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Friday, February 11, 2022
Time: 10:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room No. 312 & Videoconference
In consideration of
HOUSE BILL NO. 2409
RELATING TO THE ECONOMY

Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2409 relating to the economy. This bill proposes to establish a public policy framework and appropriates funds to implement specific projects, including \$2.5 million for Solarize Waianae and other Under-Resourced Communities statewide. **Jessie L Ferguson** support this bill.

While rooftop solar has the potential to reduce the energy burden in communities of color (or under-resourced communities), it has not yet lived up to its potential due to systematic barriers including (1) lack of solar education and outreach; (2) financial challenges such as lower income and access to credit, and (3) issues related to home ownership, such as lower ownership rates or roof condition.¹ The Rocky Mountain Institute (“RMI”), a non-profit organization accelerating the clean energy transition and improving lives, has found that *Solarize Campaigns* have been effective in addressing these barriers across the country.

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, Makaha Learning Center, RMI, Hawaii Energy, City & County of Honolulu’s Office of Climate Change, Sustainability & Resiliency, Hawaiian Electric, and the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority are working with Waianae community organizations and leaders to co-create a Solarize Waianae Campaign to reduce their energy burden. The funding will provide much needed resources to implement at least **seven (7)** Solarize Campaigns in Waianae and other vulnerable communities statewide.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2409.

¹ “Solarize Campaigns: Helping Communities of Color Access Rooftop Solar”, July 28, 2020, Lacey Shaver, Ryan Shea

HB-2409

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 7:09:48 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Bradley Haruo Suzuki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB2409

Testimony of
[REDACTED]
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Friday, February 11, 2022
Time: 10:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room No. 312 & Videoconference
In consideration of
HOUSE BILL NO. 2409
RELATING TO THE ECONOMY

Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2409 relating to the economy. This bill proposes to establish a public policy framework and appropriates funds to implement specific projects, including \$2.5 million for Solarize Waianae and other Under-Resourced Communities statewide. **Victor Robles** support this bill.

While rooftop solar has the potential to reduce the energy burden in communities of color (or under-resourced communities), it has not yet lived up to its potential due to systematic barriers including (1) lack of solar education and outreach; (2) financial challenges such as lower income and access to credit, and (3) issues related to home ownership, such as lower ownership rates or roof condition.¹ The Rocky Mountain Institute (“RMI”), a non-profit organization accelerating the clean energy transition and improving lives, has found that *Solarize Campaigns* have been effective in addressing these barriers across the country.

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, Makaha Learning Center, RMI, Hawaii Energy, City & County of Honolulu’s Office of Climate Change, Sustainability & Resiliency, Hawaiian Electric, and the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority are working with Waianae community organizations and leaders to co-create a Solarize Waianae Campaign to reduce their energy burden. The funding will provide much needed resources to implement at least **seven (7)** Solarize Campaigns in Waianae and other vulnerable communities statewide.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2409.

Victor Robles

¹ “Solarize Campaigns: Helping Communities of Color Access Rooftop Solar”, July 28, 2020, Lacey Shaver, Ryan Shea

Testimony of
Sadie Kaaihue
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Friday, February 11, 2022
Time: 10:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room No. 312 & Videoconference
In consideration of
HOUSE BILL NO. 2409
RELATING TO THE ECONOMY

Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2409 relating to the economy. This bill proposes to establish a public policy framework and appropriates funds to implement specific projects, including \$2.5 million for Solarize Waianae and other Under-Resourced Communities statewide. **Sadie Kaaihue support** this bill.

While rooftop solar has the potential to reduce the energy burden in communities of color (or under-resourced communities), it has not yet lived up to its potential due to systematic barriers including (1) lack of solar education and outreach; (2) financial challenges such as lower income and access to credit, and (3) issues related to home ownership, such as lower ownership rates or roof condition.¹ The Rocky Mountain Institute (“RMI”), a non-profit organization accelerating the clean energy transition and improving lives, has found that *Solarize Campaigns* have been effective in addressing these barriers across the country.

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, Makaha Learning Center, RMI, Hawaii Energy, City & County of Honolulu’s Office of Climate Change, Sustainability & Resiliency, Hawaiian Electric, and the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority are working with Waianae community organizations and leaders to co-create a Solarize Waianae Campaign to reduce their energy burden. The funding will provide much needed resources to implement at least **seven (7)** Solarize Campaigns in Waianae and other vulnerable communities statewide.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2409.

¹ “Solarize Campaigns: Helping Communities of Color Access Rooftop Solar”, July 28, 2020, Lacey Shaver, Ryan Shea

HB-2409

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 8:13:20 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
LYNN KEAULANA	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill because the core of developing this exciting program which makes rooftop solar possible for our low to moderate income households. The very first solarize project will make solar a reality for up to 130 Waianae families who cannot traditionally afford the cost of going solar or the credit needed for traditional financing. This is HUGE for our community and the pilot will serve as a model for up to 7 additional communities like Waianae.

The westside community is often forgotten or neglected by our state in legislation and the rest of Hawaii's communities. And this is our chance support and speak out for ourselves.

Testimony of
Morisa Nakoa
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Friday, February 11, 2022
Time: 10:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room No. 312 & Videoconference
In consideration of
HOUSE BILL NO. 2409
RELATING TO THE ECONOMY

Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2409 relating to the economy. This bill proposes to establish a public policy framework and appropriates funds to implement specific projects, including \$2.5 million for Solarize Waianae and other Under-Resourced Communities statewide. **Morisa Nakoa** support this bill.

While rooftop solar has the potential to reduce the energy burden in communities of color (or under-resourced communities), it has not yet lived up to its potential due to systematic barriers including (1) lack of solar education and outreach; (2) financial challenges such as lower income and access to credit, and (3) issues related to home ownership, such as lower ownership rates or roof condition.¹ The Rocky Mountain Institute (“RMI”), a non-profit organization accelerating the clean energy transition and improving lives, has found that *Solarize Campaigns* have been effective in addressing these barriers across the country.

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, Makaha Learning Center, RMI, Hawaii Energy, City & County of Honolulu’s Office of Climate Change, Sustainability & Resiliency, Hawaiian Electric, and the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority are working with Waianae community organizations and leaders to co-create a Solarize Waianae Campaign to reduce their energy burden. The funding will provide much needed resources to implement at least **seven (7)** Solarize Campaigns in Waianae and other vulnerable communities statewide.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2409.

¹ “Solarize Campaigns: Helping Communities of Color Access Rooftop Solar”, July 28, 2020, Lacey Shaver, Ryan Shea

Testimony of
Kayley Olson
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Friday, February 11, 2022
Time: 10:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room No. 312 & Videoconference
In consideration of
HOUSE BILL NO. 2409
RELATING TO THE ECONOMY

Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2409 relating to the economy. This bill proposes to establish a public policy framework and appropriates funds to implement specific projects, including \$2.5 million for Solarize Waianae and other Under-Resourced Communities statewide. **Kayley Olson** **support** this bill.

While rooftop solar has the potential to reduce the energy burden in communities of color (or under-resourced communities), it has not yet lived up to its potential due to systematic barriers including (1) lack of solar education and outreach; (2) financial challenges such as lower income and access to credit, and (3) issues related to home ownership, such as lower ownership rates or roof condition.¹ The Rocky Mountain Institute (“RMI”), a non-profit organization accelerating the clean energy transition and improving lives, has found that *Solarize Campaigns* have been effective in addressing these barriers across the country.

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2409.

¹ “Solarize Campaigns: Helping Communities of Color Access Rooftop Solar”, July 28, 2020, Lacey Shaver, Ryan Shea

Testimony of
Genesis Silva
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Friday, February 11, 2022
Time: 10:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room No. 312 & Videoconference
In consideration of
HOUSE BILL NO. 2409
RELATING TO THE ECONOMY

Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2409 relating to the economy. This bill proposes to establish a public policy framework and appropriates funds to implement specific projects, including \$2.5 million for Solarize Waianae and other Under-Resourced Communities statewide. **Genesis Silva support** this bill.

While rooftop solar has the potential to reduce the energy burden in communities of color (or under-resourced communities), it has not yet lived up to its potential due to systematic barriers including (1) lack of solar education and outreach; (2) financial challenges such as lower income and access to credit, and (3) issues related to home ownership, such as lower ownership rates or roof condition.¹ The Rocky Mountain Institute (“RMI”), a non-profit organization accelerating the clean energy transition and improving lives, has found that *Solarize Campaigns* have been effective in addressing these barriers across the country.

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, Makaha Learning Center, RMI, Hawaii Energy, City & County of Honolulu’s Office of Climate Change, Sustainability & Resiliency, Hawaiian Electric, and the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority are working with Waianae community organizations and leaders to co-create a Solarize Waianae Campaign to reduce their energy burden. The funding will provide much needed resources to implement at least **seven (7)** Solarize Campaigns in Waianae and other vulnerable communities statewide.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2409.

¹ “Solarize Campaigns: Helping Communities of Color Access Rooftop Solar”, July 28, 2020, Lacey Shaver, Ryan Shea

Testimony of
Kayli Nakoa
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Friday, February 11, 2022
Time: 10:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room No. 312 & Videoconference
In consideration of
HOUSE BILL NO. 2409
RELATING TO THE ECONOMY

Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2409 relating to the economy. This bill proposes to establish a public policy framework and appropriates funds to implement specific projects, including \$2.5 million for Solarize Waianae and other Under-Resourced Communities statewide. **Kayli Nakoa** **support** this bill.

While rooftop solar has the potential to reduce the energy burden in communities of color (or under-resourced communities), it has not yet lived up to its potential due to systematic barriers including (1) lack of solar education and outreach; (2) financial challenges such as lower income and access to credit, and (3) issues related to home ownership, such as lower ownership rates or roof condition.¹ The Rocky Mountain Institute (“RMI”), a non-profit organization accelerating the clean energy transition and improving lives, has found that *Solarize Campaigns* have been effective in addressing these barriers across the country.

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2409.

¹ “Solarize Campaigns: Helping Communities of Color Access Rooftop Solar”, July 28, 2020, Lacey Shaver, Ryan Shea

Testimony of
Edric Kersey
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Friday, February 11, 2022
Time: 10:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room No. 312 & Videoconference
In consideration of
HOUSE BILL NO. 2409
RELATING TO THE ECONOMY

Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2409 relating to the economy. This bill proposes to establish a public policy framework and appropriates funds to implement specific projects, including \$2.5 million for Solarize Waianae and other Under-Resourced Communities statewide. Edric Kersey **support** this bill.

While rooftop solar has the potential to reduce the energy burden in communities of color (or under-resourced communities), it has not yet lived up to its potential due to systematic barriers including (1) lack of solar education and outreach; (2) financial challenges such as lower income and access to credit, and (3) issues related to home ownership, such as lower ownership rates or roof condition.¹ The Rocky Mountain Institute (“RMI”), a non-profit organization accelerating the clean energy transition and improving lives, has found that *Solarize Campaigns* have been effective in addressing these barriers across the country.

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, Makaha Learning Center, RMI, Hawaii Energy, City & County of Honolulu’s Office of Climate Change, Sustainability & Resiliency, Hawaiian Electric, and the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority are working with Waianae community organizations and leaders to co-create a Solarize Waianae Campaign to reduce their energy burden. The funding will provide much needed resources to implement at least **seven (7)** Solarize Campaigns in Waianae and other vulnerable communities statewide.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2409.

¹ “Solarize Campaigns: Helping Communities of Color Access Rooftop Solar”, July 28, 2020, Lacey Shaver, Ryan Shea

Testimony of
Veronica Rubin
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Friday, February 11, 2022
Time: 10:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room No. 312 & Videoconference
In consideration of
HOUSE BILL NO. 2409
RELATING TO THE ECONOMY

Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development:

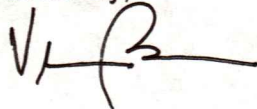
Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2409 relating to the economy. This bill proposes to establish a public policy framework and appropriates funds to implement specific projects, including \$2.5 million for Solarize Waianae and other Under-Resourced Communities statewide. I, Veronica Rubin **support** this bill.

While rooftop solar has the potential to reduce the energy burden in communities of color (or under-resourced communities), it has not yet lived up to its potential due to systematic barriers including (1) lack of solar education and outreach; (2) financial challenges such as lower income and access to credit, and (3) issues related to home ownership, such as lower ownership rates or roof condition.¹ The Rocky Mountain Institute (“RMI”), a non-profit organization accelerating the clean energy transition and improving lives, has found that *Solarize Campaigns* have been effective in addressing these barriers across the country.

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, Makaha Learning Center, RMI, Hawaii Energy, City & County of Honolulu’s Office of Climate Change, Sustainability & Resiliency, Hawaiian Electric, and the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority are working with Waianae community organizations and leaders to co-create a Solarize Waianae Campaign to reduce their energy burden. The funding will provide much needed resources to implement at least **seven (7)** Solarize Campaigns in Waianae and other vulnerable communities statewide.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2409.

Sincerely,



Veronica Rubin

¹ “Solarize Campaigns: Helping Communities of Color Access Rooftop Solar”, July 28, 2020, Lacey Shaver, Ryan Shea

Testimony of
Michael Baldwin
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Friday, February 11, 2022
Time: 10:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room No. 312 & Videoconference
In consideration of
HOUSE BILL NO. 2409
RELATING TO THE ECONOMY

Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2409 relating to the economy. This bill proposes to establish a public policy framework and appropriates funds to implement specific projects, including \$2.5 million for Solarize Waianae and other Under-Resourced Communities statewide. I **support** this bill.

While rooftop solar has the potential to reduce the energy burden in communities of color (or under-resourced communities), it has not yet lived up to its potential due to systematic barriers including (1) lack of solar education and outreach; (2) financial challenges such as lower income and access to credit, and (3) issues related to home ownership, such as lower ownership rates or roof condition.¹ The Rocky Mountain Institute (“RMI”), a non-profit organization accelerating the clean energy transition and improving lives, has found that *Solarize Campaigns* have been effective in addressing these barriers across the country.

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, Makaha Learning Center, RMI, Hawaii Energy, City & County of Honolulu’s Office of Climate Change, Sustainability & Resiliency, Hawaiian Electric, and the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority are working with Waianae community organizations and leaders to co-create a Solarize Waianae Campaign to reduce their energy burden. The funding will provide much needed resources to implement at least **seven (7)** Solarize Campaigns in Waianae and other vulnerable communities statewide.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2409.

¹ “Solarize Campaigns: Helping Communities of Color Access Rooftop Solar”, July 28, 2020, Lacey Shaver, Ryan Shea

Testimony of
Michael Johnson
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Friday, February 11, 2022
Time: 10:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room No. 312 & Videoconference
In consideration of
HOUSE BILL NO. 2409
RELATING TO THE ECONOMY

Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2409 relating to the economy. This bill proposes to establish a public policy framework and appropriates funds to implement specific projects, including \$2.5 million for Solarize Waianae and other Under-Resourced Communities statewide. I **support** this bill.

While rooftop solar has the potential to reduce the energy burden in communities of color (or under-resourced communities), it has not yet lived up to its potential due to systematic barriers including (1) lack of solar education and outreach; (2) financial challenges such as lower income and access to credit, and (3) issues related to home ownership, such as lower ownership rates or roof condition.¹ The Rocky Mountain Institute (“RMI”), a non-profit organization accelerating the clean energy transition and improving lives, has found that *Solarize Campaigns* have been effective in addressing these barriers across the country.

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, Makaha Learning Center, RMI, Hawaii Energy, City & County of Honolulu’s Office of Climate Change, Sustainability & Resiliency, Hawaiian Electric, and the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority are working with Waianae community organizations and leaders to co-create a Solarize Waianae Campaign to reduce their energy burden. The funding will provide much needed resources to implement at least **seven (7)** Solarize Campaigns in Waianae and other vulnerable communities statewide.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2409.



¹ “Solarize Campaigns: Helping Communities of Color Access Rooftop Solar”, July 28, 2020, Lacey Shaver, Ryan Shea

LATE

HB-2409

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 4:08:58 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/11/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
David west	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony of

___**David West**___

before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Friday, February 11, 2022

Time: 10:00 A.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room No. 312 & Videoconference

In consideration of

HOUSE BILL NO. 2409

RELATING TO THE ECONOMY

Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2409 relating to the economy. This bill proposes to establish a public policy framework and appropriates funds to implement specific projects, including \$2.5 million for Solarize Waianae and other Under-Resourced Communities statewide. _____ **support** this bill.

While rooftop solar has the potential to reduce the energy burden in communities of color (or under-resourced communities), it has not yet lived up to its potential due to systematic barriers including (1) lack of solar education and outreach; (2) financial challenges such as lower income and access to credit, and (3) issues related to home ownership, such as lower ownership rates or roof condition.[1] The Rocky Mountain Institute (“RMI”), a non-profit organization accelerating

the clean energy transition and improving lives, has found that *Solarize Campaigns* have been effective in addressing these barriers across the country.

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, Makaha Learning Center, RMI, Hawaii Energy, City & County of Honolulu’s Office of Climate Change, Sustainability & Resiliency, Hawaiian Electric, and the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority are working with Waianae community organizations and leaders to co-create a Solarize Waianae Campaign to reduce their energy burden. The funding will provide much needed resources to implement at least **seven (7)** Solarize Campaigns in Waianae and other vulnerable communities statewide.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2409.

[1] “Solarize Campaigns: Helping Communities of Color Access Rooftop Solar”, July 28, 2020, Lacey Shaver, Ryan Shea

Testimony of
Sharlette Poe

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Friday, February 11, 2022
Time: 10:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room No. 312 & Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL NO. 2409
RELATING TO THE ECONOMY

LATE

Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2409 relating to the economy. This bill proposes to establish a public policy framework and appropriates funds to implement specific projects, including \$2.5 million for Solarize Waianae and other Under-Resourced Communities statewide. As a Waianae Moku generational resident highly active in my Community I **support** this bill.

While rooftop solar has the potential to reduce the energy burden in disadvantaged and under-resourced communities, it has not yet lived up to its potential due to systematic barriers including (1) lack of solar education and outreach; (2) access to financial tools and resources for lower income residents including credit, and (3) issues related to home ownership, such as lower ownership rates or roof condition.¹ The Rocky Mountain Institute (“RMI”), a non-profit organization accelerating the clean energy transition and improving lives, has found that *Solarize Campaigns* have been effective in addressing these barriers across the country. As a Community that houses multiple and major energy producing facilities as well as other industry-scale operations benefitting all of Oahu, it is projects like Solarize Waianae that help put within reach the mechanisms to bring more targeted and focused help and benefits to our individual households.

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, Makaha Learning Center, RMI, Hawaii Energy, City & County of Honolulu’s Office of Climate Change, Sustainability & Resiliency, Hawaiian Electric, and the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority are working with Waianae community organizations and leaders to co-create a Solarize Waianae Campaign to reduce their energy burden. The funding will provide much needed resources to implement at least **seven (7)** Solarize Campaigns in Waianae and other vulnerable communities statewide.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2409.

¹ “Solarize Campaigns: Helping Communities of Color Access Rooftop Solar”, July 28, 2020, Lacey Shaver, Ryan Shea