

Testimony of the Contractors License Board

**Before the
House Committee on Finance
Thursday, March 31, 2022
1:30 p.m.**

Conference Room 308 and Videoconference

On the following measure:

S.B. 2644, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, RELATING TO ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

My name is Candace Ito, and I am the Executive Officer of the Contractors License Board (Board). The Board opposes this bill.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) extend until June 30, 2028, Act 65, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, as amended by Act 60, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, which provides a limited exemption to the licensing requirements for certain individuals in situations when an electric utility must retain qualified individuals to work with high voltage (six hundred volts or higher) who are not licensed in the State but are otherwise deemed qualified by the electric utility, provided that the public utility certifies to the Board of Electricians and Plumbers that, after a hiring call, no electrician sufficiently qualified and licensed in the State to perform high voltage electrical work applied to timely perform or complete the necessary job or task before the public utility recruited outside the State; and (2) make permanent the requirement for the Board of Electricians and Plumbers to submit to the Legislature annual reports relating to high voltage electrical work.

The Board opposes this bill because the exemption is overly broad. The Board appreciates that the H.D. 2 removed substation work from the exemption and respectfully requests additional clarification on the specific types of high voltage work that will be included in the exemption. For example, the Board acknowledges that there is a lack of individuals that work in remote and hard to access areas requiring long-lining, where workers are transported 150 feet below a helicopter to the work site. The Board requests that consideration of the available resources be taken into account in specifying the type of high voltage work to be included in the exemption.

For a point of reference as to the difference between a C-63 High voltage electrical contractor's license and a journey worker electrician's (EJ) license: (1) a C-63 contractor's

license is required to contract for work to install lines that transmit, transform, or utilize electrical energy of more than 600 volts; and (2) an EJ license is required to perform any electrical work, including overhead and underground high voltage power line electrical work.

At the Board's March 24, 2022 meeting, Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc. (HECO) stated that it needs access to out-of-state high voltage lineman, splicers, and substation electricians because resources are not available in Hawaii. HECO relies on electrical contractors that have the expertise and appropriately trained high voltage personnel to assist in constructing, repairing, and maintaining their company's high voltage system, and the resources needed to supplement their workforce simply do not exist in Hawaii.

The Board disagrees with the blanket characterization that high voltage resources are not available in Hawaii and firmly believes that, at a minimum, an EJ license is required to perform any electrical work, including overhead and underground high voltage power line electrical work because a basic understanding of electrical systems is necessary to safely and properly perform electrical work on high voltage power lines. It appears that the public utility is not utilizing all resources that are available because C-62 Pole and line and C-63 High voltage electrical contractors who employ licensed electricians, with specialized training, are currently performing overhead and underground high voltage power line electrical work on federal and public utility projects.

Further, independent utility grade renewable energy projects such as wind and solar projects currently contracted by C-62 Pole and line and C-63 High voltage electrical contractors are performed by the contractor's EJ employees that are trained and qualified to perform electrical work on high voltage power lines. Employees of high voltage contractors performing independent utility grade renewable energy projects are not exempt from electrician licensure because these projects are not being contracted by a public utility. These high voltage electrical contractors are complying with Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) section 444-9.5, which requires at least half of all individuals performing electrical work employed on a construction site shall be a licensed electrician in accordance with HRS chapter 448E and are responsible for ensuring that their EJ employees have the proper training and qualifications to perform electrical work on high voltage power lines. Similarly, the Board strongly believes that employees of contractors

that are contracted by the public utility must be held to the requirements of HRS section 444-9.5 for the safety of the employee and the public.

The Board also had concerns regarding the term “hiring call” on page 4, line 12. However, at the March 24, 2022 board meeting, HECO clarified that the term “hiring call” pertains to soliciting requests for proposals. The Board requests that this clarification be codified to avoid confusion in the future and suggests the following amendment to page 4, lines 11 to 17:

(B) The public utility shall certify to the board that, after a hiring call, no electrician, including electricians employed by C-62 Pole and line or C-63 High voltage electrical contractors, were sufficiently qualified and licensed in the State to perform high voltage electrical work [applied] to timely perform or complete the necessary job or task before the public utility recruited qualified [electricians] individuals outside the State[;]. For the purposes of this section, “hiring call” means the solicitation of requests for proposals from licensed contractors;

To assist the public utility in creating a list of qualified electricians employed by an electrical contractor, the Board suggests that a subparagraph be added to section 2 of this bill, under section 448E-13 (a)(2), that requires the public utility to reach out to the C-62 Pole and line and C-63 High voltage electrical contractors and inform them of the type of work the public utility foresees that it will be soliciting and any specialized training and/or certifications that the public utility will require of the contractor’s electrician employees to perform this work. In addition, to keep its list current, the public utility should update the electrician’s qualifications, including their specialized training and/or certifications annually.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Testimony of the Board of Electricians and Plumbers

**Before the
House Committee on Finance
Thursday, March 31, 2022**

1:30 p.m.

Conference Room 308 and Videoconference

On the following measure:

S.B. 2644, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, RELATING TO ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

My name is Phillip Lucero, and I am the Chairperson of the Board of Electricians and Plumbers (Board). The Board opposes this bill.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) extend until June 30, 2028, Act 65, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, as extended by Act 60, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, which provides a limited exemption to the licensing requirements for certain individuals in situations when an electric utility must retain qualified individuals to work with high voltage (six hundred volts or higher) who are not licensed in the State but are otherwise deemed qualified by the electric utility, provided that the public utility certifies to the Board that, after a hiring call, no electrician sufficiently qualified and licensed in the State to perform high voltage electrical work applied to timely perform or complete the necessary job or task before the public utility recruited outside the State; and (2) make permanent the requirement for the Board to submit to the Legislature annual reports relating to high voltage electrical work.

The Board opposes this bill because the exemption is too broad. The Board appreciates that substation work was removed from the exemption in the H.D. 2 and requests additional clarification of the specific high voltage electrical work for which the public utilities would like to hire unlicensed workers.

Under this measure, the work that licensed journey workers are currently performing will be exempt from the requirements of licensure. The Board acknowledges that high voltage electrical work performed in remote mountain areas normally only accessible by helicopter, which is often referred to as high-lining, long-lining, or aerial work, is specialty high voltage electrical work that not many individuals are currently qualified to perform. However, electricians are licensed to perform work under the

National Electrical Code, which covers voltages over six hundred volts, and a journey worker electrician license is required to perform any electrical work, including overhead and underground high voltage electrical work.

For the Committee's information, there are contractors in the State who are licensed to perform high voltage electrical work and they employ licensed electricians who perform transmission and distribution line work. The Board believes that for the safety of the public, employees of contractors that are contracted by public utility companies to perform electrical work should be licensed electricians.

When Act 65 (2013) was enacted, there was an insufficient number of high voltage projects in the State to give licensed electricians the necessary on-the-job training that is required to be certified, which may have warranted the limited exemption from electrician licensing requirements. However, given that licensed electricians employed by contractors are currently performing high voltage electrical work, in addition to the current prevalence of high voltage projects being performed in the State, as well as the ongoing availability of training programs, the Board believes there is sufficient high voltage work available to train additional licensed electricians to perform specific high voltage work that the public utilities require.

As the number of high voltage projects fluctuates, licensed electricians who are certified to perform high voltage work can adapt to market demands. If the number of high voltage projects decreases, licensed electricians are authorized to work on other electrical projects in the State.

The Board also had concerns regarding the term "hiring call" on page 4, line 12. However, at the March 24, 2022, meeting of the Contractors License Board, Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc. (HECO) stated that the term "hiring call" refers to soliciting requests for proposals (RFPs). As such, the Board requests that this clarification be codified and suggests the following amendment to page 4, lines 11 to 17:

(B) The public utility shall certify to the board that, after a hiring call, no electrician, including electricians employed by C-62 Pole and line and C-63 High voltage electrical contractors, were sufficiently qualified and licensed in the State to perform high voltage electrical work [applied] to timely perform or

complete the necessary job or task before the public utility recruited qualified electricians outside the State[;]. For the purposes of this section, "hiring call" means the solicitation of requests for proposals from licensed contractors;

To assist the public utility in creating a list of qualified electricians employed by an electrical contractor in the State, the Board suggests that a subparagraph be added to section 2 of this bill, under section 448E-13 (a)(2), that requires the public utility to reach out to the C-62 Pole and line and C-63 High voltage electrical contractors to inform them of the type of electrical work the public utility will be soliciting and the qualifications that the public utility requires of the contractor's electrician employees to perform this work. In addition, to keep its list current, the public utility should update its list annually with the electricians' qualifications.

Additionally, this bill requires the Board to submit to the Legislature reports related to high voltage electrical work. If the Committee is inclined to keep the reporting requirement, the Board believes the requirement should end in 2028, with the sunset of the limited exemption. In addition, the Board respectfully requests that the reporting requirement not be codified in HRS section 448E-13.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

SB-2644-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/30/2022 9:41:18 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/31/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lei Ana E. Green	Board of Electricians and Plumbers	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke and members of the Committee,

My name is Lei Ana Green and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Electricians and Plumbers ("Board"). The Board's chairperson, Phillip Lucero, has submitted written testimony in opposition and will be present via Zoom to testify and to answer questions from the Committee. I will also be present via Zoom to answer questions from the Committee.

Mahalo,

Lei Ana E. Green



2850 Paa Street, Honolulu, HI 96819 Tel: (808) 228-4387

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE**

**SUPPORT OF SB 2644, SD 2 HD 2
Relating to Electrical Contractors**

Thursday, March 31, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.
Capitol Room 308 & via Videoconference

Mr. Joel Venegas
Renewable & Utility Program Manage
HMS Construction, Inc

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Committee Members,

My name is Joel Venegas with HMS Construction, Inc and I am testifying in support of SB 2644, SD2 HD2, Relating to Electrical Contractors. As a manager in the utility power sector for over 20 years, I have first-hand knowledge of the job market affecting high voltage line workers that are highly coveted by public utilities across the country.

The extension of this very limited exemption is important for the public utility to ensure they have access to properly trained and certified electrical line and substation workers that may work on utility lines as needed. From experience, I can attest that electrical line workers are a specialized group of high voltage personnel that perform over 600V work. This work is subject to high risk duties, which includes working with high-voltage energized lines, equipment, climbing wood poles, ladders & towers from 35' and up. Also includes longlining by helicopter to get to inaccessible location of pole lines. Since this is a very specialized electrical classification, and the demand around the nation, there is a limited skilled of lineman and needed from around the world for emergency restoration of the utility power grid.

I would agree with the public utility that without this limited exemption, efforts to ensure a resilient, reliable, and affordable electrical grid in Hawaii could be compromised. We understand the public utility is working with their local unions to grow the local workforce and we underscore the importance of ensuring that the workforce has continuous and sustainable work opportunities to stay in the industry.



**Hawaiian
Electric**

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE**

SB 2644, SD 2 HD 2

Relating to Electrical Contractors

Thursday, March 31, 2022
1:30 Pm CR 308 & via Videoconference

Michael Swanson
Director of Transmission and Distribution Operations
Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Michael Swanson and I am testifying on behalf of Hawaiian Electric Company in **strong support** of SB 2644, SD 2 HD 2, Relating to Electrical Contractors. This bill provides a 5-year extension to a limited exemption to the electrical licensing requirement of HRS 448E, which allows electrical contractors licensed in Hawaii to utilize qualified out-of-state high voltage electrical workers to perform work for a utility without requiring these qualified electrical workers to obtain a journey worker electrician (“EJ”) license. This exemption has existed since 2013.

Without this limited exemption, efforts to ensure a resilient, reliable, and affordable electrical grid could be compromised. Hawaiian Electric is continuously construction and maintaining substations and reinforcing, maintaining, and repairing our high voltage transmission and distribution lines, especially as we move towards attaining our 100% renewable portfolio goals by 2045, working to modernize our grid, preparing for unexpected extreme weather events, and decarbonizing our electrical facilities.

Hawaiian Electric has carefully followed the progress of this bill during this legislative session and agrees that all amendments made to the bill to date have been appropriate, except for one of the most recent amendments. One of the amendments in the HD 2 version of the bill removes high voltage substation work from the type of work that falls within the exemption. Hawaiian Electric respectfully requests that high voltage substation work remain part of the exemption.

Hawaiian Electric makes this request because high voltage substation work is specialized. Licensed electricians who possess an EJ license in Hawaii under HRS 448E are not qualified to perform this high voltage work, which is why Hawaiian Electric's employees undergo a three-year apprenticeship program to become competent to perform this type of work. Hawaiian Electric trains its own employees to perform this work, but when demand increases for this type of work for the construction and maintenance of new substations or in emergencies, local unions have been unable to provide qualified high voltage substation electricians for projects that require the hiring of outside contractors. Local unions previously had apprenticeship programs for this type of work, but those apprenticeship programs no longer exist. Just like with high voltage transmission and distribution line construction and maintenance workers, high voltage substation workers follow work to the mainland if demand for their services dries up.

For this reasons, Hawaiian Electric respectfully requests that high voltage substation work be re-inserted as one of the types of exemption work that is included in SB 2644.



2850 Paa Street, Honolulu, HI 96819 Tel: (808) 228-4387

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE**

**SUPPORT OF SB 2644, SD 2 HD 2
Relating to Electrical Contractors**

Thursday, March 31, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.
Capitol Room 308 & via Videoconference

Mr. Chris Perry
OH & UG High Voltage General Foreman
HMS Construction Inc.

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Committee Members,

My name is Chris Perry with HMS Construction Inc and I am testifying in support of SB 2644, SD2 HD2, Relating to Electrical Contractors. As a lineman for over 20 years, I have first hand knowledge of the job market affecting high voltage line workers that are highly coveted by public utilities across the country.

The extension of this very limited exemption is important for the public utility to ensure they have access to properly trained and certified electrical line and substation workers that may work on utility lines as needed. From experience, I can attest that electrical line workers are subject to high risk duties and the dangers themselves and others can be subject to.

I would agree with the public utility that without this limited exemption, efforts to ensure a resilient, reliable, and affordable electrical grid in Hawaii could be compromised. We understand the public utility is working with their local unions to grow the local workforce and we underscore the importance of ensuring that the workforce has continuous and sustainable work opportunities to stay in the industry.



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

LOCAL UNION NO. 1186 • Affiliated with AFL-CIO

1935 HAU STREET, ROOM 401 • HONOLULU, HI 96819-5003
TELEPHONE (808) 847-5341 • FAX (808) 847-2224

TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Hearing: Thursday, March 31, 2022, at 1:30p.m., Room 308 & Videoconference

RE: TESTIMONY IN **OPPOSITION** OF SB 2644 SD2 HD2

Honorable Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Kyle T. Yamashita, and Members
of the Committee on Finance:

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 1186 (IBEW 1186), is comprised of over 3,600 men and women working in electrical construction, telecommunications, Spectrum, civil service employees, and educator and faculty associations.

IBEW 1186 is in **OPPOSITION** to this bill which seeks an additional 5-years for a temporary license exemption set to sunset on June 30, 2023.

IBEW 1186 is concerned that the bill language is overly broad in exempting electrician licensing requirements for certain “high voltage” work for the public utility that may lead to unlicensed activity for work regularly performed by qualified and licensed Journeyworker Electricians in the State of Hawaii, of which there are no shortages according to annual reports to the Legislature produced by the Electricians and Plumbers Board pursuant to Act 60, SLH 2018.

Multiple existing laws and rules are already in place to satisfy exemptions during any labor shortage due to emergencies or catastrophic storm events. This committee can be assured that these remedies make it so that license laws and rules would not impede the work and efforts to restore power and services to the community.

While we understand the additional need for qualified workers in a very limited scope of transmission and distribution line work, we see an opportunity to invest in our local workers and their families as opposed to extending exemptions that may allow out of state unlicensed workers to perform work that our State licensed electricians perform. IBEW 1186 and our signatory high voltage electrical contractors stand ready to work with the public utility to meet these needs and strengthen the local workforce with already available experienced workers and training programs.

Sincerely,

Damien T.K. Kim
Business Manager/
Financial Secretary



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION 1260 ORGANIZING THE FUTURE

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

HEARING DATE: Thursday, March 31, 2022
TIME: 1:30 p.m.
PLACE: Via Video Conference
Conference Room 308

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2644 SD2 HD2

Aloha Honorable Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Kyle T. Yamashita, and Members of the Committee:

This testimony is being submitted by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1260 (IBEW 1260). IBEW 1260, is comprised of nearly 3,000 hardworking union members. Our members are a diverse workforce that largely consist of highly skilled and trained individuals working 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to generate and transmit electricity here in the State of Hawai'i.

IBEW 1260 is in **SUPPORT** of this bill which seeks to provide a limited exemption to the licensing requirements for certain individuals in situations when an electric utility must retain qualified individuals to work with high voltage electricity (six hundred volts or higher) who are not licensed in the State but are otherwise deemed qualified by the electric utility.

Training a person to become qualified to work on the high voltage lines owned and operated by the Utility takes many years of specialized training. IBEW 1260 and the utilities have joint apprenticeship programs to successfully complete this type of training. The Utilities employ a workforce to handle its base-load operations, but at times, does require additional resources, therefore almost every individual qualified to do the specialized energized work is already employed by the Utility.

IBEW 1260 agrees with the urgency to build a local workforce to address the needs of the electrical utility industry here in Hawai'i. We recognize and have experienced the difficulties faced with keeping the highly specialized skills of the high voltage electrical utility worker home, in Hawai'i. The demand for the high voltage electrical utility worker has skyrocketed throughout the nation as states look to reinforce their electrical infrastructure. As we move towards a renewable energy future, utilities across the nation are taking incentivizing measures to attract high voltage electrical workers to meet their labor demand. High voltage electrical work, specifically Utility Lineman, is constantly ranked as one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the nation. As a result of these factors, we've witnessed a steady flow of high voltage electrical workers leave Hawai'i for the continental U.S. and had trouble retaining those qualified in the trade due to the dangerous nature of the profession.

IBEW 1260 understands that the high voltage utility electrician is a unique, specialized skill. This craft requires working in very hazardous conditions, working on energized lines as much as 138,000 volts, being transported by helicopter to the mountain tops, working in underground vaults with energized cables right next to the person, etc. Currently, there is only one license certifying an electrician. We believe in the future, expanding the license designations to the different specialties of electricians will be beneficial.



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS
LOCAL UNION 1260
ORGANIZING THE FUTURE

Through collaborative efforts, we've recently taken steps to build this specialized workforce here locally, to have a sustainable work force to keep the lights on. We are committed to continue to actively address the shortage of high voltage electrical workers in Hawai'i. We agree that progressive steps to resolve the issues at hand are necessary, therefore, we are in support of this bill.

We sincerely thank The Committee for their time, consideration, and dedication to a renewable and reliable energy future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leroy Chincio, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Leroy Chincio, Jr.
Business Manager and Financial Secretary
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Local 1260
700 Bishop Street, Suite 1600
Honolulu, HI 96813

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
SUPPORT OF SB 2644, SD 2 HD 2
Relating to Electrical Contractors**

Thursday, March 31, 2022, at 1:30 p.m.
Capitol Room 308 & via Videoconference
Mr. Bernie Rokstad, President, Rokstad Power Inc.

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Committee Members,

My name is Bernie Rokstad, President of Rokstad Power Corporation and I am testifying in support of SB 2644, SD2 HD2, Relating to Electrical Contractors. As a lineman for over 47 years and President of Rokstad Power, I have firsthand knowledge of the job market affecting high voltage line workers that are highly coveted by public utilities across the country.

Rokstad Power is a large Distribution line contractor working for utilities across the US and Canada. We work for many utilities including Arizona Public Service, Southern Cal Edison, American Electric Power, Detroit Edison, National Grid, Duke Energy, Portland General Electric, BC Hydro and many others across the US and Canada. We generally employ between 800 and 1200 employees at any given time 70% of which are Journeyman Linemen. Unfortunately, due to the lack of commitment by the industry in the 80, 90's and beyond to train an adequate number of apprentices and the lack of foresight as to the future demand for journeymen as well as the huge increase in utility infrastructure improvements, there is a severe shortage of linemen in North America. As an example, recently there were 3 huge wildfires in California and the both California union halls were empty but Rokstad Power was able to bring in 400 linemen resources from out of state within 10 days and worked for 2.5 months rebuilding burned down power-lines."

The extension of this very limited exemption is important for the public utility to ensure they have access to properly trained and certified electrical line and substation workers that may work on utility lines as needed. From experience I can attest that Linemen are a proud hard-working group of people that care dearly for their families and communities and take great pride in being safe while working at heights and with energized Distribution and Transmission voltages.

I would agree with the public utility that without this limited exemption, efforts to ensure a resilient, reliable, and affordable electrical grid in Hawaii could be compromised. We understand the public utility is working with their local unions to grow the local workforce and we underscore the importance of ensuring that the workforce has continuous and sustainable work opportunities to stay in the industry.

Bernie Rokstad
President
Rokstad Power
604.553.1810



March 30, 2022

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

Strong Support of SB 2644, SD2 HD2 RELATING TO ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS (Extends until 6/30/2028 Act 65, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, as amended by Act 60, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, which provides a limited exemption to the licensing requirements for certain individuals in situations when an electric utility must retain qualified individuals to work with high voltage (six hundred volts or higher) who are not licensed in the State but are otherwise deemed qualified by the electric utility, provided that the public utility certifies to the board of electricians and plumbers that, after a hiring call, no electrician sufficiently qualified and licensed in the State to perform high voltage electrical work applied to timely perform or complete the necessary job or task before the public utility recruited outside the State. Makes permanent the requirement for the board of electricians and plumbers to submit to the legislature annual reports relating to high voltage electrical work. Effective 7/1/2030 [HD2])

**Thursday, March 31, 2022, at 1:30 p.m.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, in Conference Room 308**

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers, and utility companies. LURF's mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational, and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF is in **strong support of SB 2644, SD2, HD2.**

SB 2644, SD2, HD2. The purpose of this Act is to: (1) Extend until June 30, 2028, the limited exemption from licensing requirements for qualified electricians that was originally enacted in Act 65, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, and extended pursuant to Act 60, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018; and (2) Make permanent the requirement for the board of electricians and plumbers to submit to the legislature reports relating to high voltage work.

LURF's Position. LURF understands that this measure is necessary, because other than the employees of the major electric utilities, there is a shortage of qualified individuals who are trained and licensed in Hawaii that are qualified to perform specialized high voltage work at the utility scale.

According to the testimony in support of this measure, there is a need for additional electrical workers from out of state who possess the level of skill required for such high voltage work in the event of a storm restorations, responding to emergencies, complex repair and maintenance on high voltage systems, and other specialized high voltage work that potentially impact the health and safety of the State and its residents,

LURF understands that over the years, the exemption provided in Act 65 (SLH 2013) and Act 60 (SLH 2018), has worked well, without any problems, has benefited the public by providing reliable electrical energy service, and has furthered the State's efforts to reach its renewable energy goals. However, Act 60 (SLH 2018) sunsets on June 30, 2023; and the extension provided by this bill is necessary to allow continued benefits to the residents of the State and progress toward the State's renewable energy goals.

For the above reasons, LURF **supports SB 2644, SD2, HD2** and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding this matter.