

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR



Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority

An Agency of the State of Hawaii

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
CHAIR

GWEN S YAMAMOTO LAU
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Testimony of
Gwen Yamamoto Lau
Executive Director
Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
February 28, 2024, 12:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308
in consideration of
HOUSE BILL NO. 2614, HD1
RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

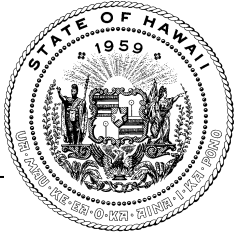
Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and provide comments on House Bill No. 2614, HD1, relating to renewable energy. The Hawai'i Green Infrastructure Authority (HGIA) **supports** this bill which contains measures to streamline the permitting process for distributed solar projects through use of an automated permitting platform.

HGIA, Hawaii's Green Bank, works to advance the State's goal of a 100% renewable portfolio standard in energy production to further decarbonize Hawaii's economy, and contribute to a more resilient, climate-ready energy grid. This bill could address delays in the permitting processes, saving ratepayers and contractors time and money while enabling faster reduction of carbon emissions. Removing administrative barriers to the deployment of solar energy systems by leveraging existing software will enable HGIA to more efficiently facilitate the transition to renewable energy for our ALICE households and other underserved ratepayers, and help them lower their energy burden.

HGIA defers to the authorities having jurisdiction over the proposed self-certification process and technical implementation of the concerned software.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and provide comments on House Bill No. 2614, HD1.



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

235 South Beretania Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone:
Web:

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

MARK B. GLICK
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

(808) 451-6648
energy.hawaii.gov

Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Wednesday, February 28, 2024
12:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308 and Videoconference

In Support of
HB 2614, HD1

RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports HB 2614, HD1, that requires government entities in the State that issue building permits to implement SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform by 1/1/2025. The measure also requires government entities in the State that issue building permits in areas served by an investor-owned electric utility to adopt a self-certification process for solar distributed energy resource systems that are not SolarAPP+ compatible.

HSEO notes that SolarAPP+ has several appealing features, including its development by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, nation-wide availability, significant improvements in capabilities since just last year, and partnerships with standards bodies, code councils, and at least one nationally recognized testing laboratory. But, HSEO appreciates the flexibility provided in the measure of the option to use a functionally equivalent online permitting platform.

HSEO recognizes that individual permitting agencies are taking steps to improve the permitting for solar photovoltaic and battery installations, and it appears that the SolarAPP+ requirement is compatible with those efforts.

HSEO looks forward to working with the authorities having jurisdiction on this section of the bill, which is consistent with existing statutory responsibilities of HSEO and of the Chief Energy Officer, including those set forth in Section 196-72 (d):

- (2) Identify, track, and report key performance measures and milestones related to the State's energy and decarbonization goals;
- (3) Provide technical assistance to state and county agencies to assess and implement projects and programs related to energy conservation and efficiency, renewable energy ... and related measures;

And also

- (15) Facilitate the efficient, expedited permitting of energy efficiency, renewable energy, clean transportation, and energy resiliency projects.

Regarding the self-certification section of the bill, HSEO notes the efficiency of the concept and looks forward to supporting the authorities having jurisdiction as they “establish a self-certification process” (page 4, lines 13-14) to allow residential and commercial on-site solar distributed energy resource systems to **begin** construction, with the understanding (based on discussions on a similar bill introduced last year) that final compliance review and approval will take place at the time of final inspection by the authority having jurisdiction (i.e. permitting agency).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers
Tom Cook
Gabe Johnson
Tamara Paltin
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez
Shane M. Sinenci
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins




Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services
Richelle K. Kawasaki, Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

February 27, 2024

TO: The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair, and
Members of the Committee on Finance

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 28, 2024; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB 2614, HD1, RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to require government entities in the State to issue building permits to implement, by January 1, 2025, SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform that processes and issues permits to licensed contractors for solar distributed energy resource systems in real time.

I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. This bill will streamline permitting for solar panels, battery storage, and other beneficial systems. Applicants now often wait more than a year.
2. Without the automated permitting platform envisioned in this bill, permitting issues may impede compliance with Act 97 (2015), which requires electric utilities in the State to achieve a 100 percent renewable portfolio standard by December 31, 2045.

Thank you for your consideration.

ocs:proj:legis:24legis:24testimony:hb2614_paf24-002(76)_sgt



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Wednesday, February 28, 2024 — 12:00 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports HB 2614 HD1, Relating to Renewable Energy.

Dear Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food, renewable energy and clean transportation choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

Ulupono supports HB 2614 HD1, which requires government entities in the State that issue building permits to implement SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform that verifies code compliance and issues permits to licensed contractors for solar distributed energy resource systems in real time by 1/1/2025; and requires government entities in the State that issue building permits in areas served by an investor-owned electric utility to adopt a self-certification for solar distributed energy resource systems that are not SolarAPP+ compatible.

Ulupono supports the use of SolarAPP+, or an equivalent platform, to help streamline solar and energy storage project permitting. The Hawai'i State Energy Office recently published its Hawai'i Pathways to Decarbonization Report, which identifies, among other things, the significant need for additional renewable energy generation to meet broader economy-wide decarbonization goals.¹ Solar photovoltaic (PV) systems are becoming so common that there is little risk and much to gain in terms of timeliness with such systems, as more renewable energy can be installed at a faster rate. The self-certifying procedure proposed in this bill supports a streamlined process for renewable energy projects, which may even decrease the workload on already burdened county planning and permitting departments.²

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

¹ Hawai'i Pathways to Decarbonization Act 238, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2022, Report to the 2024 Hawai'i State Legislature December 2023. https://energy.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Act-238_HSEO_Decarbonization_Report.pdf

² The counties all struggle with a backlog of permit applications, so any effort to streamline the process would be welcomed. For example, the Civil Beat recently noted that the median residential permitting time for the City and County of Honolulu's Department of Planning and Permitting, was 330 days and commercial jobs were at a median of 420 days. <https://www.civilbeat.org/2023/12/honolulus-building-permit-delays-a-nightmare-decades-in-the-making/>

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 12:23:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
George Kuo	Canadian Solar	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamashita; Vice Chair Kitagawa, and committee members:

We strongly support HB2614 HD1. As one of the top 5 PV supplier globally, we want to participate and contribute to Hawaii's interest in renewable energy. HB2614 addresses longstanding permitting issues that have **impeded** progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals, which we are experiencing first-hand. HB2614 offers a number of common-sense measures to fix long-standing permitting issues such as:

1. Establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;
2. Removes the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;
3. Creates a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)

Thank you for scheduling this critically important bill for Hawaii's clean and resilient energy future and for giving me the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

George Kuo

Sr. Director, Products

Canadian Solar Inc

1(831) 234-6550

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 12:39:25 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
PAUL OREM	Photonworks Engineering	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamashita; Vice Chair Kitagawa, and committee members:

I strongly support HB2614 HD1 which offers a number of common-sense measures to fix long-standing permitting issues. The bill:

1. establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;
2. removes the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;
3. creates a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)
4. I have been personally been participating on the DPP PV task force over the last 6 months and although we are making progress it is very slow and the DPP implementation is very problematic for them. Although they are in support of these measures they need to be held accountable for the implementation as well.

Please advance this critically important bill and thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in strong support.

Respectfully,

Paul Orem

CEO Photonworks Engineering



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI‘I

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 28, 2024

12:00 PM

Conference Room 308

In **SUPPORT** of **HB2614 HD1**: Relating to Renewable Energy

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i **SUPPORTS** HB2614 HD1, which will help to enhance our islands’ climate resiliency by helping to expand our distributed renewable energy infrastructure in a timely and equitable manner.

Hawai‘i’s continued dependence on fossil fuels not only contributes to the climate crisis that has already reached our islands’ shores – in the form of historic floods, prolonged droughts, wildfires, repeated coral bleaching events, the proliferation of invasive species, and the extinction of native species, among others – but also subjects our residents and businesses to the ever-increasing costs of fossil fuels, exacerbating the financial instability faced by so many who call these islands home. Moreover, our dependence on a centralized grid can render us particularly vulnerable to power outages caused by extreme weather or other events that compromise centralized energy producing facilities. **Accordingly, the equitable development of distributed renewable energy infrastructure, such as distributed solar energy systems, is an important and necessary strategy to help reduce our islands’ contributions to the climate crisis, free our utility costs from the ballooning price of fossil fuels, and ensure greater energy resiliency should a climate change-related extreme weather event impact our islands’ largely centralized energy infrastructure.**

The provisions contained in this measure, including those requiring the use of readily available app technology and empowering licensed professionals to self-certify solar and energy storage products, can reduce the cost, time, and risk in realizing the benefits of greater distributed renewable energy infrastructure throughout the islands. The Sierra Club appreciates that this measure may also particularly benefit those that have not yet been able to install or participate in a solar and energy storage project. HB2614 HD1 is therefore an important step forward to ensure a timely and equitable transition towards a cheaper, more resilient, and climate-friendly energy future for our islands.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** HB2614 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.



Sunnova Energy Corporation
20 Greenway Plaza, Suite 540
Houston, TX 77046
sunnova.com

February 26, 2024

Re: Strong support for HB 2614 HD1 Relating to Renewable Energy

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and committee members:

Sunnova Energy International, Inc. is a national provider of solar energy as a service. Founded in 2012, Sunnova services more than 380,000 customers across 40 States and U.S. territories including Hawaii. We strongly support HB 2614 HD1 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that have impeded progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals.

HB 2614 HD1 will facilitate more efficient permitting processes for simple solar projects. When residents invest in solar, including paying application fees, they deserve a streamlined process. Unfortunately, hundreds of our customers have experienced egregious delays with local jurisdictions throughout the permitting process. This is unacceptable. It hurts local businesses (installers), and is also unfair to ratepayers who are doing their part to generate local clean energy. Solar is a simple and safe technology which should be approved instantaneously. Over-the-counter permit approval for solar systems is urgently needed in Hawaii. Clean energy projects should not be stalled by local bureaucracy.

We are asking the State legislature to intervene. We supported a similar bill last year, and were disappointed that it did not advance. Unfortunately, over the last year, permitting with local jurisdictions has not improved. This hurts our customers, our industry, small businesses, and our environment. Please provide the leadership necessary to move this critically needed legislation forward.

SolarAPP+ is free for local jurisdictions to use, has already been successfully deployed in multiple municipalities across the country and has reduced permitting timelines to less than one day. Solar projects that cannot be reviewed under SolarAPP+ will be given a self-certification pathway which will also save time and consumer money.

Thank you for receiving Sunnova's testimony on HB 2614 HD1. We believe this bill will help the residents of Hawaii save money and support Hawaii's climate resilience goals.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Meghan Nutting". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Meghan Nutting, EVP of Government and Regulatory Affairs
Sunnova Energy International

Citizens' Climate Lobby Hawaii
hi.ccl.lobby@gmail.com
cclhawaii.org



February 28, 2024

SUPPORT FOR HB2614 HD1 – SolarAPP+ online automated permitting platform

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee.

Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) Hawaii supports HB2614 HD1, which requires government entities in the State that issue building permits to implement, by 1/1/2025, SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform that verifies code compliance and issues permits to licensed contractors for solar distributed energy resource systems in real time. Requires government entities in the State that issue building permits in areas served by an investor-owned electric utility to adopt a self-certification process for solar distributed energy resource systems that are not SolarAPP+ compatible.

CCL Hawaii comprises over 1000 members across Hawaii. We advocate for effective, efficient, and fair climate legislation. We support HB2614 HD1.

Hawaii having a consistent permitting platform will benefit public and private concerns. Please implement SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform.

Please support HB2614 HD1.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,
CCL Hawai`i

Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy organization focused on national policies to address climate change solutions. CCL Hawaii's 1000+ members are part of a 180,000+ global organization. For more information, visit citizensclimatelobby.org.

**Testimony of the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and
Landscape Architects**

**Before the
House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, February 28, 2024
12:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
H.B. 2614, H.D. 1, RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sheena Choy, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects (Board). The Board appreciates the intent of this bill and offers comments.

The purposes of this bill are: (1) to require government entities in the State that issue building permits to implement, by January 1, 2025, SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform that verifies code compliance and issues permits to licensed contractors for solar distributed energy resource systems in real time; and (2) require government entities in the State that issue building permits in areas served by an investor-owned electric utility to adopt a self-certification process for solar distributed energy resource systems that are not SolarAPP+ compatible.

The Board comments that on page 5, lines 1 to 6, licensed architects and licensed engineers should not be installing solar distributed energy resource systems as such installation is not within their authorized scope of practice. Further, the Board notes the bill does not mention that a final inspection process will occur by the authority having jurisdiction. The Board emphasizes the importance of a final inspection for consumer safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Testimony of the Contractors License Board

**Before the
House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, February 28, 2024
12:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
H.B. 2614, H.D.1 RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

My name is Neal Arita, and I am the Chairperson of the Contractors License Board (Board). The Board opposes this bill.

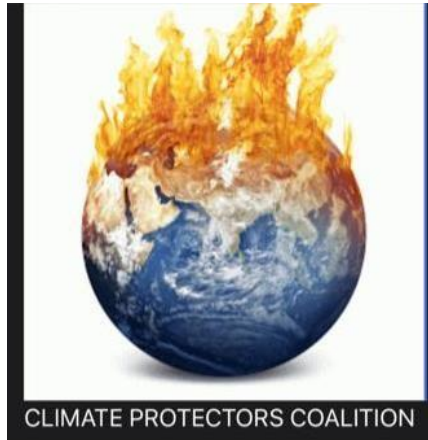
The purposes of this bill are to: (1) require government entities in the State that issue building permits to implement SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform that verifies code compliance and issues permits to licensed contractors for solar distributed energy resource systems in real-time by 1/1/2025; and (2) require government entities in the State that issue building permits in areas served by an investor-owned electric utility to adopt a self-certification process for solar distributed energy resource systems that are not SolarAPP+ compatible.

While the Board does not object to the intent of this bill to lower administrative barriers during the permitting process, it should not be done at the risk of consumer safety. The Board has serious concerns because this bill includes commercial on-site solar distributed energy resource systems. Commercial and large utility-scale photovoltaic plant projects are complex and do not appear to be suited to a self-certification permit process.

The Board also requests clarification on whether the proposed subsection 196-B(a)(2) on page 5, lines 1 through 6, is meant for the government agency to receive written notice from the duly licensed architect or duly licensed engineer that the solar distributed energy resource system complies with all applicable codes and laws in addition to a written notice from a duly licensed electrician or plumber who intends to install the solar distributed energy resource system.

The Board believes that the self-certification permit process is better suited for residential solar distributed energy resource systems, provided that there is an inspection following the completion of the project that deems the installation to be in compliance with all applicable codes and laws.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



To: The Honorable Chair Kyle Yamashita, the Honorable Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Finance Committee.

From: Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing HB2614 HD1 RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

Hearing: Wednesday, February 28, 2024, 12:00 p.m., room 308

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Finance Committee.

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i seeks to educate and engage the local community in climate change action, to help Hawai'i show the world the way back to a safe and stable climate. The Climate Protectors Hawai'i SUPPORTS distributed energy resource systems and streamlining solar permitting through Solar App+ or similar system.

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i **STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB2614 HD1!**

Distributed energy resource systems, including roof-top solar energy and storage systems, **are proven ways for home owners and others to save on electricity bills.** Currently, slow permitting can delay installation for on-site distributed

energy resource systems, including roof-top solar energy systems and storage, for eight months to twelve months. This bill would **streamline permitting, helping residents and commercial customers install on-site distributed energy resource systems, including roof-top solar energy and storage systems.**

This bill would **lower administrative barriers** that constrain deployment of residential and commercial-scale distributed energy resources. This would open up access to the proven savings of solar energy and battery storage for additional homeowners and renters and possibly avoid some costly utility investments for everyone.

Government entities in the State that issue building permits would be required under this bill to implement, by the beginning of 2024, the SolarAPP+ developed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform that verifies code compliance and issues permits to licensed contractors for solar distributed energy resource systems in real time. This would **save consumers time and up to \$7,000 in red tape.** The bill would also require government entities in the State that issue building permits in areas served by an investor-owned utility (rather than an electric cooperative) to adopt self-certification for solar distributed energy resource systems that are not SolarAPP+ compatible.

Rooftop solar is a critical tool in mitigating climate change. This bill would **streamline Hawaii's permitting for solar distributed energy resources, which would help Hawai'i reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and meet its decarbonization goals.**

Please pass this important bill to **save residents money and reduce greenhouse gas emissions!**

Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 7:57:15 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathaniel Kinney	Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HRCC is in support of this bill as it will help with the backlog of permits that is currently occurring at the county level and will help residents transition toward clean and cheap renewable energy

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 8:33:35 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan B Roberts Emery	Green Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Green Party of Hawai'i we lend our support for HB2614 HD1. We firmly believe solar energy has an important role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating climate change, which is critical to protecting our Island home. Solar coupled with battery storage provides resiliency by providing a backup energy source when storms or other emergencies cause a power failure. We must we moving forward to a resiliency and a sustainable future for our home.

Please pass HB2614 HD1

Mahalo nui ,

Susan RobertsEmery

Co chair GPH



To: The House Committee on Finance (FIN)
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Wednesday, February 28, 2024, 12pm

In strong support of HB2614 HD1

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the FIN Committee,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org is in **strong support of HB2614 HD1** which requires government entities in the State that issue building permits to implement SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform that verifies code compliance and issues permits to licensed contractors for solar distributed energy resource systems in real-time by 1/1/2025. This measure further requires government entities in the State that issue building permits in areas served by an investor-owned electric utility to adopt a self-certification process for solar distributed energy resource systems that are not SolarAPP+ compatible.

HB2614 HD1 addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. This bill offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline solar permitting ***without compromising on safety***. Addressing these permitting issues is essential if Hawaii is to achieve its decarbonization goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.

This measure is a true game-changer. In particular, by establishing a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent, HB2614 HD1 will streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects. **It is noted that the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, (NREL), developed SolarAPP+ in a collaborative partnership with industry and the building safety community, with funding from the U.S. Department of Energy.** Currently, Hawaii's families are often waiting more than 8 months to receive their permit, with some families reporting waits *up to a year or more*. This is unacceptable and must be remedied. By implementing provisions in HB2614 HD1, there will be auto-approval, proceed-to-build for all solar and storage projects that qualify for the online submittal. In jurisdictions in California already using the SolarAPP+, they have shortened waits for permits from months to a *single day*.

With the highest electrical rates in the country and the impacts of climate change already being felt, we need to move forward on smart solutions that will help to stimulate our economy and

make us more resilient. The current system for processing permits is untenable and a detriment to Hawaii achieving our clean energy goals. This measure will remove unnecessary barriers and move us to the clean-energy economy we need.

Rooftop solar power reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and as such, is a key tool in our fight against the climate crisis. **HB2614 HD1 is a crucial step needed to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.** We must remove the unnecessary roadblocks and burdens to installing solar plus storage systems so that all may access the benefits from solar energy.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** for this very important legislation.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 12:25:18 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Mulinix	Greenpeace Hawaii	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee Members,

I am CoFounder of the Hawai‘i chapter of Greenpeace, the largest environmental organization in the world, with an international membership of over 3 million. On behalf of Greenpeace Hawai‘i's thousands of members and supporters statewide, we Stand in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB2614 that addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawai‘i's renewable energy and climate resilience goals.

HB2614 establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects. Currently families are often waiting more than a year to receive their permit. By implementing provisions in HB2614, there will be auto-approval, proceed-to-build for all solar and storage projects that qualify for the online submission.

It is important to note that Solar APP+ has been quite successful on the continent reducing solar permitting time down to as little as one day. HB2614 will greatly reduce solar permitting approval time in Hawai‘i. Streamlining permit processing time will greatly increase the installation of solar panels to help cut Hawai‘i's carbon emissions.

In testimony submitted by the Department of Planning & Permitting of the City & County of Honolulu they commented on the value of their online permitting process to cut down on their permitting approval time, i.e.: “The DPP agrees that online permit processing apps such as SolarAPP+ are a must in order to process solar applications in a timely manner...The DPP’s current system has the same instant online functionality as SolarAPP+ and has proven very effective in reducing our backlog of residential building permit applications.”

As a renewable source of power, solar energy has an important role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating Climate Change, which is critical to protecting humans, wildlife, and ecosystems. Solar coupled with battery storage also provides resiliency by providing a backup energy source when storms or other emergencies cause a power failure.

Please pass HB2614 to help remove the unnecessary roadblocks and burdens to installing solar plus storage systems so that all may access and benefit from solar energy. This would be an important step forward to support Hawai‘i in achieving our decarbonization goals!

Mahalo,

Dave Mulinix, CoFounder & Statewide Organizer

Greenpeace Hawai'i



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

To: House Committee on Finance
Hon. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Hon. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Re: HB 2614 HD 1 RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

Hearing: Wednesday, February 28, 2024, 12:00 p.m., Room 308 & videoconference

Position: Strong Support

Aloha, Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee on Finance:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i (DPH) strongly supports HB 2614 HD1. HB 2614 HD1 requires government entities in the State that issue building permits to implement, by 1/1/2025, SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform that verifies code compliance and issues permits to licensed contractors for solar distributed energy resource systems in real time. It requires government entities in the State that issue building permits in areas served by an investor-owned electric utility to adopt a self-certification process for solar distributed energy resource systems that are not SolarAPP+ compatible. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

The PLATFORM OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI'I as adopted at the 2022 State Convention on May 28, 2022, states as follows:

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

Protect and preserve Hawai'i's environment and achieve energy sustainability. Advance measures to re-establish a healthy climate and environment for humans and fellow species, including actions to urgently address climate change. Work towards 100% renewable clean energy goals. [Emphasis added.]

We believe that all people have the right to live in a clean, healthy and safe environment. We believe that the preservation of our natural environment and its ecological well-being is essential to ensuring a safe, healthy, bountiful life for future generations in Hawai'i. We support policies that create a more sustainable society. We support the restoration, preservation, and protection of native ecosystems.

We believe in the resource management principles outlined in the Public Trust doctrine of the Hawai‘i State Constitution. We support policy that incorporates indigenous resource-management practices and technologies such as the Ahupua‘a System in modern urban planning and development to create an ecologically sustainable balance between the needs of the people and the rights of nature.

We believe that a key part of a sustainable and self-sufficient future for Hawai‘i lies in achieving energy independence through a transition to clean renewable energy sources. We support policies that eliminate our dependence on fossil fuels and other dirty energy sources. We support policies that expand access to public transportation and encourage transit-oriented development and walkable communities.

The DPH Environmental Caucus strongly supports this measure because the SolarApp+ will streamline the permitting process for residential photovoltaic systems. The SolarApp+ was developed by the Department of Energy to reduce permitting times for solar installations. Local governments that adopt the SolarApp+ can approve solar permits instantly. The SolarApp+ can accelerate rooftop solar adoption by making it easier for local governments to approve standardized rooftop projects. It is a step toward efficient, safe, and timely solar permitting.

For all these reasons, please pass this measure to streamline the solar permitting projects and reduce permitting backlog.

Melodie Adyja legislativepriorities@gmail.com
Alan B. Burdick burdick808@gmail.com
Co-Chairs, DPH Environmental Caucus

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 8:43:44 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Helen Cox	Kauai Climate Action Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

I am writing to you on behalf of Kauai Climate Action Coalition, a group of over 150 Kauai residents who engage through education, legislation, and direct action to address the climate crisis. We urge you to support HB 2614 to address longstanding permitting issues that have been impeding progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. The measures offered by the bill are common-sense and will streamline permitting. This is an important step not only to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, but also reduce costs for residents and increase resiliency.

Solar energy plays a critical role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating climate change, which is critical to protecting not only human beings, but wildlife and ecosystems. Battery storage adds a layer of resiliency in case of emergencies that cause power failure.

Currently families are often waiting more than a year to receive their permit. My own experience bears this out, and such delay is unacceptable. Please pass HB2614 and move us towards a better future. Mahalo.

Helen Cox, Chair

Kauai Climate Action Coalition



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

Testimony of The Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) Regarding HB2614 HD1, Relating to Renewable Energy, Before the House Committee on Finance

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and committee members:

The Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) **strongly supports HB2614 HD1**, which contains measures to streamline and remove permitting barriers to distributed solar and energy storage projects critical to achieving Hawaii’s clean energy transition.

HSEA members include the majority of locally owned and operated solar and renewable energy companies doing business in the state of Hawaii along with leading global cleantech manufacturers and service providers that invest and sell in our market. We employ thousands of residents in diverse green economy jobs and advocate for policies that help Hawaii achieve critical climate and resilience goals by enabling residents and businesses to invest in and benefit from the transition to clean energy.

While significant progress has been made at the municipal level, permitting bottlenecks and backlogs remain problematic for significant segments of our community. These bottlenecks add unnecessary cost, time, and risk to Hawaii’s renewable energy transition impacting all residents and businesses, particularly those that have not yet been able to install or participate in a solar and energy storage project. As new federal, state, and local programs are introduced to bring the cost of solar and energy storage systems down for residents, and systems become more available and accessible to underserved communities, removing permitting obstacles offers a significant opportunity.

HB2614 HD1 aims to address ongoing permitting challenges in several significant ways:

Firstly, the bill requires building permit issuing authorities to adopt the SolarAPP+ automated online permitting tool or an equivalent system. Developed by the U.S. Department of Energy’s National Renewable Energy Laboratory, SolarAPP+ expedites the processing and approval of applications in real time. This adoption benefits all stakeholders involved by reducing compliance risks, cutting time and costs, and freeing up resources for officials to focus on larger projects. By streamlining the process, smaller projects can be approved more



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

efficiently, allowing customers to install and benefit from solar and battery systems sooner while also reducing administrative burdens and taxpayer expenses.

Secondly, the bill eliminates the cumbersome materials and methods (MM#) review process, replacing it with standardized national product safety certification requirements. This change not only reduces delays and costs for residents and businesses seeking to adopt solar and energy storage but also fosters innovation by removing barriers to the introduction of new, more cost-effective, and efficient technologies.

Lastly, the bill introduces a self-certification pathway for projects that do not qualify for the SolarAPP+ online permitting tool. If a licensed design professional certifies that a solar project's plans comply with all applicable laws and codes, the project can proceed to the construction phase without unnecessary delays, provided that it still undergoes final inspection. This streamlined process accelerates overall project timelines and complements existing efforts at the municipal level to improve efficiency.

HSEA and other stakeholders have collaborated extensively with city and county administrations to enhance permitting processes. While progress has been made, there is still room for improvement. This bill offers a clear solution to save time and resources for all parties involved, contributing to Hawaii's renewable energy goals and carbon reduction targets.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to testify in **strong support of HB2614 HD1.**

Respectfully,

/s/ Rocky Mould,

Executive Director



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 28, 2024 at 12 PM
Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2614 HD1

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee:

Blue Planet Foundation **supports HB 2614 HD1**, which will streamline permitting for rooftop solar panels. This bill will increase the adoption of solar energy— helping us meet our climate goals, improve grid resiliency, and provide utility savings to homeowners and ratepayers.

The State of Hawai'i has committed to a decisive and irreversible transition away from fossil fuels. The legislature has passed aggressive carbon reduction goals, including a mandate to achieve 100% renewable electricity by 2045 (Act 97 of 2015), and a goal to be carbon-negative by 2045 (Act 15 of 2018). Setting these bold targets is important, but alone it is insufficient. Hawai'i needs implementation-focused policies, such as improving the process and efficacy for solar permitting, if we hope to achieve our clean energy and climate goals.

Hawaiian Electric's current plan for achieving Hawai'i's 100% renewable energy goal includes power generation from the rooftop of nearly every home across the islands. Over 106,000 homes on O'ahu, Maui, and Hawai'i island¹ and 6,000 homes on Kauai² have already installed rooftop solar. Residential rooftop solar is a proven tool to help homeowners and renters save money and reduces the need for utility investments in the power grid. When paired with batteries, rooftop solar panels can also increase resiliency in neighborhoods, helping homes keep the lights on and communication powered during a blackout.

Adjustments to the current permitting process will ensure a more timely transition to solar energy to help us meet our clean energy goals. Solar also provides additional benefits. Residential rooftop solar is a proven tool to help homeowners and renters save money and reduces the need for utility investments in the power grid, which are paid for by all ratepayers. When paired with batteries, rooftop solar panels can also increase resiliency in neighborhoods, helping homes keep the lights on and communication powered during a blackout.

¹ "Cumulative Installed PV - As of December 2023" *Hawaiian Electric Company*. Accessed January 27, 2024. (hawaiianelectric.com/documents/clean_energy_hawaii/clean_energy_facts/pv_summary_4Q_2023.pdf)

² Per KIUC testimony on SB 781 from 2023, page 12, see:

https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2023/Testimony/SB781_TESTIMONY_EET-GVO_02-09-23_.PDF

For these reasons, we support HB 2614 as a common-sense measure to advance the adoption of solar energy and battery storage systems throughout Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**Hawaii
Legislative
Council
Members**

Joell Edwards
Wainiha Country
Market
Hanalei

Russell Ruderman
Island Naturals
Hilo/Kona

Dr. Andrew Johnson
Niko Niko Family
Dentistry
Honolulu

Robert H. Pahia
Hawaii Taro Farm
Wailuku

Maile Meyer
Na Mea Hawaii
Honolulu

Tina Wildberger
Kihei Ice
Kihei

L. Malu Shizue Miki
Abundant Life
Natural Foods
Hilo

Kim Coco Iwamoto
Enlightened Energy
Honolulu

Chamber of
Sustainable
Commerce
P.O. Box 22394
Honolulu, HI
96823



Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

Wednesday, February 28, 2024
12:00 PM, Room 308 or Via Videoconference

RE: **HB2614 HD1** Automated Permitting for Solar Systems - **Support**

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa & Committee Members,

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce represents over 100 small businesses across the State that strive for a triple bottom line: people, planet and prosperity; we know Hawaii can strengthen its economy without hurting workers, consumers, communities or the environment.

This is why we support HB2614 HD1, which requires government entities in the State that issue building permits to implement, by 1/1/2025, SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform that verifies code compliance and issues permits to licensed contractors for solar distributed energy resource systems in real time, and requires government entities in the State that issue building permits in areas served by an investor-owned electric utility to adopt a self-certification process for solar distributed energy resource systems that are not SolarAPP+ compatible.

HB2614 HD1 will address longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. Currently families are often waiting more than a year to receive their permit. This is unacceptable and must be remedied. By implementing provisions in HB2614 HD1, there will be auto-approval, proceed-to-build for all solar and storage projects that qualify for the online submittal.

These common-sense measures that will streamline solar permitting. This is an important step to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.

Rooftop solar power is a key tool in the fight against climate breakdown. HB2614 HD1 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its goal to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



House Committee on Finance

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB2614

Wednesday, February 28, 2024 12:00pm, House Conference Room 308

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Committees,

HAPA strongly supports HB2614 HD1, which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. HB2614 HD1 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline solar permitting. This is an important step to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.

As a renewable source of power, solar energy has an important role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating climate change, which is critical to protecting humans, wildlife, and ecosystems. Solar coupled with battery storage also provides resiliency by providing a backup energy source when storms or other emergencies cause a power failure. We must remove the unnecessary roadblocks and burdens to installing solar plus storage systems so that all may access and benefits from solar energy!

HB2614 HD1 establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects. Currently families are often waiting more than a year to receive their permit. This is unacceptable and must be remedied. By implementing provisions in HB2614 HD1, there will be auto-approval, proceed-to-build for all solar and storage projects that qualify for the online submittal.

Rooftop solar power is a key tool in the fight against climate breakdown. HB2614 HD1 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals!

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', written in a cursive style.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

February 28, 2024

TO: Chair Kyle T. Yamashita
Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa
Members of the Committee on Finance

FR: Noelani Derrickson
Public Policy & Business Development

RE: HB2614 HD1 Relating to Renewable Energy. - **SUPPORT**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding HB2614 HD1, which requires government entities to implement online automated platforms and streamline permitting processes for residential solar and storage.

Tesla **strongly supports HB2614 HD1**, as it addresses the key obstacles for continued solar and storage growth in Hawaii – the time it takes to permit and install residential solar and storage systems. Additionally, we recommend consideration of proposed amendments in Appendix 1.

Across the country, local permitting processes can be complex and costly for contractors and consumers alike, sometimes taking many months for a simple solar permit. Although we acknowledge and appreciate recent improvements in residential solar and storage permitting review in Hawaii, additional process improvements as proposed in HB2614 HD1 are important to ensure Hawaii can meet its climate goals and support residential resilience and reliability.

HB2614 HD1 requires local government adoption of an automatic and online permitting system, such as [SolarAPP+](#), which can review 14 times more solar permits than traditional over-the-counter processes and is free to use. SolarAPP+ was developed for local governments by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), in coordination with Underwriters Laboratory, the International Code Council, the National Fire Protection Association, and local governments. According to NREL, projects submitted through SolarAPP+ are permitted, installed, and inspected on average 13 business days faster than projects using the conventional process. As of 2024, SolarApp+ has been adopted in 167 local jurisdictions, in 11 states.

HB2614 HD1 also requires local government adoption of a self-certification process for solar generation systems that deems a permit application approved and allows applicants to proceed to build, provided that, (1) the local government receives written notice from the project owner confirming ability to pay permitting fees, (2) the solar generation system is installed by a licensed architect or engineer, and (3) the installation of the system complies with all applicable codes and laws. Several major cities, such as Chicago and San Diego, offer self-certification processes, which help reduce permitting delays, particularly for systems that may be outside of the scope of SolarAPP+ or equivalent automatic and online permitting systems.

Thank you,

Noelani Derrickson



1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 | Honolulu, HI 96813
P: 808-533-1292 | e: info@hawaiiifood.com

Executive Officers

Gary Okimoto, Safeway Hawaii, *Chair*
Maile Miyashiro, C&S Wholesale Grocer, *Vice Chair*
Kit Okimoto, Okimoto Corp., *Secretary/Treas.*
Lauren Zirbel, HFIA, *Executive Director*
Paul Kosasa, ABC Stores, *Advisor*
Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Toby Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Joe Carter, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, *Advisor*
Eddie Asato, Pint Size Hawaii, *Immediate Past Chair*

TO: Committee on Finance

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 28, 2024
TIME: 12pm
PLACE: Room 308

RE: HB2430 HD1 Relating to Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children

Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, manufacturers and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, Members of the Committee,

Lowering the administrative barriers to the deployment of energy generation and storage technology has a range of benefits for Hawaii's food systems and our state.

Removes an Unnecessary Road Block to More Sustainable and Resilient Energy in Hawaii -

In a recent meeting many HFIA members were asked, "How would state incentivized solar and batteries positively impact your business, and/or the food industry in Hawaii? What is the main obstacle preventing you from transitioning to renewable energy for your business?" Overwhelming the answer that received the most votes was, "Simplify permit zoning approval processing." This reply received more than 6 times as many votes as "Money, credits, incentives." Existing and future tax credits and incentives are an important part of creating a sustainable energy future for our state, but right now what businesses need in order to allow them to make the switch is a less onerous permitting process.

Making Essential Industries More Sustainable Makes Our State More Sustainable –

To make progress on our State and national greenhouse reduction goals, it's important to address energy usage in essential industries. Our essential industries are those that are necessary for our residents to live and function. These industries, including the food industry, have certain energy demands that must be met in order for our state to run. If we can meet these energy demands more sustainably our entire state becomes more sustainable.

Make Our Food Industry More Resilient and Our State More Resilient -

All residents in our State rely on the food supply chain to feed them in good times and in times of crisis. Increasing the use of energy generation and storage within our state's food systems means that if the power grid is interrupted during a time of crisis these essential businesses can continue to function. Making the permitting process for energy generation and storage less of an obstacle will allow for increased usage in the food industry. This can be especially beneficial in areas that are more susceptible to disruptions in power supply and transportation routes in times of crisis. Creating a food supply chain that is more energy self-sufficient and resilient should be a priority in order to make mass feeding more feasible and equitable in case of a natural disaster or other crisis.

Streamlining the Permitting Process Can Be Done With Little To No Cost to the State -

Increasing the sustainability and resiliency of our state is a goal we all share. Unfortunately, the current system of permitting for energy generation and storage has created unnecessary obstacles to meeting that goal. Streamlining this process will move the state in the right direction, without costing the state. Creating a streamlined, consistent, permitting process is an efficient way to ensure that all regulations, rules, and safety guidelines are adhered to, and can help relieve some of the backlog in the Counties' overburdened permitting systems. This requires no investment from the State, and will encourage growth in key areas necessary for meeting our de-carbonization and resiliency goals.

We encourage the committee to pass this measure and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.

February 27, 2024

Re: SUPPORT HB 2614 HD1 Relating to Renewable Energy

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and committee members,

We strongly support HB 2614 HD1 Relating to Renewable Energy, which would improve local permitting for residential solar and storage. Honolulu Solar is a local business that provides customers with rooftop pv and batteries to help lower their bills, provide resiliency and meet Hawaii's clean energy targets. Unfortunately, many of our customers are cancelling contracts or losing out on financing because of long delays (6 months to 1 year) to secure local permits for their systems. We need your leadership to pass a State bill to mandate local jurisdictions to do the right thing, and make these permits instantaneous.

Solar and storage residential permits are simple and straightforward. They should be approved quickly and seamlessly. Customers are helping fight our climate crisis by doing the right thing for the environment, and should not be delayed by local bureaucracy. This is a widespread problem and we can't afford to keep stalling clean local resources. There is no excuse for these delays which hurt our business and our customers.

We supported a similar SolarApp+ bill last year but it did not pass. Since then, our customers have waited far too long for simple approvals to turn on their pv and batteries. We are urging your Committee to show leadership for your constituents who are investing in customer sited solar and storage for the good of the grid.

Brent Speed
Amcon Companies LLC
Honolulu Solar
O. 808.593.1786
F. 808.440.5592

**Building Decarbonization Task Force
Hawai'i Environmental Change Agents**

HawaiiChangeAgents@gmail.com
hawaiichangeagents.org

February 27, 2024

SUPPORT FOR HB2614 HD1 – Relating to Renewable Energy

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitigawa, and Committee Members,

The Building Decarbonization Task Force of the Hawai'i Environmental Change Agents supports HB2614, which "Requires government entities in the State that issue building permits to implement, by 1/1/2025, SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform that verifies code compliance and issues permits to licensed contractors for solar distributed energy resource systems in real time. Requires government entities in the State that issue building permits in areas served by an investor-owned electric utility to adopt a self-certification process for solar distributed energy resource systems that are not SolarAPP+ compatible."

Hawai'i Environmental Change Agents (HECA) consists of ten task forces; one of which is the Building Decarbonization Task Force. This task force supports **HB2614** because it would address existing red tape and inefficiencies in the solar permitting process. Thus the bill will save homeowners and businesses installation costs for solar and make the installation process more efficient. In doing so, the bill would lead to a more generation resources, resulting in a more stable grid with fewer blackouts while also lowering the State's carbon emissions from buildings.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Please support HB2614.

Mahalo,
Building Decarbonization Task Force of HECA (by Paul Bernstein)



TESTIMONY FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FEBRUARY 28, 2024

HB2614 HD1, RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Democratic Party of Hawaii **supports** HB2614 HD1, relating to renewable energy. Pursuant to the “Environment and Energy” section of the official Democratic Party of Hawaii platform, the party believes “that a key part of a sustainable and self-sufficient future for Hawaii lies in achieving energy independence through a transition to clean renewable energy sources,” and supports “policy that eliminates our dependence on fossil fuels and other dirty energy sources.”

According to a report produced by the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, global sea levels could rise more than three feet by 2100, with more recent projections showing this occurring as early as 2060. In turn, over the next 30 to 70 years, approximately 6,500 structures and 19,800 people statewide will be exposed to chronic flooding. Additionally, an estimated \$19 billion in economic loss would result from chronic flooding of land and structures located in exposure areas. Finally, approximately 38 miles of coastal roads and 550 cultural sites would be chronically flooded, on top of the 13 miles of beaches that have already been lost on Kaua'i, O'ahu, and Maui to erosion fronting shoreline armoring.

As we work to reduce carbon emissions and stave off the worst consequences of climate change, we must begin preparing for the adverse impact of sea level rise on our shores. We are now quantifying the speed at which we must act. We cannot continue to develop the 25,800-acre statewide sea level rise exposure area—one-third of which is designated for urban use—without risking massive structural damage and, potentially, great loss of life.

Last year, we witnessed the impact of the climate emergency on our shores. On August 8, 2023, wildfires swept across Maui and killed at least 100 people, making it one of the nation's deadliest natural disasters. The spread of the fires has been attributed to climate change conditions, such as unusually dry landscapes and the confluence of a strong high-pressure system to the north and Hurricane Dora to the south. The wildfires destroyed over 2,200 structures, including numerous residential buildings, historic landmarks, and school facilities. In September 2023, a report from the United States Department of Commerce estimated the total economic damage of the wildfires to be roughly \$5.5 billion. Investing in renewable energy generation could not be more urgent, given the growing threat of climate-induced catastrophes to our island home.

Therefore, **our state should take steps to accelerate our transition to a clean energy economy and continue our fight against climate change, including by requiring government entities of the State that issue building permits to implement, by January 1, 2025, SolarAPP+ or functionally equivalent online permitting platform.** Expediting the permitting process with an automated platform will reduce administrative barriers to clean energy generation and storage deployment. This will help us in achieving a 100% renewable energy portfolio by 2045.

Mahalo nui loa,

Kris Coffield

Co-Chair, Legislative Committee
(808) 679-7454
kriscoffield@gmail.com

Abby Simmons

Co-Chair, Legislative Committee
(808) 352-6818
abbyalana808@gmail.com



Legislative Testimony of Sunrun Inc.
Before the FIN Committee
February 28, 2024

IN SUPPORT of HB2614 HD1 – Relating to Renewable Energy

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and distinguished Members of the Committee on Finance,

Sunrun is the nation's leading home solar, battery storage and energy services company, and has a long and proud history in Hawai'i with office and warehouse locations on O'ahu, Maui, and Hawai'i Islands. We employ more than 350 professions across the islands, including sales/marketers, customer experience professionals, and installation team members including electrical inspectors, technicians, forepersons and warehouse personnel.

Sunrun strongly supports HB2614 HD1, which would streamline the permitting process for solar distributed energy resource (DER) and storage projects. Permitting is one of the largest remaining roadblocks to widespread DER adoption, and HB2614 HD1 would address longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawai'i's renewable energy and climate resilience goals by offering a number of common-sense measures such as:

1. Requiring implementation of the SolarAPP+ online permitting tool or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;
2. Creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent); and
3. Removing the burdensome materials and methods number (MM#) requirement for solar DER systems.

Hawai'i has a 100% renewable portfolio standard (RPS) by 2045,¹ and DER systems are critical to achieving the state's RPS goals. In 2022, solar power generated nearly 17% of the state's total electricity, largely due to the rapid uptake of small-scale, customer-sites solar systems.² In 2023, Hawaiian Electric (HECO) achieved nearly 43% renewable generation, largely due to continued DER adoption.³ Rooftop solar is the leading contributor to Hawai'i's clean energy portfolio, making up over 46% of all renewable energy in the state.⁴ Continued implementation of rooftop solar has proven to be a strong component of the state's renewable energy generation and contributes to a more resilient energy system.

SolarAPP+ was developed by the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory and has already been successfully deployed in hundreds of municipalities across the nation. It is now required by the state of California after legislation passed in 2022.⁵ Further, the Solar Energy Industry

¹ <https://energy.hawaii.gov/what-we-do/clean-energy-vision/>

² <https://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=HI#tabs-1>

³ <https://www.hawaiianelectric.com/hawaiian-electric-hits-38-renewable-energy-in-2021>

⁴ <https://www.hawaiianelectric.com/about-us/performance-scorecards-and-metrics/renewable-energy>

⁵ S.B. 379, Residential solar energy systems: permitting. C.A. Legis. Assemb. 2021-2022.

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB379

Association (SEIA) estimates that soft costs make up about 65% of all residential solar installation costs, up from 58% in 2014.⁶ This bill is a powerful tool to drive down soft costs for residents and businesses looking to install solar equipment.

Adoption of SolarAPP+ is a “win” for all participants in the permitting review process. It reduces compliance risks, lowers time and cost, and removes relatively small and simple projects from the manual review queue so that building permit officials can spend more time on larger and more complicated projects and customers can install and benefit from their systems sooner. The investment in SolarAPP+ will reduce administrative burden and taxpayer expense and allow the counties to re-focus resources where they are needed most.

Sunrun strongly supports HB2614 HD1 and respectfully urges the committee to advance this measure. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this critical legislation. As a national solar, storage and energy services company, Sunrun has a broad view of states’ clean energy policies and stands ready to assist Hawai‘i with its policy goals.

Sincerely,



Steven Rymsha
Director Grid Solutions, Public Policy
steven.rymsha@sunrun.com
808-220-7377

⁶ <https://www.seia.org/research-resources/solar-soft-costs>

February 26, 2024

Re: STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB 2614 HD1 Relating to Renewable Energy

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and distinguished members of the committee, I am writing to you as the CEO of Hawaii Unified Industries, a cornerstone in Hawaii's pursuit of a sustainable and resilient energy future. Our commitment extends beyond providing rooftop PV, storage, and microgrid solutions for homes and businesses; we are at the forefront of facilitating the transition to renewable energy through our support of workforce development and our relentless efforts to streamline energy solutions for Hawaii's residents.

Economic and Community Impact:

Hawaii Unified is proud to be a major employer in the state, providing over 100 local jobs and standing as the third-largest private employer on the Leeward Coast, according to Pacific Business News. Our dedication to the community is further demonstrated through our support of the Makaha Learning Center, a beacon for renewable energy workforce development, having certified over 200 students in the past three years. However, the protracted permitting process by the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) is not only stifling our business operations but also jeopardizing our ability to support vital community programs.

Urgency of Implementing SolarAPP+:

The implementation of SolarAPP+ (or its equivalent) represents a pivotal step towards rectifying the inefficiencies plaguing our permitting process. The delays experienced by our customers and our business are more than mere inconveniences—they are barriers to Hawaii's clean energy future. Over the past year, the absence of streamlined permitting has directly led to contract cancellations, a clear indicator of the tangible impact on our business and consumer confidence. This situation underscores the need for state intervention and leadership to adopt best practices that have been recognized nationally.

Local and National Benefits:

Adopting SolarAPP+ is not just about improving the business climate for companies like Hawaii Unified; it's about unlocking the potential for Hawaii's residents to contribute to and benefit from renewable energy initiatives. Solar and storage solutions are pivotal in

helping residents reduce electricity bills, contribute positively to the environment, and enhance their resilience against power outages.

Moreover, streamlining the permitting process will accelerate Hawaii's progress towards its clean energy goals, making the state a leader in renewable energy adoption and setting a precedent for other states to follow. The efficiency and predictability brought about by SolarAPP+ can serve as a catalyst for increased investment in renewable energy, further driving economic growth and job creation in the sector.

Conclusion:

In light of the above, **I strongly urge the committee to consider the far-reaching benefits of HB 2614 HD1.** By mandating the adoption of SolarAPP+ for local online permitting, Hawaii can alleviate the unnecessary burdens on businesses and consumers alike, fostering a more sustainable and prosperous future for all residents. Our commitment to Hawaii's clean energy transition is unwavering, and we believe that with the right reforms, we can overcome the current challenges and continue to lead by example. Thank you for considering our testimony in support of this critical piece of legislation.



Sincerely,
Ryno Irwin
CEO, Hawaii Unified Industries

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 3:43:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurel brier	Kauai Climate Action Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support for climate action. This is long hanging fruit! This bill addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. Rooftop solar is a great tool for all of us in Hawaii to address the climate crisis.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Wednesday, February 28, 2024, noon
Room 308 via videoconference

Testimony in support of HB 2614 HD2

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Finance Committee:

As partners of the Hawaii Executive Collaborative (HEC) Climate Coalition, we support HB 2614 HD2, which seeks to reduce barriers to achieving our 100% clean energy future by streamlining and accelerating the rooftop solar permitting process.

The HEC Climate Coalition was formed in 2022 to address the systemic barriers that impede meaningful climate action in Hawaii. Our strategy is two-fold: helping organizations work internally on climate initiatives (Climate In) while providing a platform to work collectively with others to drive systemic climate progress (Climate Out). To date, 42 organizations have signed our Climate Pledge, including businesses, nonprofits, educational institutions, all four of Hawaii's counties and the Governor. Our Coalition plays a critical role in uniting Hawaii's business and environmental

communities under one mission: building a sustainable, resilient, and safe climate future for ourselves and our children.

Solar energy is one of Hawai'i's lowest cost resources to decarbonize our economy. While over 100,000 rooftop solar systems have been installed across Hawai'i, reaching our climate goals requires that nearly every rooftop statewide tap into the sun's free energy. That means well over 250,000 additional systems need to be deployed. But administrative and permitting bottlenecks are impeding this deployment and adding unnecessary cost, time, and risk to Hawai'i's renewable energy transition. This not only hurts our climate, but particularly impacts low- to moderate-income households, who to date have largely been left out of the rooftop solar opportunity.

House Bill 2614 HD2 seeks to help remedy this challenge in a few key ways:

- The measure establishes a requirement for building permit issuing authorities to adopt the SolarAPP+ automated online permitting tool, or a functional equivalent. SolarAPP+ was developed by the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory and has been successfully deployed for PV and PV+Storage projects in numerous municipalities across the nation. The tool reduces compliance risks, lowers time and cost, and removes relatively small and simple projects from the manual review queue so that building permit officials can spend more time on larger and more complicated projects and customers can install and benefit from their systems sooner. National data shows that local governments with instant online permitting for rooftop solar, like SolarAPP+, process 5 – 14 times more volume than jurisdictions with traditional permit processing.
- The measure removes the burdensome and time-consuming "materials and methods" review process and replaces it with standardized, peer-reviewed national product safety certification and product documentation requirements. In addition to causing delay and extra cost, this unnecessary requirement stifles innovation and blocks new, lower-cost technologies and products from entering our market.
- The measure requires permitting authorities to provide a self-certification pathway for projects that do not qualify for the SolarAPP+ online permitting tool. If a duly licensed design professional certifies that a solar project's plans are compliant with all applicable laws and codes, the project should not be delayed from proceeding to construction. Final compliance review and approval can occur at inspection.

Climate Coalition members have selected solar permit streamlining as a priority for our policy engagement this session. Achieving Hawai'i's 100% renewable energy goal will require that we maximize the amount of solar energy on rooftops statewide.

House Bill 2614 will lower costs and installation timelines for rooftop solar, leading to faster, more cost-effective, and equitable decarbonization of our islands. We urge its passage.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

About Hawai'i Executive Collaborative

The Hawai'i Executive Collaborative (HEC) is a nonprofit organization that serves as a convener and provides backbone support to leaders from different sectors who want to help build a more resilient economy and state. HEC members believe in the power of acting collectively and focus their energies and resources on areas where immediate and systemic changes will benefit Hawai'i and the world. For more information on the HEC Climate Coalition's real-world, high-impact solutions, visit hec.org/climate.

Hawai'i Executive Collaboration Climate Coalition partners supporting this testimony:

Alaska Airlines

Alexander & Baldwin

Blue Planet Foundation

Chaminade University

Hawai'i Energy

Hawai'i Executive Collaborative

Hawai'i Solar Energy Association

Hawaiian Airlines

'Iolani School

Kaiser Permanente

KHON2

The Nature Conservancy - Hawai'i and Palmyra

Re-Use Hawaii

School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology, Univ. of Hawai'i

Sun Noodle

Young Brothers

Zephyr Insurance Company, Inc.

Zippy's

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 12:04:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ella Aki	Sol-Ark	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamashita; Vice Chair Kitagawa, and committee members:

I strongly support HB2614 HD1 which offers a number of common-sense measures to fix long-standing permitting issues. The bill:

Establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects; removes the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems; creates a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)

Please advance this critically important bill and thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in strong support.

Mahalo piha,

Ella Aki

Sol-Ark Regional Sales Manager, Pacific Islands

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 12:45:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamashita; Vice Chair Kitagawa, and committee members:

I strongly support HB2614 HD1 which offers a number of common-sense measures to fix long-standing permitting issues. The bill:

1 establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;

2 removes the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;

3 creates a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)

Please advance this critically important bill and thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in strong support.

Respectfully,

ryan

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 1:05:29 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Amadeo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamashita; Vice Chair Kitagawa, and committee members:

I strongly support HB2614 HD1 which offers a number of common-sense measures to fix long-standing permitting issues. The bill:

1. establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;
2. removes the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;
3. creates a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)

Please advance this critically important bill and thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in strong support.

Respectfully,

Sarah Amadeo

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 4:57:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniela Escontrela	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **strongly support** HB2614 HD1 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. HB2614 HD1 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline solar permitting. This is an important step to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 5:05:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arlene Twomey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB2614 HD1 establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects. Currently families are often waiting more than a year to receive their permit. This is unacceptable and must be remedied. By implementing provisions in HB2614 HD1, there will be auto-approval, proceed-to-build for all solar and storage projects that qualify for the online submittal.

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 5:15:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB2614 HD1 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. HB2614 HD1 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline solar permitting. This is an important step to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.

-- As a renewable source of power, solar energy has an important role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating climate change, which is critical to protecting humans, wildlife, and ecosystems. Solar coupled with battery storage also provides resiliency by providing a backup energy source when storms or other emergencies cause a power failure. We must remove the unnecessary roadblocks and burdens to installing solar plus storage systems so that all may access and benefits from solar energy!

-- HB2614 HD1 establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects. Currently families are often waiting more than a year to receive their permit. This is unacceptable and must be remedied. By implementing provisions in HB2614 HD1, there will be auto-approval, proceed-to-build for all solar and storage projects that qualify for the online submittal.

-- Rooftop solar power is a key tool in the fight against climate breakdown. HB2614 HD1 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals!

Thank you for your consideration,

Michele Nihipali

████████████████████

████████████████████

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 5:19:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lori Ann Saunders	Blue Planet Energy	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamashita; Vice Chair Kitagawa, and committee members:

I strongly support HB2614 HD1 which offers a number of common-sense measures to fix long-standing permitting issues. The bill:

1. establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;
2. removes the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;
3. creates a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)

Please advance this critically important bill and thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in strong support.

Respectfully, Lori Ann Saunders

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 5:27:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tadia Rice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support HB2614 HD1 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. HB2614 HD1 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline solar permitting. This is an important step to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.

As a renewable source of power, solar energy has an important role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating climate change, which is critical to protecting humans, wildlife, and ecosystems. Solar coupled with battery storage also provides resiliency by providing a backup energy source when storms or other emergencies cause a power failure. We must remove the unnecessary roadblocks and burdens to installing solar plus storage systems so that all may access and benefits from solar energy!

HB2614 HD1 establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects. Currently families are often waiting more than a year to receive their permit. This is unacceptable and must be remedied. By implementing provisions in HB2614 HD1, there will be auto-approval, proceed-to-build for all solar and storage projects that qualify for the online submittal.

Rooftop solar power is a key tool in the fight against climate breakdown. HB2614 HD1 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals!

Thank you!

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 6:22:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tia pearson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill will break through the bureaucratic backlog for solar projects, Having an alternate energy source will help our environment and the pocketbooks of homeowners. A win for all!

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 8:22:52 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a very important bill. it levels the playing field. the bill gives greater access to people with lilmited resources. Since people can get access and OK in a day. Calif and other states who have implemented similar bills have streamlined the permitting process so more people can gain access to PV n storage. This SHOULD HAVE BEEN PASSED LAST YEAR BUT IT BECAME A POLITICAL ISSUE...WE DON'T HAVE A LOT OF TIME TO BURN...JUST PASS IT!!

MAHALO

tlaloc tokuda

Kailua Kona HI 96740

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 9:17:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jotis Russell-Christian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

-- I strongly support HB2614 HD1 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. HB2614 HD1 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline solar permitting. This is an important step to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.

-- As a renewable source of power, solar energy has an important role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating climate change, which is critical to protecting humans, wildlife, and ecosystems. Solar coupled with battery storage also provides resiliency by providing a backup energy source when storms or other emergencies cause a power failure. We must remove the unnecessary roadblocks and burdens to installing solar plus storage systems so that all may access and benefits from solar energy!

-- HB2614 HD1 establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects. Currently families are often waiting more than a year to receive their permit. This is unacceptable and must be remedied. By implementing provisions in HB2614 HD1, there will be auto-approval, proceed-to-build for all solar and storage projects that qualify for the online submittal.

-- Rooftop solar power is a key tool in the fight against climate breakdown. HB2614 HD1 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals!

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 12:34:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Lu Kelley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha from Kauai. I am in strong support for HB2614 HD1:

-- I strongly support HB2614 HD1 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. HB2614 HD1 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline solar permitting. This is an important step to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.

-- As a renewable source of power, solar energy has an important role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating climate change, which is critical to protecting humans, wildlife, and ecosystems. Solar coupled with battery storage also provides resiliency by providing a backup energy source when storms or other emergencies cause a power failure. We must remove the unnecessary roadblocks and burdens to installing solar plus storage systems so that all may access and benefits from solar energy!

-- HB2614 HD1 establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects. Currently families are often waiting more than a year to receive their permit. This is unacceptable and must be remedied. By implementing provisions in HB2614 HD1, there will be auto-approval, proceed-to-build for all solar and storage projects that qualify for the online submittal.

-- Rooftop solar power is a key tool in the fight against climate breakdown. HB2614 HD1 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals!

Please do the right thing and pass HB2614 HD1.

Thank you,

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 5:22:08 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MissT	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

-- I strongly support HB2614 HD1 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. HB2614 HD1 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline solar permitting. This is an important step to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.

-- As a renewable source of power, solar energy has an important role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating climate change, which is critical to protecting humans, wildlife, and ecosystems. Solar coupled with battery storage also provides resiliency by providing a backup energy source when storms or other emergencies cause a power failure. We must remove the unnecessary roadblocks and burdens to installing solar plus storage systems so that all may access and benefits from solar energy!

-- HB2614 HD1 establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects. Currently families are often waiting more than a year to receive their permit. This is unacceptable and must be remedied. By implementing provisions in HB2614 HD1, there will be auto-approval, proceed-to-build for all solar and storage projects that qualify for the online submittal.

-- Rooftop solar power is a key tool in the fight against climate breakdown. HB2614 HD1 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals!

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 7:05:15 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Thompson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 7:08:09 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
wei lun lian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamashita; Vice Chair Kitagawa, and committee members:

I strongly support HB2614 HD1 which offers a number of common-sense measures to fix long-standing permitting issues. The bill:

1. establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;
2. removes the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;
3. creates a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)

Please advance this critically important bill and thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in strong support.

Respectfully,

Wei Lun Lian

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 7:09:23 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terri Rhody	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamashita; Vice Chair Kitagawa, and committee members:

I strongly support HB2614 HD1 which offers a number of common-sense measures to fix long-standing permitting issues. The bill:

1. establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;
2. removes the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;
3. creates a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)

Please advance this critically important bill and thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in strong support.

Respectfully,

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 7:21:08 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Casey Dela Cruz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamashita; Vice Chair Kitagawa, and committee members:

I strongly support HB2614 HD1 which offers a number of common-sense measures to fix long-standing permitting issues. The bill:

1. establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;
2. removes the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;
3. creates a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)

Mahalo,

Casey Dela Cruz

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 7:26:48 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julian Kahumana	Alternate Energy Hawaii Inc.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Members of the Hawaii State Legislature:

Subject: Strong Support for H.B. NO. 2614 - An Essential Step Towards a Sustainable Future

Dear Esteemed Legislators,

I am writing to you today not just as a concerned citizen of our beautiful state, but as a representative of Alternate Energy Hawaii, one of the largest solar contractors in Hawaii. Our commitment to transforming Hawaii's energy landscape aligns with the state's vision for a sustainable, renewable energy-powered future. It is in this spirit that I express our wholehearted support for House Bill No. 2614, which proposes critical advancements in the deployment of renewable energy resources across our state.

The importance of this bill cannot be overstated. By streamlining the permitting process for solar and energy storage projects through the adoption of SolarAPP+ or equivalent online automated platforms, we are looking at a future where clean energy is not just a vision but a practical, accessible reality for all Hawaiians. The bill's emphasis on reducing administrative barriers and adopting self-certification processes for systems not compatible with SolarAPP+ demonstrates a forward-thinking approach to energy policy.

Our industry is at a pivotal juncture. Despite the growing demand for renewable energy solutions, bureaucratic hurdles have significantly slowed progress, impacting businesses and consumers alike. The current state of affairs has forced our company, along with many others in the sector, to make tough decisions, including furloughs and layoffs. This not only affects the livelihoods of our dedicated employees but also hampers our collective ability to meet Hawaii's renewable energy goals.

H.B. NO. 2614 offers a beacon of hope for our industry. By facilitating a smoother, more efficient process for the deployment of solar energy systems, we can significantly reduce project timelines and costs. This efficiency is not just beneficial for businesses like ours but is crucial for Hawaii's energy resilience and sustainability. The quicker we can deploy clean energy solutions, the faster we can reduce our dependence on imported fossil fuels, lower energy costs for consumers, and contribute to the global fight against climate change.

Moreover, the bill's provisions to promote labor standards, including living wages and apprenticeship programs, underscore the dual benefits of this legislative effort: accelerating Hawaii's transition to renewable energy while ensuring that the transition supports fair, high-quality jobs for our workers.

In conclusion, I urge you to consider the far-reaching benefits of H.B. NO. 2614 for our state's economic, environmental, and social well-being. By passing this bill, you will not only be supporting the renewable energy sector but also taking a significant step towards securing a sustainable, resilient future for all residents of Hawaii.

Thank you for your attention to this crucial matter. We are at your disposal for any further information or discussion on how this bill can positively impact our state and its people.

Sincerely,

Julian Kahumana,
Engineer, Alternate Energy Hawaii Inc.

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 7:33:23 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Furuta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamashita; Vice Chair Kitagawa, and committee members:

I strongly support HB2614 HD1 which offers a number of common-sense measures to fix long-standing permitting issues. The bill:

1. establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;
2. removes the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;
3. creates a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)

Please advance this critically important bill and thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in strong support.

Respectfully,

Justin Furuta

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 8:23:50 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roy Skaggs	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Yamashita; Vice Chair Kitagawa, and committee members,

I strongly support HB2614 HD1 which offers a number of common-sense measures to fix long-standing permitting issues. The bill:

1. establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;
2. removes the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;
3. creates a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)

Please advance this critically important bill and thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in strong support.

Mahalo!
Roy Skaggs

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 8:28:25 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I'm born and raised in the Hawaiian Kingdom. I live in Mō'ili'ili. I'm writing in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2614 HD1.

HB2614 HD1 streamlines permitting for solar + storage! This measure requires government entities in the State that issue building permits to implement SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT? This bill will address longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. HB2614 HD1 will break through the bureaucratic backlog for solar projects. Currently homeowners have to wait up to a year or more to get their permit to install solar panels. Through this bill the State will be able to offer an online app that will quicken solar permitting authorization. Jurisdictions on the continent already using this app are seeing wait times for permit approvals go from months to a day. This bill will help families quickly lower their costs while also helping the planet!

me ke aloha 'āina,

Nanea Lo, Mō'ili'ili, O'ahu

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 8:58:38 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeffrey Lum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamashita; Vice Chair Kitagawa, and committee members:

I strongly support HB2614 HD1 which offers a number of common-sense measures to fix long-standing permitting issues. The bill:

1. establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;
2. removes the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;
3. creates a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)

Please advance this critically important bill and thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in strong support.

aloha, Jeff

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 9:19:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

-- I strongly support HB2614 HD1 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. HB2614 HD1 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline solar permitting. This is an important step to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.

-- As a renewable source of power, solar energy has an important role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating climate change, which is critical to protecting humans, wildlife, and ecosystems. Solar coupled with battery storage also provides resiliency by providing a backup energy source when storms or other emergencies cause a power failure. We must remove the unnecessary roadblocks and burdens to installing solar plus storage systems so that all may access and benefits from solar energy!

-- HB2614 HD1 establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects. Currently families are often waiting more than a year to receive their permit. This is unacceptable and must be remedied. By implementing provisions in HB2614 HD1, there will be auto-approval, proceed-to-build for all solar and storage projects that qualify for the online submittal.

-- Rooftop solar power is a key tool in the fight against climate breakdown. HB2614 HD1 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals!

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 9:24:40 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Radford Nakamura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamashita; Vice Chair Kitagawa, and committee members:

I strongly support HB2614 HD1 which offers a number of common-sense measures to fix long-standing permitting issues. The bill:

1. establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;
2. removes the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;
3. creates a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)

Please advance this critically important bill and thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in strong support.

Respectfully,

Radford Nakamura

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 9:57:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carole Mandryk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY support this bill.

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 10:19:20 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nadine Ferraro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB2641 HD1 which will speed up permitting process by use of an on-line app. Let's help families lower costs sooner and help our planet, too!

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 10:22:34 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Rooftop solar power is a key tool in the fight against climate crisis. HB2614 HD1 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals!

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 10:27:15 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cory Harden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, in strong support! Cory

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 10:30:36 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TOM DIGRAZIA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Very strongly support this Bill!

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 10:46:44 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yuko Ahina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamashita; Vice Chair Kitagawa, and committee members:

I strongly support HB2614 HD1 which offers a number of common-sense measures to fix long-standing permitting issues. The bill:

1. establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;
2. removes the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;
3. creates a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)

Please advance this critically important bill and thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in strong support.

Respectfully,

Yuko Ahina

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 12:04:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolyn Eaton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the Committee,

As you surely realize, this is a top priority for all who hope to see Hawaii meet its goals for greater use of renewable energy. Please keep this measure alive at its hearing in Finance tomorrow.

Mahalo for your work to improve the lives of Hawaii's people. This is a very worthy measure.

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 12:07:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Faith Texeira	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB2614 HD1 which offers a number of common-sense measures to fix long-standing permitting issues. Mahalo for your consideration, F. Texeira

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 12:14:52 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT!

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 1:23:48 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaniuleilani Frisbee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamashita; Vice Chair Kitagawa, and committee members:

I strongly support HB2614 HD1 which offers a number of common-sense measures to fix long-standing permitting issues. The bill:

1. establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;
2. removes the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;
3. creates a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)

Please advance this critically important bill and thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in strong support.

Respectfully,

Kaniuleilani Frisbee

AEI

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 4:57:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Gorman-Chang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Finance Committee Members,

I am in support HB2614 HD1 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. HB2614 HD1 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline solar permitting. This is an important step to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.

As a renewable source of power, solar energy has an important role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating climate change, which is critical to protecting humans, wildlife, and ecosystems. Solar coupled with battery storage also provides resiliency by providing a backup energy source when storms or other emergencies cause a power failure. We must remove the unnecessary roadblocks and burdens to installing solar plus storage systems so that all may access and benefits from solar energy!

In addition, HB2614 HD1 establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects. Currently families are often waiting more than a year to receive their permit. This is unacceptable and must be remedied. By implementing provisions in HB2614 HD1, there will be auto-approval, proceed-to-build for all solar and storage projects that qualify for the online submittal.

-- Rooftop solar power is a key tool in the fight against climate breakdown. HB2614 HD1 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals!

Susan Gorman-Chang

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 7:45:20 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Georgia L Hoopes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB2614 HD1

Mahalo,

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 8:07:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Hall	HSEA Hawaii Solar Energy Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamashita; Vice Chair Kitagawa, and committee members:

I strongly support HB2614 HD1 which offers a number of common-sense measures to fix long-standing permitting issues. The bill:

1. establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;
2. removes the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;
3. creates a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)

Please advance this critically important bill and thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in strong support.

Respectfully, Thomas Hall / SSG