

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

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection  
and  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

**Thursday, April 4, 2024  
10:09 a.m.  
Conference Room 211 and Videoconference**

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

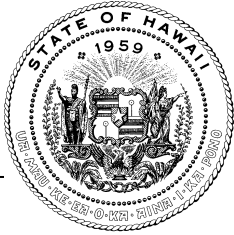
Chair Keohokalole, Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committees:

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 to require government entities in the State that issue building permits: (1) 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) 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 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 authorizing jurisdiction. The Board emphasizes the importance of a final inspection for consumer safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



# HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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Testimony of  
**MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer**

before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON  
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION  
AND  
WAYS AND MEANS**

Thursday, April 4, 2024  
10:09 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211 and Videoconference

In Support of  
**HB 2614, HD1, SD1**

**RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.**

Chairs Keohokalole and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Moriwaki, and members of the Committees, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports, with recommended changes, HB 2614, HD1, SD1, 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 and continuous improvements in capabilities, 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 appreciates the efforts underway by individual permitting agencies to improve the permitting for solar photovoltaic and battery installations and is working with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa on a strategy to dedicate personnel to augment those efforts. Importantly, HSEO understands that the SolarAPP+ requirement is compatible and complementary to those efforts to streamline permitting and renewable energy project approvals.

HSEO looks forward to working with the authorities having jurisdiction on Section 2 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, line 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).

HSEO recommends edits and additions for clarity. Regarding item (2) on page 5, lines 1-6, other testifiers previously pointed out that engineers and architects are not approved installers of systems. The following is a recommended re-wording of this item:

- (2) The [~~duly licensed architect, duly licensed engineer, duly licensed electrician, or duly licensed plumber, as applicable, who intends to install the solar distributed energy resource system~~] projects' relevant licensed professionals in their respective fields that the plans for installation of the system comply with all applicable codes and laws.

Also, to make it clear that although the self-certification processes described by the bill will enable an expedited start of construction, it is not expected that a permit would be closed, or certificate of occupancy issued, without completion of a final inspection. The following is provided for the committee's consideration for page 5, lines 16-19:

(c) If the requirements of subsection (a) are satisfied, the applicable government entity in the State that issues building permits shall issue the building permit number [~~and close the permit~~] within thirty days of submittal.

(d) Final inspections shall be required prior to permit closing.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**Testimony of the Contractors License Board**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
and  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

**Thursday, April 4, 2024  
10:09 a.m.  
Conference Room 211 and Videoconference**

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

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

Chair Keohokalole, Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committees:

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 require government entities in the State that issue building permits: (1) 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) 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. These types of projects require a plan review by the appropriate government agency prior to the issuance of a permit and prior to the start of the project.

The Board believes that the self-certification permit process is better suited for residential solar distributed energy resource systems, and requests that two safeguards

in this bill be clarified. The first is subsection 196-B(a)(2) on page 5, lines 1 through 6, which requires the government agency to receive written notice from the duly licensed architect, duly licensed engineer, duly licensed electrician, or duly licensed plumber, who intends to install the solar distributed energy resource system, that the installation of the system complies with all applicable codes and laws. Because the written notice is required prior to the start of the installation of the system, it appears that it would be appropriate for the written notice to be provided by a licensed design professional (e.g., licensed architect or licensed engineer), and the installers of the solar distributed energy resource system should be deleted from this subsection. The following is suggested language for the Committee's consideration:

“(2) ~~[The duly]~~ An appropriately licensed architect~~[-, duly]~~ or appropriately licensed engineer, ~~[duly licensed electrician, or duly licensed plumber,]~~ as applicable, ~~[who intends to install the solar distributed energy resource system,]~~ that the plans for the installation of the solar distributed energy system comply with all applicable codes and laws.”

The second safeguard provided in subsection 196-B(c) on page 5, lines 16 to 19 pertains to the closing of the permit. This subsection should be clarified that a final inspection is required following the completion of the project and prior to the closing of the permit. The following is suggested language for the Committee's consideration:

“(c) If the requirements of subsection (a) are satisfied, the applicable government entity in the State that issues building permits shall issue the building permit number and close the permit within thirty days of submittal~~[-];~~ provided that a final inspection after the completion of the project has deemed the installation to be in compliance with all applicable codes and laws prior to the closing of the permit”.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



**SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

April 4, 2024

10:09 AM

Conference Room 211

**In SUPPORT of HB2614 HD1 SD1: Relating to Renewable Energy**

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Aloha Chair Keohokālole, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committees,

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS** HB2614 HD1 SD1, 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 SD1 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 Committees to **PASS** HB2614 HD1 SD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.



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

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair  
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, April 4, 2024; 10:09 a.m.  
Conference room 211 & Videoconference

**Re: Strong support for HB 2614 HD1 SD1 Relating to Renewable Energy**

Dear Chairs Keohokalole and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Moriwaki, and members of the Committees:

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 SD1 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that have impeded progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals.

HB 2614 HD1 SD1 will facilitate more efficient permitting processes for simple solar projects. When residents invest in solar, including paying application fees, they expect a streamlined process. Unfortunately, hundreds of our customers have experienced egregious delays with local jurisdictions throughout the permitting process. 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.

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 the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2614 HD1 SD1. We ask for your favorable consideration in passing this measure as it 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".

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





## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TO: Senate Committees on Ways and Means, and Commerce and Consumer Protection

FROM: Rob Van Tassell, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawaii

**Hearing: Thursday, 4/4/24; 10:09 AM; CR 211 and Videoconference**

Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members, Committees on Ways and Means, and Commerce and Consumer Protection:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **support for HB 2614 HD1 SD1**, which requires government entities that issue building permits to implement Solar APP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform to verify code compliance and issue permits. It creates a self-certification pathway for solar projects that are not SolarAPP+ compatible. I am Rob Van Tassell with Catholic Charities Hawaii.

Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawaii for over 75 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, families, homeless and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy to the most vulnerable of the people in Hawaii.

We already see the impacts of climate change in Hawaii—historic flooding, droughts, wildfires, etc. As climate change continues, it will often impact on the most vulnerable of our citizens, as we saw in the Lahaina fire. Financial instability increases which impacts both on residents and businesses. **Catholic Charities Hawaii is gravely concerned about these impacts on the low-come, ALICE, and special need populations that we serve.**

We need to take action now to streamline processes to promote the equitable development of renewal energy infrastructure. This bill would help Hawaii to achieve its goal of 100% renewable energy by December 31, 2045. It would lower the administrative barriers that have limited the development of residential and commercial-scale distributed energy resources. It would encourage more timely development of lower cost renewal energy systems. Implementing SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent would streamline the permit process and greatly reduce the wait time for a permit.

We urge your support of this bill to expand renewable energy options that will ensure greater energy resilience in the face of the heightened risk of climate change-related extreme weather events in the future. We need to plan now to promote options that will give our local residents hope for the future.

Catholic Charities Hawaii deeply appreciates your attention to ways to combat climate change. We urge your support of this bill. If you have any questions, please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson at (808) 527-4813.



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



## Support for HB2614 HD1 SD1 – RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

Dear Chairs Keohokalole and Dela Cruz, Vice chairs Fukunaga. and Moriwaki, and members of the committees CPN and WAM.

Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) Hawaii supports HB2614 HD1 SD1, which would implement an online Automated Permitting Platform; SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent.

CCL Hawaii comprises over 1000 members across Hawaii. We advocate for effective, efficient, and fair climate legislation. We support HB2614 HD1 SD1 as this is an important step to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more a resilient state. Currently, some families and small businesses are waiting up to a year to receive their solar permit. This is unnecessary and needs be remedied. HB2614 is an opportunity make the permitting process faster and cheaper for everyone to go solar.

SolarApp+ is free app that has been designed by the federal government. It has already been thoroughly vetted and implemented in multiple mainland jurisdictions, including throughout California with great success. SolarApp+ is managed and maintained by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) following stringent federal government cybersecurity protocols and best practices for user data privacy and security. Data privacy and security is a non-issue for SolarApp+.

Please support HB2614 HD1 SD1.

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](http://citizensclimatelobby.org).

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 12:58:04 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chairs Dela Cruz and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Moriwake and Fukunaga, and esteemed committee members:

I am writing to express our ***strong support for HB2614 SD1***, which presents a series of pragmatic measures to address longstanding issues with permitting for solar projects in the State of Hawaii. As one of the top 5 PV supplier globally, we want to participate and contribute to Hawaii's interest in renewable energy. HB2614 addresses:

- Requires the adoption of SolarAPP+ or an equivalent platform to facilitate efficient online permitting for smaller-scale, residential solar and energy storage projects;
- Eliminates the cumbersome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems; and
- Establishes a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not meet the criteria for SolarAPP+ (or its equivalent).

Thank you for providing the opportunity for us to provide testimony in ***strong support of HB2614 SD1***.

Respectfully

George Kuo

Sr. Director of Products

Canadian Solar Inc.

1(831)234-6550

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 1:02:13 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
P Kuromoto	Testifying for Solar Help Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Moriwake and Fukunaga, and esteemed committee members:

We express ***strong support for HB2614 SD1***, which presents a series of pragmatic measures to address longstanding issues with permitting for solar projects in the State of Hawaii. The bill:

- Requires the adoption of SolarAPP+ or an equivalent platform to facilitate efficient online permitting for smaller-scale, residential solar and energy storage projects;
- Eliminates the cumbersome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems; and
- Establishes a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not meet the criteria for SolarAPP+ (or its equivalent).

Thank you for providing the opportunity to testify in ***strong support of HB2614 SD1***.

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 1:12:15 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ella Aki	Testifying for Sol-Ark	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Moriwake and Fukunaga, and esteemed committee members:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB2614 SD1, which presents a series of pragmatic measures to address longstanding issues with permitting for solar projects in the State of Hawaii.

The bill:

- Requires the adoption of SolarAPP+ or an equivalent platform to facilitate efficient online permitting for smaller-scale, residential solar and energy storage projects;
- Eliminates the cumbersome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems; and
- Establishes a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not meet the criteria for SolarAPP+ (or its equivalent).

Thank you for providing the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB2614 SD1.

Mahalo piha,

Ella Henanipuakea Aki

Sol-Ark Regional Sales Manager, Pacific Islands

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 2:12:46 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Moriwake and Fukunaga, and esteemed committee members:

I am writing to express my *strong support for HB2614 SD1*, which presents a series of pragmatic measures to address longstanding issues with permitting for solar projects in the State of Hawaii. The bill:

- Requires the adoption of SolarAPP+ or an equivalent platform to facilitate efficient online permitting for smaller-scale, residential solar and energy storage projects;
- Eliminates the cumbersome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems; and
- Establishes a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not meet the criteria for SolarAPP+ (or its equivalent).

I am a member of the Solar permitting task force and meet regularly with the DPP. They want something to help streamline and take pressure off their limited resources. They are understaffed and overwhelmed and need this.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to testify in *strong support of HB2614 SD1*.

Respectfully,

Paul Orem - CEO

Photonworks Engineering LLP

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 2:49:37 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
James Rudolph	Testifying for Independent Energy	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Moriwake and Fukunaga, and esteemed committee members:

I am writing to express my ***strong support for HB2614 SD1***, which presents a series of pragmatic measures to address longstanding issues with permitting solar projects in Hawaii.

The bill:

- Requires the adoption of SolarAPP+ or an equivalent platform to facilitate efficient online permitting for smaller-scale, residential solar and energy storage projects;
- Eliminates the cumbersome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems; and
- Establishes a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not meet the criteria for SolarAPP+ (or its equivalent).

Thank you for providing the opportunity to testify in ***strong support of HB2614 SD1***.

Respectfully,

James Rudolph

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

HawaiiChangeAgents@gmail.com

hawaiichangeagents.org

April 2, 2024

**SUPPORT FOR HB2614 HD1 SD1 – Relating to Renewable Energy**

Aloha Chairs Keohokalole and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Moriwaki, and Committee Members:

**The Building Decarbonization Task Force of the Hawai'i Environmental Change Agents supports HB2614 HD1 SD1, 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 HD1 SD1** 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 HD1 SD1.**

Mahalo,

Building Decarbonization Task Force of HECA (by Paul Bernstein)





Before the Senate Committees on Ways and Means, and Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 10:09 a.m.

Testimony in Support of HB2614 HD1 SD1: Relating to Renewable Energy

Chairs Dela Cruz and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Moriwaki and Fukunaga, and Members of the  
Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support and provide comments on House Bill 2614 HD1 SD1.

Hawai'i Energy works to empower island families and businesses on behalf of the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to make smart energy choices to reduce energy consumption, save money, and pursue a 100% clean energy future. Energy efficiency – the energy we do not use – is the cheapest option to help us achieve our 100% clean energy goal by eliminating waste and being more efficient.

Hawai'i Energy applauds the legislature's efforts to support the continued pursuit of the clean energy targets included in the State's Clean Energy Initiative, which calls for Hawai'i to achieve 100% clean energy by 2045. This bill improves the permitting process for solar and energy storage projects – projects that are imperative to Hawai'i's ability to achieve its clean energy goals.

Projects that help the state progress toward its renewable energy, energy efficiency, and climate resiliency goals can run into delays for a variety of reasons – something Hawai'i Energy is certainly familiar with – and permitting issues are a longstanding obstacle. HB2614 HD1 SD1 addresses solar and energy storage project permitting issues by establishing a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects; removing the burdensome materials and methods requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems; and creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent).

We support common sense efforts to address permitting issues that cause delays for solar and energy storage projects that are important to Hawai'i's clean energy future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2614 HD1 SD1.

Sincerely,  
Caroline Carl  
Executive Director  
Hawai'i Energy



**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

April 4, 2024 at 10:09 AM  
Conference Room 211  
Decision Making Only

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2614 HD1 SD1**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Keohokalole, and members of the Committees:

Blue Planet Foundation **supports HB 2614 HD1 SD1**, 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 island<sup>1</sup> and 6,000 homes on Kaua'i<sup>2</sup> 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.

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<sup>1</sup> "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](https://hawaiianelectric.com/documents/clean_energy_hawaii/clean_energy_facts/pv_summary_4Q_2023.pdf))

<sup>2</sup> 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](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2023/Testimony/SB781_TESTIMONY_EET-GVO_02-09-23_.PDF)

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.

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.

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 8:13:07 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John & Rita Shockley	Testifying for Free Access Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

The Free Access Coalition supports HB2614 which will make it easier for the public to access lower cost solar electricity. The Dept. of Planning & Permitting needs to expedite people's effort to lower their electricity costs.

This Bill will do a lot to make this happen.

Mahalo for your time.

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 8:31:29 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Mulinix	Testifying for Greenpeace Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Keohokalole and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Moriwaki, and members of the CPN and WAM committees,

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 HD1SD1 that addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawai'i's renewable energy and climate resilience goals.

HB2614 HD1SD1 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 measure will help the counties overcome the obstacles they have with issuing permits.** By implementing provisions in HB2614 HD1SD1, 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 very successful on the continent reducing solar permitting time down to as little as one day. HB2614 HD1SD1 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.

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 such as wildfires cause a power failure.

Please pass HB2614 HD1SD1 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



SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Thursday, April 4, 2024, 10:09 a.m., Room 211

Testimony in support of HB 2614 HD1 SD1

Aloha Chairs Keohokalole and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Moriwaki, and members of the Commerce and Consumer Protection and Ways and Means committees:

As partners of the Hawaii Executive Collaborative (HEC) Climate Coalition, we support HB 2614 HD1 SD1, 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 Hawai'i. 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 Hawai'i's counties and the Governor. Our Coalition plays a critical role in uniting Hawai'i'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 HD1 SD1 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](http://hec.org/climate).*

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

*AES Hawai'i*

*Alaska Airlines*

*Alexander & Baldwin*

*Blue Planet Foundation*

*Bowers & Kubota*

*Catholic Charities Hawai'i*

*Chaminade University*

*Hawai'i Energy*

*Hawai'i Executive Collaborative*

*Hawai'i Green Bank*

*Hawai'i Solar Energy Association*

*Hawaiian Airlines*

*Hawaiian Electric*

*'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-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 5:57:07 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan B Roberts Emery	Testifying for Green Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair DelaCruz, Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chairs, and Members of Committee,

I write to offer Very strong support for HB2614 HD1 SD1 , on behalf of the Green Party of Hawai'i. This bill will help guide Hawai'i toward our 100% renewable energy goal ! Streamlining the permitting process , will help many in our communities , get access to solar power , finally.

Mahalo for hearing this bill and we ask that you pass HB2614.

Susan RobertsEmery

Co Chair GPH



**Hawaii Solar Energy Association**  
*Serving Hawaii Since 1977*

**Testimony of The Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) Regarding HB2614 HD1 SD1,  
Relating to Renewable Energy, Before the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer  
Protection and Ways and Means**

**Thursday, April 4, 2024**

Aloha Chairs Keohokalole and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Moriwake, and committee members:

The Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) **strongly supports HB2614 HD1 SD1**, which contains measures to streamline and remove permitting barriers to distributed solar and energy storage projects critical to reducing electricity bills and 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 SD1 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



**Hawaii Solar Energy Association**  
*Serving Hawaii Since 1977*

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 or more complex projects. By streamlining the process, smaller projects can be approved more 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. HSEA is open to working with authorities and decision-makers on a compromise solution that achieves an equivalent to removing this hurdle.

***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 must undergo final inspection before approval. 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 significant 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 SD1.**

Respectfully,

***/s/ Rocky Mould,***

Executive Director

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:01:32 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Steve Parsons	Testifying for Kauai Climate ACTION Coalition, Small Biz Owner	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Trusted Hawaii Lawmakers,

We strongly support this bill! Steamliing Solar Permitting should be a no-brainer YES! If there's opposition, I would be very suspicious of that or they are not informed on the important solutions like this that we have to implement ASAP to fight climate change!

Steve parsons, Hanapepe Kauai

KCAC, Surfrider foundation member, Hawaii EV Lead, Sm Biz owner.



To: The Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection (CPN)  
and  
The Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)  
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org  
Date: Thursday, April 4, 2024, 10:09am

### **In strong support of HB2614 HD1SD1**

Aloha Chairs Keohokalole and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Moriwaki, and members of the CPN and WAM committees,

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 HD1SD1** 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.

#### **ACHIEVING OUR DECARBONIZATION GOALS WHILE BUILDING RESILIENCY**

The current system for processing permits is untenable and a detriment to Hawaii achieving our clean energy goals. This bill offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline solar permitting, and as such, will remove unnecessary barriers and move us to the clean-energy economy we need.

HB2614 HD1SD1 addresses **longstanding** permitting issues that have impeded progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. Addressing these permitting issues is essential if Hawaii is to achieve these objectives, as well as reduce costs for residents. Importantly, solar coupled with battery storage provides resiliency by providing a backup energy source when storms or other emergencies like wildfires cause a power failure. Moreover, the Maui wildfires demonstrate the need for the State to both build grid resiliency *and* reduce ignition risk, which can be significantly aided by distributed rooftop solar and energy storage. Thus, with the highest electrical rates in the country and the impacts of climate change already being felt, it is abundantly clear we need to move forward on smart solutions that will not only help to stimulate our economy, but also make us more resilient.

## **SAFE AND AFFORDABLE SOLAR THROUGH PERMITTING AUTOMATION**

HB2614 HD1SD1 is a true game-changer. This bill offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will reduce costs for residents by streamlining solar permitting ***without compromising on safety***. By establishing a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent, HB2614 HD1SD1 will streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects. It is noted that SolarAPP+ is a free app that is being offered by the federal government. 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. It has already been thoroughly vetted and implemented in multiple jurisdictions on the continent, including California. **It is managed and maintained by NREL following stringent federal government cybersecurity protocols and best practices for user data privacy and security. As such, there have been no security risks or concerns.**

## **A BROKEN PERMITTING SYSTEM THAT'S HURTING HAWAII'S FAMILIES**

Rooftop solar power has an important role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating climate change, and as such, ***could be*** a key tool in our fight against the climate crisis, but our permitting system is broken. Red tape and the "permit pileup" is making it harder for Hawaii families to go solar. 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.

### **This measure will help the counties overcome the obstacles they have with issuing permits.**

By implementing provisions in HB2614 HD1SD1, there will be auto-approval, proceed-to-build for all solar and storage projects that qualify for the online submittal. In jurisdictions on the continent already using the SolarAPP+, they have shortened waits for permits from months to a *single day*.

Let's be honest. The permit pileup has been going on for years and has only gotten worse over time. The counties are in dire need of leadership from the legislature. Passing this measure is an opportunity for the legislature to provide a triple win for county permitting, Hawaii's families, and the climate! We must remove the unnecessary roadblocks and burdens to installing solar plus storage systems so that all may access the benefits from solar energy.

## **A COMMON-SENSE MEASURE WITH BROAD SUPPORT**

Please note that over the course of hearings for this measure during this legislative session, testimony in support came from the Hawaii Executive Collaboration Climate Coalition. This coalition includes: AES, Hawai'i Alaska Airlines, Alexander & Baldwin, Blue Planet Foundation, Bowers & Kubota, Catholic Charities Hawai'i, Chaminade University, Hawai'i Energy, Hawai'i Executive Collaborative, Hawai'i Green Bank, Hawai'i Solar Energy Association, Hawaiian Airlines, Hawaiian Electric, '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., and Zippy's.

Testimony in support of this measure was also submitted from the following businesses, agencies, and organizations: Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority; City and County of Honolulu Department of Planning and Permitting, Office of the Mayor-County of Maui; Ulupono

Initiative; Hawaii State Energy Office; Catholic Charities Hawai'i; Climate Protectors Hawai'i; Hawaii Unified Industries, LLC; Sunnova Energy International, Inc.; Greenpeace Hawaii; Hawaii Food Industry Association; 350 Hawaii.org; Sierra Club of Hawai'i; Green Party of Hawai'i; Hawaii Solar Energy Association, Inc.; Blue Planet Foundation; Citizens' Climate Lobby Hawaii; Green Power Projects, LLC; Inception Financial LLC; Chamber of Sustainable Commerce; Kauai Climate Action Coalition; Hawai'i Environmental Change Agents Building Decarbonization Task Force; Sunaru Inc. dba Solar Help Hawaii; Alternate Energy, Inc.; Tesla; Hawai'i Energy; Canadian Solar Inc; Photonworks Engineering; Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters; Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i; Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action; Hawaii Food Industry Association; Amcon Companies LLC; Building Decarbonization Task Force of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i; Sunrun; Sol-Ark; Blue Planet Energy; Recycle Hawaii; Clean the Pacific; The Solaray Corporation dba Inter-Island Solar Supply; Inception Financial LLC; and numerous individuals, with thirty-four individuals from the last hearing alone.

**It is abundantly clear that this measure has broad support that only continues to grow, and that this legislation is very much needed.**

Bottom line, our current permitting system is broken and in drastic need of intervention. At a time when every penny counts, solar can help keep electricity costs down and bring clean energy benefits to our communities. Solar development is good for the economy and supports good clean-energy jobs. The legislature has a chance to make it faster and cheaper for everyone to go solar. Please pass this very important bill so that Hawaii may benefit from streamlining solar permitting.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** for this very important legislation.

Sherry Pollack  
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org



Legislative Testimony of Sunrun Inc.  
Before the CPN/WA Committee  
April 4, 2024

**IN SUPPORT of HB2614 HD1 SD1 – Relating to Renewable Energy**

Dear Chairs Keohokalole and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Moriwaki, and distinguished Members of the Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Ways and Means,

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 professionals 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 SD1**, 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 SD1 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,<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> In 2023, Hawaiian Electric (HECO) achieved a 33% consolidated RPS, largely due to continued DER adoption.<sup>3</sup> Rooftop solar is the leading contributor to Hawai‘i’s clean energy portfolio, making up over 46% of all renewable energy in the state.<sup>4</sup> 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

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

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

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.hawaiianelectric.com/hawaiian-electric-achieves-33-renewable-energy-in-2023>

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



required by the state of California after legislation passed in 2022.<sup>5</sup> Further, the Solar Energy Industry Association (SEIA) estimates that soft costs make up about 65% of all residential solar installation costs, up from 58% in 2014.<sup>6</sup> 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 SD1 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.

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<sup>5</sup> 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](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB379)

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



Email: [communications@ulupono.com](mailto:communications@ulupono.com)

SENATE COMMITTEES ON COMMERCE & CONSUMER PROTECTION AND WAYS & MEANS  
Thursday, April 4, 2024 — 10:09 a.m.

**Ulupono Initiative supports HB 2614 HD1 SD1, Relating to Renewable Energy.**

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committees:

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 SD1**, 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata  
Director of Government Affairs

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<sup>1</sup> 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](https://energy.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Act-238_HSEO_Decarbonization_Report.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> 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/>

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 1:18:29 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, Chairs Dela Cruz and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Moriwake and Fukunaga, and esteemed committee members,

I am writing to express my ***strong support for HB2614 SD1***, which presents a series of pragmatic measures to address longstanding issues with permitting for solar projects in the State of Hawaii. The bill:

- Requires the adoption of SolarAPP+ or an equivalent platform to facilitate efficient online permitting for smaller-scale, residential solar and energy storage projects;
- Eliminates the cumbersome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems; and
- Establishes a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not meet the criteria for SolarAPP+ (or its equivalent).

Mahalo for providing the opportunity to testify in ***strong support of HB2614 SD1!***

Roy Skaggs

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 1:31:34 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Terri Rhody	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Moriwake and Fukunaga, and esteemed committee members:

I am writing to express my ***strong support for HB2614 SD1***, which presents a series of pragmatic measures to address longstanding issues with permitting for solar projects in the State of Hawaii. The bill:

- Requires the adoption of SolarAPP+ or an equivalent platform to facilitate efficient online permitting for smaller-scale, residential solar and energy storage projects;
- Eliminates the cumbersome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems; and
- Establishes a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not meet the criteria for SolarAPP+ (or its equivalent).

Thank you for providing the opportunity to testify in ***strong support of HB2614 SD1***.

Respectfully,

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 1:33:32 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Justin Furuta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Moriwake and Fukunaga, and esteemed committee members:

I am writing to express my ***strong support for HB2614 SD1***, which presents a series of pragmatic measures to address longstanding issues with permitting for solar projects in the State of Hawaii. The bill:

- Requires the adoption of SolarAPP+ or an equivalent platform to facilitate efficient online permitting for smaller-scale, residential solar and energy storage projects;
- Eliminates the cumbersome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems; and
- Establishes a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not meet the criteria for SolarAPP+ (or its equivalent).

Thank you for providing the opportunity to testify in ***strong support of HB2614 SD1***.

Respectfully,

Justin Furuta

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 1:35:13 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
wei lun lian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Moriwake and Fukunaga, and esteemed committee members:

I am writing to express my ***strong support for HB2614 HD1 SD1***, which presents a series of pragmatic measures to address longstanding issues with permitting for solar projects in the State of Hawaii. The bill:

- Requires the adoption of SolarAPP+ or an equivalent platform to facilitate efficient online permitting for smaller-scale, residential solar and energy storage projects;
- Eliminates the cumbersome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems; and
- Establishes a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not meet the criteria for SolarAPP+ (or its equivalent).

Thank you for providing the opportunity to testify in ***strong support of HB2614 HD1 SD1***.

Respectfully,

Wei Lun Lian

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 1:38:58 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jim Vasquez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Moriwake and Fukunaga, and esteemed committee members:

I am writing to express my ***strong support for HB2614 SD1***, which presents a series of pragmatic measures to address longstanding issues with permitting for solar projects in the State of Hawaii. The bill:

- Requires the adoption of SolarAPP+ or an equivalent platform to facilitate efficient online permitting for smaller-scale, residential solar and energy storage projects;
- Eliminates the cumbersome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems; and
- Establishes a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not meet the criteria for SolarAPP+ (or its equivalent).

Thank you for providing the opportunity to testify in ***strong support of HB2614 SD1***.

Respectfully, Jim V.

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 2:07:16 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Julian Kahumana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

April 2, 2024

House of Representatives State of Hawaii Honolulu, Hawaii

Subject: Support for H.B. NO. 2614 - An Act Relating to Renewable Energy

Dear Legislators,

My name is Julian Kahumana, and I am an engineer at Alternate Energy Hawaii, located at 96-1276 Waihona St STE 114, Pearl City, HI 96782. Our company is committed to advancing the renewable energy sector in Hawaii, specifically focusing on solar energy solutions. I am writing to express our strong support for H.B. NO. 2614, a bill that is pivotal for the future of renewable energy in our state.

This legislation is a critical step towards meeting Hawaii's ambitious renewable energy goals set for 2045. By streamlining the permitting process for solar and energy storage systems, it addresses one of the significant barriers to deploying these essential technologies. The introduction of SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform will considerably reduce the administrative burden on companies like ours, allowing for quicker and more efficient project completion.

The solar industry in Hawaii is currently navigating through challenging waters, marked by reduced subsidies and economic hardships. These conditions have necessitated cost-cutting measures within our company, including furloughs, and have even led to the closure of smaller solar companies. The support provided by H.B. NO. 2614 would, therefore, be invaluable in stabilizing and fostering the growth of the solar sector in our state.

The bill's focus on facilitating the adoption of solar distributed energy resource systems through reduced bureaucratic hurdles and the implementation of a self-certification process for solar projects not only supports local businesses but also directly benefits our customers, who face high utility costs. Making renewable energy more accessible and affordable is crucial for Hawaii's energy independence and sustainability.

In summary, I strongly urge your support for H.B. NO. 2614. Its passage will significantly impact the solar industry's viability and our state's progress towards a cleaner, more sustainable



energy future. We appreciate your consideration of this important matter and stand ready to provide further information or engage in discussions to support this bill's enactment.

Thank you for your attention and support.

Sincerely,

Julian Kahumana Engineer, Alternate Energy Hawaii 96-1276 Waihona St STE 114, Pearl City,  
HI 96782 (808) 380-4664

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 2:21:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jeffrey Lum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Moriwake and Fukunaga, and esteemed committee members:

I am writing to express my ***strong support for HB2614 SD1***, which presents a series of pragmatic measures to address longstanding issues with permitting for solar projects in the State of Hawaii. The bill:

- Requires the adoption of SolarAPP+ or an equivalent platform to facilitate efficient online permitting for smaller-scale, residential solar and energy storage projects;
- Eliminates the cumbersome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems; and
- Establishes a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not meet the criteria for SolarAPP+ (or its equivalent).

Thank you for providing the opportunity to testify in ***strong support of HB2614 SD1***.

aloha, Jeff Lum

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 2:41:37 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Moriwake and Fukunaga, and esteemed committee members:

I am writing to express my ***strong support for HB2614 SD1***, which presents a series of pragmatic measures to address longstanding issues with permitting for solar projects in the State of Hawaii. The bill:

- Requires the adoption of SolarAPP+ or an equivalent platform to facilitate efficient online permitting for smaller-scale, residential solar and energy storage projects;
- Eliminates the cumbersome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems; and
- Establishes a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not meet the criteria for SolarAPP+ (or its equivalent).

Thank you for providing the opportunity to testify in ***strong support of HB2614 SD1***.

Respectfully,

Yuko Ahina

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 2:44:39 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Moriwake and Fukunaga, and esteemed committee members:

I am writing to express my ***strong support for HB2614 SD1***, which presents a series of pragmatic measures to address longstanding issues with permitting for solar projects in the State of Hawai‘i. The bill:

- Requires the adoption of SolarAPP+ or an equivalent platform to facilitate efficient online permitting for smaller-scale, residential solar and energy storage projects;
- Eliminates the cumbersome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems; and
- Establishes a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not meet the criteria for SolarAPP+ (or its equivalent).

Thank you for providing the opportunity to testify in ***strong support of HB2614 SD1***.

Respectfully,

Radford Nakamura

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 4:31:14 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Daniela Escontrela	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill with the caveat that I would prefer it take effect much sooner than 2060.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Decision-Making on April 4, 2024 at 10:09 am

SUPPORTING HB 2614 HD 1 SD 1

My name is John Kawamoto, and I support HB 2614 HD 1 SD 1.

The Legislature has recognized that we should be advancing as quickly as possible to a clean, renewable energy future by passing a resolution declaring a climate emergency, and by passing a bill establishing a goal of net-negative emissions goal by 2045.

Solar power is clean and renewable, and it is now the cheapest form of energy. When paired with battery storage, solar power can provide reliable energy, even at night and on cloudy days.

The reliability of solar power was highlighted by hurricanes in Florida and Puerto Rico last year. When power lines went down, residential solar systems continued to generate electricity.

This bill will make government more efficient and reduce the length of time taken to process solar permits. Solar APP+ has already been proven to be effective through experience.

This bill will move Hawaii more quickly toward a 100% clean, renewable energy future and a more livable Earth for us, for our children, and future generations.

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 5:18:02 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John Patt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I ask that you support HB 2614. Thank you.

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 5:36:56 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB2614 HD1SD1 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. HB2614 HD1SD1 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline 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 like wildfires cause a power failure. We must remove the unnecessary roadblocks and burdens to installing solar plus storage systems so that all may access and benefit from solar energy!

- HB2614 HD1SD1 establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects. SolarAPP+ is a free app that is being offered by the federal government. It has already been thoroughly vetted and implemented in multiple jurisdictions on the continent, including California. It is managed and maintained by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) following stringent federal government cybersecurity protocols and best practices for user data privacy and security. As such, there have been no security risks or concerns.

- Currently families are often waiting more than a year to receive their permit. This is unacceptable and must be remedied. **This measure will help the counties overcome the obstacles they have with issuing permits.** By implementing provisions in HB2614 HD1SD1, there will be auto-approval, proceed-to-build for all solar and storage projects that qualify for the online submittal.

- Bottom line, rooftop solar *could be* a key tool in our fight against climate change but our permitting system is broken. HB2614 HD1SD1 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals. The counties are in dire need of leadership from the legislature. Passing this measure is an opportunity for the legislature to provide a triple win for county permitting, Hawaii's families, and the climate!



**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 5:42:47 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Georgia L Hoopes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I strongly support HB2614 HD1 SD1

Mahalo!

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 5:54:01 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cheryl Ho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senators Dela Cruz and Moriwaki, and Members of the Ways and Means Committee, and Senators Keohokalole and Fukunaga and Members of the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee:

If Hawai'i is to make timely progress toward self-sufficiency by using natural energy, we need to eliminate barriers to installing solar energy panels in residences as well as in businesses.

Please expedite the issuing of permits, by passing HB2614!!

Mahalo!!

Cheryl Ho, Nu'uaniu

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 6:12:18 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Richard Camp	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. Rooftop solar *could be* a key tool in our fight against climate change but our permitting system is broken. HB2614 HD1SD1 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals.

Mahalo,

Richard Camp

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 6:24:40 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Hi'ilani Makahanaloa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Keohokalole, and Committee Members,

Mahalo for hearing this important legislation which would help make solar energy more accessible to local families. I am in strong support of HB2614 to support the counties to modernize and streamline our solar permitting process. The state has committed to reaching a 100% renewable energy goal, and enabling solar energy, particularly residential rooftop solar, is a critical component of that. While strides have been made in recent years, more needs to be done to reduce the cost of and access to solar for local working families. Streamlining permitting is a critical component of that. Reducing the permitting burden of our county permitting offices for solar energy will also support other priorities, like affordable housing, by freeing up capacity of permitting staff to focus on processes that cannot be as automated.

The SolarAPP+ is free for counties to administer, and the increased solar energy will help to grow the state's economy and tax revenue. A 2017 peer-reviewed study of the state's solar energy tax credit showed that for each \$1 spent on solar tax credits, the state receives \$1.97-\$2.67 in additional tax revenues:

Mahalo for your consideration and for your work to reduce the cost and accessibility of solar energy so that more families can receive its economic benefits.

Mahalo,

Hi'ilani Makahanaloa

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 6:38:54 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bruce Mirken	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Keohokalole, and Committee Members,

I will keep this brief: I write in strong support of HB2614 to support the counties to modernize and streamline our solar permitting process. Hawaii has committed to reaching a 100% renewable energy goal, but we aren't getting their fast enough. Enabling solar energy, particularly residential rooftop solar, is a critical component of that. While there has been progress in recent years, more needs to be done to reduce the cost of and increase access to rooftop solar for local working families. Streamlining permitting is a critical component of making this happen. By reducing the permitting burden of our county permitting offices for solar energy, we can also support other priorities, like affordable housing, by freeing up capacity of permitting staff to focus on processes that cannot be as automated.

The climate crisis isn't something in the future, it's here. Hawaii is vulnerable, and it will get worse. HB 2614 is a small but important step in the right direction.

Mahalo for considering my thoughts.

Bruce Mirken

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 6:47:17 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB2614 is a bill for the people of Hawaii. Please support this bill in order to make solar energy accessible to all. Make permitting less onerous, by modernizing it.

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 6:52:54 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kimi Palacio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Keohokalole, and Committee Members,

Mahalo for hearing this important legislation which would help make solar energy more accessible to local families. I am in strong support of HB2614 to support the counties to modernize and streamline our solar permitting process. The state has committed to reaching a 100% renewable energy goal, and enabling solar energy, particularly residential rooftop solar, is a critical component of that. While strides have been made in recent years, more needs to be done to reduce the cost of and access to solar for local working families. Streamlining permitting is a critical component of that. Reducing the permitting burden of our county permitting offices for solar energy will also support other priorities, like affordable housing, by freeing up capacity of permitting staff to focus on processes that cannot be as automated.

The SolarAPP+ is free for counties to administer, and the increased solar energy will help to grow the state's economy and tax revenue. A 2017 peer-reviewed study of the state's solar energy tax credit showed that for each \$1 spent on solar tax credits, the state receives \$1.97-\$2.67 in additional tax revenues:

Mahalo for your consideration and for your work to reduce the cost and accessibility of solar energy so that more families can receive its economic benefits.

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 6:53:48 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brodie Lockard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Keohokalole, and Committee Members,

Mahalo for hearing this important legislation which would help make solar energy more accessible to local families. I am in strong support of HB2614 to support the counties to modernize and streamline our solar permitting process. The state has committed to reaching a 100% renewable energy goal, and enabling solar energy, particularly residential rooftop solar, is a critical component of that. While strides have been made in recent years, more needs to be done to reduce the cost of and access to solar for local working families. Streamlining permitting is a critical component of that. Reducing the permitting burden of our county permitting offices for solar energy will also support other priorities, like affordable housing, by freeing up capacity of permitting staff to focus on processes that cannot be as automated.

The SolarAPP+ is free for counties to administer, and the increased solar energy will help to grow the state's economy and tax revenue. A 2017 peer-reviewed study of the state's solar energy tax credit showed that for each \$1 spent on solar tax credits, the state receives \$1.97-\$2.67 in additional tax revenues:

Mahalo for your consideration and for your work to reduce the cost and accessibility of solar energy so that more families can receive its economic benefits.

Brodie Lockard

Founder, 350Hawaii.org



**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 6:58:59 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joselyn Hollingsworth	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill 100% due to the rising costs, despite trying to air dry laundry, refrain from using AC, and having solar panels.

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 7:10:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tia Lee Klug-Wessell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Keohokalole, and Committee Members,

Mahalo for hearing this important legislation which would help make solar energy more accessible to local families. I am in strong support of HB2614 to support the counties to modernize and streamline our solar permitting process. The state has committed to reaching a 100% renewable energy goal, and enabling solar energy, particularly residential rooftop solar, is a critical component of that. While strides have been made in recent years, more needs to be done to reduce the cost of and access to solar for local working families. Streamlining permitting is a critical component of that. Reducing the permitting burden of our county permitting offices for solar energy will also support other priorities, like affordable housing, by freeing up capacity of permitting staff to focus on processes that cannot be as automated.

The SolarAPP+ is free for counties to administer, and the increased solar energy will help to grow the state's economy and tax revenue. A 2017 peer-reviewed study of the state's solar energy tax credit showed that for each \$1 spent on solar tax credits, the state receives \$1.97-\$2.67 in additional tax revenues:

Mahalo for your consideration and for your work to reduce the cost and accessibility of solar energy so that more families can receive its economic benefits.

Tia Lee Klug-Wessell

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 7:19:02 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Keohokalole, and Committee Members,

Mahalo for hearing this important legislation which would help make solar energy more accessible to local families. I am in strong support of HB2614 to support the counties to modernize and streamline our solar permitting process. The state has committed to reaching a 100% renewable energy goal, and enabling solar energy, particularly residential rooftop solar, is a critical component of that. While strides have been made in recent years, more needs to be done to reduce the cost of and access to solar for local working families. Streamlining permitting is a critical component of that. Reducing the permitting burden of our county permitting offices for solar energy will also support other priorities, like affordable housing, by freeing up capacity of permitting staff to focus on processes that cannot be as automated.

The SolarAPP+ is free for counties to administer, and the increased solar energy will help to grow the state's economy and tax revenue. A 2017 peer-reviewed study of the state's solar energy tax credit showed that for each \$1 spent on solar tax credits, the state receives \$1.97-\$2.67 in additional tax revenues:

Mahalo for your consideration and for your work to reduce the cost and accessibility of solar energy so that more families can receive its economic benefits.

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 7:25:39 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robert Culbertson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators!

I strongly support HB2614 HD1SD1 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. HB2614 HD1SD1 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline permitting. This is an important step to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.

Please the bill!

R A Culbertson

Honokaa

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 7:30:51 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Paul Montague	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Esteemed bureaucrats, as someone who is off grid with a permitted system, I can tell you that solar power is a great option to help reduce global climate change and dependence on fossil fuel. I support any legislation that makes getting solar power easier to obtain. I would go further to make a rule that would allow licensed solar installers able to provide these systems without any permits. Please help to reduce the needless red tape.

Thank you,

Paul Montague

Ocean View

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 7:34:17 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
William Saunders	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear PublicServants, thank you for your service.

I am strongly in support of this bill to streamline the permit process and give consumers a better idea of what is going on.

I purchased a PV solar system at the end of last year. The system works great and my contractor was excellent, but the permitting process was far from transparent, especially given all of the small print describing HECO's solar energy plans.

So please pass this bill, at least as a beginning step to help Hawaii consumers switch over to solar.

Thsnk you,

Bill Saunders

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 7:44:37 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KODA DAILY	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB2614 HD1SD1 establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects. SolarAPP+ is a free app that is being offered by the federal government. It has already been thoroughly vetted and implemented in multiple jurisdictions on the continent, including California. It is managed and maintained by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) following stringent federal government cybersecurity protocols and best practices for user data privacy and security. As such, there have been no security risks or concerns.

- Currently families are often waiting more than a year to receive their permit. This is unacceptable and must be remedied. **This measure will help the counties overcome the obstacles they have with issuing permits.** By implementing provisions in HB2614 HD1SD1, there will be auto-approval, proceed-to-build for all solar and storage projects that qualify for the online submittal.

- Bottom line, rooftop solar *could be* a key tool in our fight against climate change but our permitting system is broken. HB2614 HD1SD1 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals. The counties are in dire need of leadership from the legislature. Passing this measure is an opportunity for the legislature to provide a triple win for county permitting, Hawaii's families, and the climate!

Mahalo for your integrity.

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 7:48:39 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
L. Osterer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**This bill to Streamline Solar Permitting**, will break through the backlog for solar projects. Up until now homeowners sometimes **wait up to a year or longer** to get their permit to install solar panels. You know they are pretty standard these days. Through this bill, the State could offer a free federally designed online application. It can speed up **months to a day**. This helps families quickly lower costs and reduce the carbon footprint. It's a no-brainer.

**HB2614 HD1SD1 wil help meet our** renewable energy and climate resilience goals and increase our backup energy supply for storms and other emergencies.. This online application is already in use successfully in other locations such as California. Let's get it done here.

Thank you for your consideration.

L. Osterer, a resident senior who needs solar.



**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 8:02:12 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
TOM DIGRAZIA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I very strongly support HB2614!

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 8:13:36 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Thompson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. The cumbersome permitting process needs to be addressed.

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 8:31:34 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Keohokalole, and Committee Members,

Mahalo for hearing this important legislation which would help make solar energy more accessible to local families. I am in strong support of HB2614 to support the counties to modernize and streamline our solar permitting process. The state has committed to reaching a 100% renewable energy goal, and enabling solar energy, particularly residential rooftop solar, is a critical component of that. While strides have been made in recent years, more needs to be done to reduce the cost of and access to solar for local working families. Streamlining permitting is a critical component of that. Reducing the permitting burden of our county permitting offices for solar energy will also support other priorities, like affordable housing, by freeing up capacity of permitting staff to focus on processes that cannot be as automated.

The SolarAPP+ is free for counties to administer, and the increased solar energy will help to grow the state’s economy and tax revenue. A 2017 peer-reviewed study of the state’s solar energy tax credit showed that for each \$1 spent on solar tax credits, the state receives \$1.97-\$2.67 in additional tax revenues:

Mahalo for your consideration and for your work to reduce the cost and accessibility of solar energy so that more families can receive its economic benefits.

This legislation will lower the cost of energy for local families who go solar, help grow our economy and increase tax revenue, and help our environment and renewable energy goals. It’s a real win-win-win, but we need to let legislators know that this is something that everyday local people want.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Volcano HI 96785

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 8:32:21 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Janice Palma-Glennie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

aloha,

please support HB2614 to help modernize the permitting process so that Solar Energy is more accessible for Hawai`i residents.

mahalo and sincerely,

janice palma-glennie

kailua-kona

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 9:03:38 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lindsey Fritz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and mahalo for your consideration in support of this fantastic bill. I am in strong support of HB2614 to support the counties to modernize and streamline our solar permitting process. There is no need to pay to bring in fossil fuels when we have renewable energy sources already here. Let's take advantage and help everyone have access to solar energy. Let's make it a little easier for everyone financially. Mahalo

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 9:07:22 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Greg Puppione	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Keohokalole, and Committee Members,

Mahalo for hearing this important legislation which would help make solar energy more accessible to local families. I am in strong support of HB2614 to support the counties to modernize and streamline our solar permitting process. The state has committed to reaching a 100% renewable energy goal, and enabling solar energy, particularly residential rooftop solar, is a critical component of that. While strides have been made in recent years, more needs to be done to reduce the cost of and access to solar for local working families. Streamlining permitting is a critical component of that. Reducing the permitting burden of our county permitting offices for solar energy will also support other priorities, like affordable housing, by freeing up capacity of permitting staff to focus on processes that cannot be as automated.

The SolarAPP+ is free for counties to administer, and the increased solar energy will help to grow the state's economy and tax revenue. A 2017 peer-reviewed study of the state's solar energy tax credit showed that for each \$1 spent on solar tax credits, the state receives \$1.97-\$2.67 in additional tax revenues:

Mahalo for your consideration and for your work to reduce the cost and accessibility of solar energy so that more families can receive its economic benefits.

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 9:08:31 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

Please support this bill!

**This measure will help the counties overcome the obstacles they have encountered issuing rooftop solar and storage permits.**

Currently, families are often waiting more than a year to receive their permit. This is unacceptable and must be remedied.

HB2614 HD1SD1 establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects.

SolarAPP+ is a free app that is being offered by the federal government.

It has already been thoroughly vetted and implemented in multiple jurisdictions on the continent, including California.

It is managed and maintained by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) following stringent federal government cybersecurity protocols and best practices for user data privacy and security.

As such, there have been no security risks or concerns.

By implementing provisions in HB2614 HD1SD1, there will be auto-approval, proceed-to-build for all solar and storage projects that qualify for the online submittal.

Mahalo for your support!

Thomas Brandt

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 9:14:29 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sheila Gage	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Keohokalole, and Committee Members,

Mahalo for hearing this important legislation which would help make solar energy more accessible to local families. I am in strong support of HB2614 to support the counties to modernize and streamline our solar permitting process. The state has committed to reaching a 100% renewable energy goal, and enabling solar energy, particularly residential rooftop solar, is a critical component of that. While strides have been made in recent years, more needs to be done to reduce the cost of and access to solar for local working families. Streamlining permitting is a critical component of that. Reducing the permitting burden of our county permitting offices for solar energy will also support other priorities, like affordable housing, by freeing up capacity of permitting staff to focus on processes that cannot be as automated.

The SolarAPP+ is free for counties to administer, and the increased solar energy will help to grow the state's economy and tax revenue. A 2017 peer-reviewed study of the state's solar energy tax credit showed that for each \$1 spent on solar tax credits, the state receives \$1.97-\$2.67 in additional tax revenues:

Mahalo for your consideration and for your work to reduce the cost and accessibility of solar energy so that more families can receive its economic benefits.

This legislation will lower the cost of energy for local families who go solar, help grow our economy and increase tax revenue, and help our environment and renewable energy goals. It's a real win-win-win, but we need to let legislators know that this is something that everyday local people want.

In addition I believe that solar panels belong in rooftops and not over agriculture land or any land period. It is not only not appealing to the eyes, but can also blind people while driving when the angle of the sun hits those panels at the right time. Developers should be required to put both photovoltaic and water heating solar panels with battery storage on all their homes not just as an option, but as a requirement to develop. That should include apt buildings and commercial buildings as well. Why this hasn't been done already is beyond my imagination cause it makes perfect sense for all new developments. In addition HECO should also be required to buy any excess power made by these homes that exceed their capacity of usage. Why allow the building of all these solar farms, when every rooftop isn't utilized first? Makes no sense! As our



government this should be a no brainier. But it seems common sense doesn't exist much anymore or entities are stopping such ideas or suggestions. Do your jobs and make it work for the people and not the pockets of whoever is profiting from these ugly things across our beautiful landscape.

Thank you for your time.

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 9:48:12 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jesse Palmer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The current length of time for permitting solar panels is a huge drag on installation and adds to the costs. This bill is an excellent idea. We need to do everythind possible to make solar power more accessible for every home in Hawaii.

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 9:49:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB2614 to streamline the distributed solar energy permitting process. This bill will save homeowners money, will save jobs in the solar industry, and will help Hawaii meet its renewable energy goals to protect our aina.

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 9:51:40 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Amy Cook	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Keohokalole, and Committee Members,

I was a reviewer for building permits for Hawaii County residents and developers from 2012 through 2022. During that time there were many attempts to streamline the review process, many of which were successful. Review of PV system permits in Hawaii County is already abbreviated as much as possible under the county's current system. Automation may reduce the workload of the county's very busy electrical inspectors and thus reduce processing time for PV permits in particular and permits for structures in general.

Mahalo for hearing this important legislation which would help make solar energy more accessible to local families. I am in strong support of HB2614 to support the counties to modernize and streamline our solar permitting process. The state has committed to reaching a 100% renewable energy goal, and enabling solar energy, particularly residential rooftop solar, is a critical component of that. While strides have been made in recent years, more needs to be done to reduce the cost of and access to solar for local working families. Streamlining permitting is a critical component of that. Reducing the permitting burden of our county permitting offices for solar energy will also support other priorities, like affordable housing, by freeing up capacity of permitting staff to focus on processes that cannot be as automated.

The SolarAPP+ is free for counties to administer, and the increased solar energy will help to grow the state's economy and tax revenue. A 2017 peer-reviewed study of the state's solar energy tax credit showed that for each \$1 spent on solar tax credits, the state receives \$1.97-\$2.67 in additional tax revenues.

Mahalo for your consideration and for your work to reduce the cost and accessibility of solar energy so that more families can receive its economic benefits.

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 10:39:47 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rachel Lankford	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of this bill. We can do better for residents of Hawai'i. Streamlining any permit process is in our best interests. Please pass this bill now. Solar should be everyone's right to get cleaner energy.  
Mahalo nui,

Rachel

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 11:11:19 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gail Spicuzza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in favor of HB2614 because it is common sense that we have adequate sun in Hawaii to benefit from solar energy. I personally have invested in having 15 solar panels and 6 deep cycle batteries for many years now and all my electrical needs are met. When there is an outage, I continue to have electricity. I am not connected to the grid as KIUC is not equitable in reimbursing their customers for the use of the electricity they take compared what they charge their customers. An unfortunate double standard. It will greatly benefit us to have solar directly, no connection to the grid necessary.

Please pass HB2614 for the wise benefit for the people.

Respectfully submitted,

In Appreciation,

Gail Spicuzza

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 12:13:18 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mary Lu Kelley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha from Kaua'i. I strongly support HB2614 HD1SD1 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. HB2614 HD1SD1 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline permitting. This is an important step to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.

Please do the right thing.

Thank you,

Mary Lu Kelley

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 12:44:58 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nikos Leverenz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB2614, HD 1, SD 1, which will provide counties with the latitude to modernize and streamline the solar permitting process.

State policy should empower as many households as possible—and as quickly as possible—to make rooftop solar a key source of their energy consumption.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.



**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 1:30:01 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alexander K.D. McNicoll	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e ka Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Keohokalole, and Committee Members,

Mahalo for hearing this important legislation which would help make solar energy more accessible to local families. I am in strong support of HB2614 to support the counties to modernize and streamline our solar permitting process. The state has committed to reaching a 100% renewable energy goal, and enabling solar energy, particularly residential rooftop solar, is a critical component of that. While strides have been made in recent years, more needs to be done to reduce the cost of and access to solar for local working families. Streamlining permitting is a critical component of that. Reducing the permitting burden of our county permitting offices for solar energy will also support other priorities, like affordable housing, by freeing up capacity of permitting staff to focus on processes that cannot be as automated.

The SolarAPP+ is free for counties to administer, and the increased solar energy will help to grow the state's economy and tax revenue. A 2017 peer-reviewed study of the state's solar energy tax credit showed that for each \$1 spent on solar tax credits, the state receives \$1.97-\$2.67 in additional tax revenues:

Mahalo for your consideration and for your work to reduce the cost and accessibility of solar energy so that more families can receive its economic benefits.

Me ka mahalo,  
na Alexander McNicoll

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 3:50:05 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Roger Epstein	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Solar is so important for Hawaii and the world. Obviously, we have some of the best weather in the world to utilize solar. Let's make our energy costs go from the highest to some of the lowest, and reduce our high cost of living that forces our children to move to the continent.

Please pass this bill.

mahalo nui loa.

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 6:15:29 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Travis Idol	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because it encourages the use of SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline permitting for household renewable energy systems. It is well known that the state permitting process for building and installing renewable energy systems adds major delays that discourages people from participating and slows our absolutely essential transition to renewable energy. Some families are waiting over a YEAR to get approval for something the state is encouraging, so anything we can do to make that process easier and quicker should be supported.

SolarAPP+ is a free app that is being offered by the federal government. It has already been thoroughly vetted and implemented in multiple jurisdictions on the continent, including California. It is managed and maintained by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) following stringent federal government cybersecurity protocols and best practices for user data privacy and security. As such, there have been no security risks or concerns.

This bill is important, as well, because it supports household renewable energy systems as compared to utility-scale systems. We should be supporting distributed and smaller scale renewable energy as much as possible. This provides energy independence at the most local level and reduces land use conflicts between energy generation and agriculture or urban and residential green space.

Our experience in Hawai'i is that household demand and willingness to install renewable energy systems exceeds the pace at which it is being approved and installed. This bill, therefore, can have a measurable and important effect on the speed with which we can transition to a 100% renewable energy future, so I urge your support of this important bill.

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 6:41:38 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dave Kisor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

If we are to have solar and or wind power, they shoul be on publicly owned mini and microgrids.

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 6:42:19 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jean Jewell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Bill HB2614. Hawaii needs to reduce energy costs by increasing solar and streamlining the process to achieve this goal.

Jean Jewell

Holualoa 96725

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 6:59:29 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Melissa Barker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you support HB2614.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 7:02:26 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alice Abellanida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Hawaii families need relief from high energy costs. The permitting process takes too long. Please support this bill.

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 8:02:37 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jeffrey Baucom	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Keohokalole, and Committee Members,

Mahalo for hearing this important legislation which would help make solar energy more accessible to local

families. I am in strong support of HB2614 to support the counties to modernize and streamline our solar permitting process. The state has committed to reaching a 100% renewable energy goal, and enabling solar energy, particularly residential rooftop solar, is a critical component of that. While strides have been made in recent years, more needs to be done to reduce the cost of and access to solar for local working families. Streamlining permitting is a critical component of that. Reducing the permitting burden of our county permitting offices for solar energy will also support other priorities, like affordable housing, by freeing up capacity of permitting staff to focus on processes that cannot be as automated.

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Mahalo for your consideration and for your work to reduce the cost and accessibility of solar energy so that more families can receive its economic benefits.



**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 8:41:49 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Streamlining permitting to enable renewables is of utmost importance as we've no time to lose in mitigating climate change: it's the challenge of our lives!

Mahalo

Bobbie Best, Wailuku

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:00:44 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carolyn Eaton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chairs Keohokalole and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Moriwaki and members of the Committees.

My name is Carolyn Eaton and I am a Honolulu resident. I express strong support for advancing the adoption of solar generation of energy in Hawaii. This new online permitting measure, adopted and tested in California already, will contribute to wider, more rapid permitting and adoption of clean energy.

Mahalo for your hard work in service to the people of Hawai'i.

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:07:14 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cynthia Conrad	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB2614 HD1SD1 establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects. SolarAPP+ is a free app that is being offered by the federal government and has already been thoroughly vetted and implemented in multiple jurisdictions on the continent, including California. It is managed and maintained by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) following stringent federal government cybersecurity protocols and best practices for user data privacy and security. As such, there have been no security risks or concerns.

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:08:19 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
valerie trujillo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Keohokalole, and Committee Members,

Mahalo for hearing this important legislation which would help make solar energy more accessible to local families. I am in strong support of HB2614 to support the counties to modernize and streamline our solar permitting process. The state has committed to reaching a 100% renewable energy goal, and the only way to get there is if everyone comes with. This makes requiring solar energy a viable option for low income households. While strides have been made in recent years, more needs to be done to reduce the cost of and access to solar for local working families. Streamlining permitting is a critical component of that. Reducing the permitting burden of our county permitting offices for solar energy will also support other priorities, like affordable housing, by freeing up capacity of permitting staff to focus on processes that cannot be as automated.

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Mahalo for your consideration and for your work to reduce the cost and accessibility of solar energy so that more families can receive its economic benefits.

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:20:04 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kenneth Hirsch, MD, PhD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge strong support for **HB2614**.

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:38:55 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elizabeth Nelson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of this bill and would appreciate you passing it.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Nelson

Kaneohe

**HB-2614-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:58:45 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/4/2024 10:09:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bonnie Fraser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

There is no need for anyone to have to wait an entire year for a permit for solar panels. We desperately need to streamline the process! And now we can. There is a free, federally designed app that many jurisdictions are already using which can reduce a year-long wait to a day.

I strongly support adopting this game changing bill both for reducing climate change and for reducing our ridiculously high energy bills.