

**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKĀ'I

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
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Statement of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism
before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

1:20 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of
SB 3061
RELATING TO THE SOLAR ENERGY STORAGE LOAN PROGRAM.

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of SB3061, which inserts a proviso to Act 164, SLH 2023, specifically addressing the appropriation for the Solar Energy Storage Loan Program. This bill transfers \$50.0 million appropriated in 2023 for the solar energy and storage loan program from general funds to the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority's (HGIA) Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund (CEEERLF).

By directing these funds to the CEEERLF, it ensures a continuous and sustainable source of funding to finance solar and storage installations. This not only addresses the immediate financial challenges faced by almost half of Hawaii's families, but it also creates a long-term solution to support underserved ratepayers. The bill recognizes the urgency of the situation, with approximately 44% of households grappling with disproportionate financial burdens due to rising inflation and electricity costs. Moreover, this provision will enable HGIA to continually leverage these funds by re-lending and re-investing that same public dollar, reaching and benefitting more ALICE families over time.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 3061.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR



Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority

An Agency of the State of Hawaii

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
CHAIR

GWEN S YAMAMOTO LAU
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Testimony of
Gwen Yamamoto Lau
Executive Director
Hawai'i Green Infrastructure Authority
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM
Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 1:20 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229
in consideration of
Senate Bill No. 3061
RELATING TO THE SOLAR ENERGY STORAGE LOAN PROGRAM

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 3061, relating to the solar energy storage loan program. The Hawai'i Green Infrastructure Authority (HGIA) **strongly supports** this bill which clarifies part III in Act 164, SLH 2023 as it pertains to the appropriation for the solar energy storage loan program.

Thanks to the support and approval of last year's Legislature, the \$50.0 million was released by Governor in December 2023, to finance the installation of solar+storage systems for ALICE households. Unfortunately, a proviso was not included in the budget bill (Act 164, SHL 2023) to deposit the funds into HGIA's Clean Energy & Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund. This bill proposes to make this correction, enabling loan repayments to revolve and be recycled and reinvested to help more ALICE families over the next twenty-one years to 2045.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments and testify in strong support of SB 3061.

TESTIMONY OF
LEODOLOFF R. ASUNCION, JR.
CHAIR, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
STATE OF HAWAII

TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

Tuesday, February 13, 2024
1:20 p.m.

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

MEASURE: S.B. No. 3061

TITLE: RELATING TO THE SOLAR ENERGY STORAGE LOAN PROGRAM.

DESCRIPTION: Clarifies part III of Act 164, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023, as it pertains to the appropriation for the Solar Energy Storage Loan Program.

POSITION:

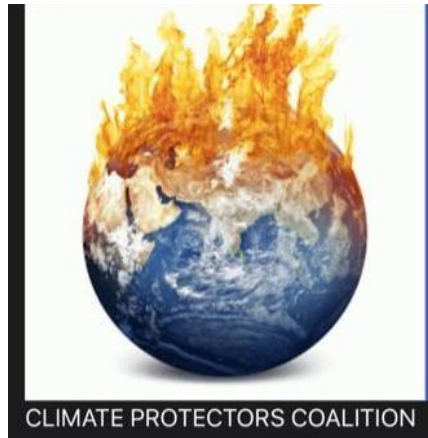
The Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) offers the following comments for consideration.

COMMENTS:

The Commission appreciates the intent of this measure to transfer funds to ensure that the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority can expend funds previously approved for a solar and storage financing program low- and moderate-income households.

The Commission recognizes that such programs align with our state’s renewable energy and decarbonization goals, while also aiming to provide equitable opportunities for economically constrained households facing increased financial energy burden to participate in, and benefit from, Hawaii’s clean energy transition.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



To: The Honorable Chair Lynn DeCoite, the Honorable Vice Chair Brandon Elefante, and Members of the Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism.

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

Re: **Hearing SB3061 RELATING TO THE SOLAR ENERGY STORAGE SOLAR LOAN PROGRAM**

Hearing: Tuesday February 13, 2024, 1:20 p.m., room 229

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism!

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i seek to educate and engage the local community in climate change action, to help Hawai'i show the world the way back to a safe and stable climate.

Climate Protectors Hawai'i STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB3061!

Funding solar energy and storage systems loans through the clean energy and energy efficiency revolving loan fund will benefit Hawaii immensely! It will increase electric system resiliency for everyone, help Hawaii meet its climate warming carbon negative target by 2045, and enable many owners to participate and reduce their costs of electricity.

Please pass this bill!

Mahalo for providing the opportunity to testify!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

Testimony of the Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) Regarding SB3061, Relating to the Solar Energy Storage Loan Program, Before the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Dear Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and committee members,

The Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) **supports SB3061**, which makes an important clarification to Hawaii Session Laws to enable a Solar Energy Storage Loan Program designed for low-to-moderate income families and frontline communities.

HSEA members include the majority of locally owned and operated 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 that are innovating, designing, and building Hawaii's pathway to a renewable energy future. We 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.

HSEA and its members actively support efforts to remove barriers and increase access to affordable renewable energy. This bill will enable a powerful tool to extend the benefits of distributed, rooftop solar and energy storage to underserved low-to-moderate income and frontline communities that are most impacted by high electricity rates. The Solar Energy Storage Loan Program will greatly enhance Hawaii's resilience, sustainability, and affordability as we decarbonize our economy and transition to clean energy.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to testify in **support of SB3061**.

Respectfully,

/s/ Rocky Mould

Executive Director

SB-3061

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 11:44:43 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/13/2024 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Virginia Tincher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: The Honorable Chair Lynn DeCoite, the Honorable Vice Chair Brandon Elefante, and Members of the Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members

I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB3061!

Funding solar energy and storage systems loans through the clean energy and energy efficiency revolving loan fund will benefit Hawaii immensely! It will ncrease electric system resiliency for everyone, help Hawaii meet its climate warming carbon negative target by 2045, and enable many owners to participate and reduce their costs of electricity.

My daughter on Oahu was able to pair storage with her solar panels and pays almost nothing for her energy and uses her battery storage for much of the night So we know it works and I would like to see everyone have the ability to be close to energy independent

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Virginia Tincher

Oahu

SB-3061

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 8:20:45 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/13/2024 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Onofrietti	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill moves monies to HGIA that was allocated during last session. It is helpful for Hawaii to achieve its renewable energy goals.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM
Hearing on Feb. 13, 2024 at 1:20 pm

SUPPORTING SB 3061

My name is John Kawamoto, and I support SB 3061.

Hawaii, the nation, and the world must make a rapid transition away from fossil fuels to clean, renewable energy in order to avoid a global climate catastrophe. Due to advances in technology, solar energy, along with wind, is now the cheapest form of energy. Paired with battery storage solar energy is reliable. However, families may face financing issues in adopting solar energy because of the associated upfront costs.

This bill will assist Hawaii's families to transition to solar energy by making funds available for loans for solar energy and battery storage. The money that families use for loans will be paid back and used again by other families to fund more solar systems.

This bill is one of a robust portfolio of bills that should be passed to protect the environment and mitigate climate change.

SB-3061

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 4:25:57 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/13/2024 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
michael markrich	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Michael Markrich,

I am testifying as an individual. Please support SB3061. There is great need among

LMI households for the support the GEMS program provides. The Energy Storage

Loan program will make energy more accessible to the approximately 4-5,000 households in our

state that need energy assistance. It will also help us meet our renewable energy goals.

Mahalo and best wishes

Michael Markrich