

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

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
and  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Wednesday, March 1, 2023  
9:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference**

**On the following measure:  
S.B. 781, 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 limits its comments and concerns to section 4 of the bill, which amends Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) chapter 464, Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) require government entities in the State that issue building permits to implement SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform that verifies code compliance and issues permits to licensed contractors for solar distributed energy resource systems in real time by 1/1/2024; (2) require government entities in the State that issue building permits to adopt self-certification for solar distributed energy resource systems that are not SolarAPP+ compatible; and (3) make the professional engineers, architects, surveyors, and landscape architects licensure law inapplicable to work with respect to residential distributed energy resource systems and increases the estimated cost of work on certain structures below which that licensure law is inapplicable.

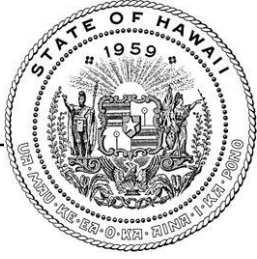
Section 4 of this bill amends subsections (a) and (b) of HRS section 464-13, by increasing all four of the existing cost valuation exemptions. It is unclear to the Board how these cost increases were calculated. The Board is concerned that this amendment will raise the cap on the cost valuations of work on buildings for renovation projects serviced by an unlicensed professional to allow for larger scaled projects, such as major renovations that will jeopardize the health, safety, or welfare of consumers.

The Board would have no recourse to take action against an unlicensed person who provides substandard plans.

The Board notes that HRS section 464-13 may not be the appropriate section to amend if the intent is to allow larger construction projects to proceed without the need to hire licensed design professionals. The intent of this section, created in 1931, was to allow smaller-scale repairs without the requirement of a licensed design professional's seal, where the work involved was to be relatively small in cost and in scope.

Before amending HRS chapter 464 as this bill proposes to do, the Board encourages further discussion between the proponents of this measure and other major stakeholders.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

GWEN S. YAMAMOTO LAU  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# HAWAII GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, Suite 501, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Mailing  
Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-3868  
Web site: [gems.hawaii.gov](http://gems.hawaii.gov)

**Testimony of  
Gwen Yamamoto Lau  
Executive Director  
Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority**  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION  
AND WAYS AND MEANS**  
March 1, 2023, 9:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211  
in consideration of  
**SENATE BILL NO. 781, SD1  
RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Chairs Keohokalole and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Commerce and Consumer Protection and Ways and Means Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and provide comments on Senate Bill No. 781,SD1, relating to renewable energy. The Hawai'i Green Infrastructure Authority (HGIA) **supports** this bill which contains measures to streamline the permitting process for distributed solar projects.

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

HGIA defers to the authorities having jurisdiction over the proposed self-certification process.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and provide comments on Senate Bill No. 781, SD1.



February 27, 2023

TO: Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
  
Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senate Committee on Consumer Protection

FROM: Reid Mizue, AIA  
President / Legislative Advocacy Committee Co-Chair  
**American Institute of Architects, Hawaii State Council**

SUBJECT: **Re: Senate Bill 781 SD1  
Relating to Renewable Energy**

The American Institute of Architects

AIA Hawaii State Council  
828 Fort Street Mall, Suite 100  
Honolulu, HI 96813

T (808) 628-7243  
contact@aiahonolulu.org  
[aiahonolulu.org/AIAHawaiiStateCouncil](http://aiahonolulu.org/AIAHawaiiStateCouncil)

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Keohokalole, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran,  
Vice-Chair Fukunaga and Members of the Committee,

My name is Reid Mizue, President, AIA Hawaii Council  
submitting **STRONG OPPOSITION** on Senate Bill 781 SD1:

- If this **inappropriate bill title** is allowed to revise Design Professional Licensing Law HRS Chapter 464, then in future the same kind of hidden statutory change can occur. This bill with negative effect on 180 small businesses AIA represents is not “bright light” law-making we expect.
- Section 4 language is “**too broad**” a remedy for problem cited, because it revises \$ values for **all** building work; not **limited** to alternate energy projects in bill title.
- Bill cites building permit delays, but architects/licensed professional are not at all the cause of permit delays. Instead county-administered agencies are the authority having jurisdiction responsible for permit review timing. Section 4 language has no guarantee that county permit processing will be any faster.
- Bill proponents testify to legislators that they will rely on design professionals to self-certify certain permits, but SB 781 and companion HB 195 contain no such provision.

### **Section 1 language gives “false impression” and misinformation requires amending**

Page 1 lines 13-14 falsely say “The legislature also finds that exemptions from permitting requirements based on estimated costs that have not been amended since 1979...” County permit

requirements are not exempted under design professional licensing law. Permit exemptions are regulated under county ordinances. Excepting minor repairs, county exemptions are not based on estimated \$ costs; being based instead on construction specifics such as kitchen cabinets or on-grade private property paving. Permit exemptions also vary widely among the four counties.

Section 1 language is serious matter because 45% of 49 supporting testimonies for first hearing relied on misinformation and specifically ask to amend HRS 464-13. AIA notes that no public agency, association or business testimonies called for amending licensing exemptions, except for solar industry special interests. Lengthy county permit delays cited by bill proponents can only be relieved by county mayors, county councils or county agencies action; not by amending state design professional licensing law.

Our experience is what may seem like minor inconsistency in Section 1 language has drawn **veto** in the past. We had a procurement bill vetoed over a single misconceived word. SB 781 is already burdened with inappropriate title and top-down state mandate / short deadlines to under-staffed county building departments.

### **Section 2 language for §196-A and §196-A does not reflect bill proponent testimony**

Hawaii Solar Energy Association HSAE testimony for SB 781 says *"the bill 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. The final compliance review and approval can occur at inspection."* However, bill language for self-certification does not mention duly licensed design professionals. §196-B only provides for licensed plumbers or licensed electricians.

City & County of Honolulu allows state-funded buildings to receive permits under similar "fast track self-certifying" program and final compliance occurs after inspection. However, permit set must be sealed, signed by the architect and carry statement *"This work was prepared by me or under my supervision and construction of this project will be under my observation as defined in Chapter 16-115-2 of Board of EASLA of the State of Hawaii."* Notably EASLA Board charged with consumer protection opposes this bill, but legislators continually disregard their testimony.

If HSEA expect to implement self-certification pathway proposed in its testimony into county permitting, they must have cooperation from major design professional societies; both of whom have testified in **OPPOSITION** to Section 4.

Sierra Club supportive testimony for SB 781 says *"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."* AIA concurs, but sees no such role for architects in bill language. Chamber of Commerce supportive testimony for companion HB 195 did not call for increasing \$ exemptions of HRS 464-13. Chamber testimony did cite environmental and cultural self-certification issues that AIA believes are more assuredly satisfied using architect instead of contractor.

AIA believes that residential solar / PV water heater to replace an aging electric induction water heater could be treated by counties as time-efficient "trade permit." But this kind of relief from long county permit delays needs action by county administrators and not by the state legislature.

### **Section 3 makes incorrect reference to HRS 464-1**

Section 3 language is inappropriate because HRS 464-1 defines the various design professional practices.

### **Section 4 will have no positive effect in improving county permit processing times**

- Bill proponents would have all design professional licensing law exemptions increased under illusion that counties will move permits faster. In fact, increasing \$ exemptions can further delay permits by increasing work load of under-staffed county agencies for permit reviews. County construction inspections will likely need increasing as architects are "legislated-out" of this important consumer protection function.
- Proponents seek to undermine the role of architects, while asking counties to rely on architect professional "standard of care" to self-certify alternate energy permits of greater scale and complexity.
- HSEA testimony unfairly says architects are cause for permit delays, while their contradicting testimony says architect self-

certification will expedite permits. AIA notes that less than half of supportive testimonies called for passage of Section 4 language. Meanwhile Section 4 is drawing the only opposition.

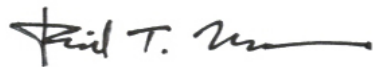
- Proposed revised (c) language is ineffective as specific exemptions are regulated by various, and broadly differing, county ordinances. The language is in direct conflict with HRS 196.5 that requires licensed architect or mechanical engineer sign DBEDT variance from solar water heating for new single-family houses.
- AIA acknowledges that exemptions have not been updated since 1979. However, this bill inappropriately reduces consumer protection for all building / infrastructure projects; instead of being focused on alternate energy projects in bill title.

### **Defer this bill because County action is the solution**

The cause of this bill is slowness of county building permits for Honolulu; with every single project type subjected to costly delays. As sellers of timely service to our clients, architects are also suffering from county agency staffing issues. At a minimum, AIA requests removal of Sections 3 and 4. The bill should be deferred because County action and input is solution needed.

Thank you for this opportunity to **STRONGLY OPPOSE** Senate Bill 781 SD1.

Sincerely,



Reid Mizue, AIA  
American Institute of Architects, Hawaii State Council

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 12:39:12 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leilani Schultz	Testifying for Alternate Energy Inc.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*I strongly support SB781 SD1 (with key amendments to the Section 196-B self-certification clause) which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD1 offers a number of common-sense measures such as:*

- 1. establishing a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;*
- 2. removing the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;*
- 3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)\*\*\**
- 4. raising dollar thresholds in HRS 464-13 that establish exemptions from professional stamp requirements that have not been updated since 1979; and*
- 5. carving out residential solar DERs from HRS 464 requirements.*

*\*\*\*Please note that I concur with the suggested new amendments offered by KIUC and HSEA.*

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

*Respectfully,*

*Leilani Schultz*





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

March 1, 2023, 9:30 AM  
Room 211

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 781 SD1**

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

Blue Planet Foundation **supports SB 781 SD1**, which will streamline permitting for solar panels and battery storage systems. 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 for solar permitting via SB 781, 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 96,900 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. However, our state's solar permitting process is an impediment to increased adoption. The existing system places a high administrative burden on government entities, which results in delays and backlogs for approving permits for solar energy and battery storage systems.

SB 781 SD1 targets long-standing permitting issues for solar and energy storage projects by:

1. establishing a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;
2. removing the burdensome materials and methods requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;

---

<sup>1</sup> "Cumulative Installed PV - As of December 2022" *Hawaiian Electric Company*. Accessed February 27, 2023. ([https://www.hawaiianelectric.com/documents/clean\\_energy\\_hawaii/clean\\_energy\\_facts/pv\\_summary\\_4Q\\_2022.pdf](https://www.hawaiianelectric.com/documents/clean_energy_hawaii/clean_energy_facts/pv_summary_4Q_2022.pdf))

<sup>2</sup> Per KIUC testimony on SB 781, 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)

3. raising dollar thresholds in HRS 464-13 that establish exemptions from professional stamp requirements that have not been updated since 1979; and
4. carving out residential solar DERs from HRS 464 requirements.

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

For these reasons, we support SB 781 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.



To: The Honorable Chairs Jarrett Keohokalole and Donovan Dela Cruz, the Honorable Vice Chairs Carol Fukunaga and Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Ways and Means

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

Re: **Hearing SB781 SD1 RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.**

Hearing: Wednesday March 1, 2023, 9:30 a.m., room 211

---

Aloha Chairs Keohokalole and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Ways and Means:

The **Climate Protectors Hawai'i STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB781 SD1!**

---

This bill would help residents install solar energy systems by streamlining permitting, which currently can delay installation for eight months and more. Government entities in the State that issue building permits would be required under this bill to implement by the beginning of 2024 the SolarAPP+ developed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform that verifies code compliance and issues permits to licensed contractors for solar distributed energy resource systems in real time.

This would save consumers up to \$7,000 in red tape. The bill would also require government entities in the State that issue building permits to adopt self-certification for solar distributed energy resource systems that are not SolarAPP+ compatible.

This bill would lower administrative barriers that constrain deployment of residential and commercial-scale distributed energy resources. It also would update the exemption level estimated costs that have not been amended since 1979 and are deterring deployment.

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

Please pass this important bill!

Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

---



# Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

---

January 31, 2023

To: The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair,  
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair, and Members of the  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
and  
The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair,  
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair, and Members  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senate, Hawai'i State Legislature

Re: SB 781 – Relating to Renewable Energy

Hearing: Wednesday, March 1, 2023, 9:30 am, Room 211 & videoconference

Position: **Strong Support**

Aloha, Chairs Keohokalole and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Keith-Agaran, and  
Committee Members:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i strongly supports SB 781. Its provisions would eliminate many of the very serious barriers that homeowners in Hawai'i are experiencing in facilitating and expediting their long-delayed applications for permits for initial construction and renovations in the county-level departments of permitting and planning.

This important reform would be accomplished by exempting solar and battery renewable projects altogether from the permitting requirements of HRS §434-13, and by raising the dollar ceiling for exemptions for other homeowner renovations in the same Code section. Those ceilings were most recently set in 1979, more than 40 years ago! To keep those exemptions at the same effective level, due to inflation, requires that the dollar ceilings on those exemption levels be raised to four times the 1979 figures.

This bill is essential to relieve the huge logjam of these permit applications. Recently, we learned in the news that an official at the Honolulu Department of Planning and Permitting was prosecuted and convicted for receiving a bribe from a homeowner who was greatly frustrated by the very long delays in receiving a building permit. The news reports pointed out that there was nothing substantively wrong with the application for the building permit. The crime was that the



Environmental Caucus of  
The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Testimony for SB 781 before CPN-WAM

Hearing: March 1, 2023

Page 2

homeowner did not want to wait more than a year for his permit, and the official was willing to allow the homeowner to get expedited service. It would help immeasurably in helping the people of the State of Hawai'i to substantially reduce our dependence on environmentally destructive fossil fuels.

On behalf of the Environmental Caucus, we strongly urge you to PASS this bill. We thank you very much in advance for your favorable consideration of this bill.

Very truly yours,

Alan B. Burdick and Melodie Aduja, co-chairs  
Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i  
[Burdick808@gmail.com](mailto:Burdick808@gmail.com) 808-927-1500  
[legislativepriorities@gmail.com](mailto:legislativepriorities@gmail.com) 808-258-8889

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 12:21:18 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ella Aki	Testifying for Fortress Power	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Keohokalole and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Fukuknaga and Keith-Agaran, and committee members:

My name is Ella Aki and I am the Hawaii Regional Sales Manager for Fortress Power, a renewable energy storage provider since 2016.

I strongly support SB781 SD1 (with key amendments to the Section 196-B self-certification clause) which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD1 offers a number of common-sense measures such as:

1. establishing a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;
2. removing the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;
3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)\*\*\*
4. raising dollar thresholds in HRS 464-13 that establish exemptions from professional stamp requirements that have not been updated since 1979; and
5. carving out residential solar DERs from HRS 464 requirements.

\*\*\*Please note that I concur with the suggested new amendments offered by KIUC and HSEA.

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

Mahalo piha,

Ella Aki

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 6:38:56 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John Grandinetti	Testifying for Grand Solar, Inc	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass the SB781 SD1 tomorrow.





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

#### Executive Officers

**Eddie Asato**, Pint Size Hawaii, *Chair*  
**Gary Okimoto**, Safeway, *Vice Chair*  
**Maile Miyashiro**, C&S Wholesale, *Secretary/Treas.*  
**Lauren Zirbel**, HFIA, *President and Executive Director*  
**John Schilf**, Rainbow Sales and Marketing, *Advisor*  
**Paul Kosasa**, ABC Stores, *Advisor*  
**Derek Kurisu**, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*  
**Toby Taniguchi**, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*  
**Joe Carter**, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, Odom, *Advisor*  
**Charlie Gustafson**, Tamura Super Market, *Immediate Past Chair*

TO: Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole and Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chairs  
Senator Carol Fukunaga and Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chairs

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: March 1, 2023  
TIME: 9:30am

RE: SB781 SD1 Relating to Renewable Energy

Position: Support

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

HFIA is in support of this measure.

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

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

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

**Making Essential Industries More Sustainable Makes Our State More Sustainable –**

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

**Testimony of The Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) Regarding SB781 SD1, Relating to Renewable Energy, Before the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

**Wednesday, March 1st, 2023**

Aloha Chairs Keohokalole and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Keith-Agaran, and committee members:

The Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) **strongly supports SB781 SD1 (with the addition amendments)**, which contains a series of measures to streamline permitting for distributed solar and energy storage projects that are critical to achieving Hawaii’s clean energy transition.

HSEA members include the majority of locally owned and operated renewable energy companies doing business in the state 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. Rooftop solar PV is the leading contributor to Hawaii’s clean energy portfolio, making up 44.6% of all renewable energy in the state.<sup>1</sup> These investments provide reliable and affordable power that reduces energy cost burden for all and contributes to Hawaii’s energy security as we decarbonize our economy and electric grid.

Permitting bottlenecks and backlogs are impeding progress and adding unnecessary cost, time, and risk to Hawaii’s renewable energy transition. This impacts all residents and businesses in Hawaii, particularly those that have not yet been able to install or participate in a solar and energy storage project. As costs come down and systems become more available and accessible to underserved members of our community, permitting delays have emerged as a primary obstacle to progress.

SB781 addresses ongoing permitting challenges in several important ways:

---

<sup>1</sup> See Hawaiian Electric’s “Key Performance Metrics, Renewable Portfolio Standard compliance” available at <https://www.hawaiianelectric.com/about-us/key-performance-metrics/renewable-energy>.



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

First, the bill 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. 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 on other high priorities.

Second, the bill removes the burdensome and time-consuming materials and methods (MM#) 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.

Third, the bill 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. The final compliance review and approval can occur at inspection. ***In consultation with KIUC and other stakeholders, we offer an amendment to the SD1 version of the bill as follows (added or struck language bracketed and highlighted):***

**§196-B Adoption of self-certification for solar and energy storage projects.** (a) Any government entity in the State that issues building permits **[in territories served by an investor-owned electric utility]** shall establish a self-certification process for solar distributed energy resource systems that deems permit applications approved and allows applicants to proceed to build immediately; provided that:

**(1) The applicable government entity in the State that issues building permits is notified in writing by the project owner, or an agent of the project owner, that the**



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

owner or agent requests issuance of the permit and is prepared to pay any required fees; and

(2) The applicable government entity in the State that issues building permits is notified in writing by the duly licensed electrician or duly licensed plumber, as applicable, who intends to install the solar distributed energy resource system that the installation of the system complies with all applicable codes and laws. ~~[- including having an executed interconnection agreement with the applicable electric utility.]~~

Given KIUC and the County of Kauai’s distinct circumstances and collaborative efforts to address the permitting and interconnection process, we believe excluding KIUC from this section is appropriate. In the other utility territories, a requirement for an “executed interconnection agreement” prior to submission would render the self-certification provision moot and the authority to approve final grid interconnection still lies with the utility subject to PUC oversight.

Finally, the bill carves out residential rooftop solar and storage projects and updates fixed dollar thresholds that exempt small private projects from statutory design professional standards. The thresholds have not been updated since they were first established in 1979. Since that time, the US dollar has inflated by over 300% with one dollar in 1979 equaling over \$4 today. Adjusting these thresholds to account for inflation makes commonsense and will reduce construction costs across all sectors in Hawaii.

HSEA and other stakeholders have been working for years with various county administrations at the leadership and departmental level to effect improvements in the permitting process. We continue to offer our assistance and expertise to fix issues with current systems and implement internal process changes. Despite these efforts, the existing system still needs improvement, and is under-resourced and overly time consuming to the detriment of our entire economy and the livelihoods of thousands of residents. In addition, significant federal resources are being made available through the Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that may be utilized to implement SolarAPP+ and other permitting reforms. The measures of this bill offer a clear path forward that will save time and resources for all parties in the permitting process and help Hawaii achieve its renewable energy portfolio standard and carbon reduction goals.



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

HSEA **strongly supports SB781 SD1** and respectfully urges the committee to advance this measure **with addition of the amendments to the self-certification clause offered above.**

Thank you for hearing this bill and providing the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

*/s/ Rocky Mould*

Rocky Mould  
Executive Director

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2023 7:13:47 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
laurel brier	Testifying for Kaua'i Climate Action Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Currently the permitting process impedes residential & other smaller solar and energy storage projects. Renewable solar energy is an important component in decarbonizing our homes and other buildings and lowering our carbon emissions. Let's make it easier for people to participate and do the right thing. This is low hanging fruit for the state in its efforts to meet its goals in fighting the climate crisis.



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

By David Bissell  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative  
4463 Pahe'e Street, Suite 1, Līhu'e, Hawai'i, 96766-2000

Wednesday, March 1, 2023; 9:30 am  
Conference Room #211 & Videoconference

**Senate Bill No. 781 SD1 - RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY**

To the Honorable Chairs Keohokalole and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Keith-Agaran, and committee members:

Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC) is a not-for-profit utility providing electrical service to more than 34,000 commercial and residential members.

**KIUC offers amendments to this measure.**

KIUC has seen significant growth in member installation of rooftop solar/photovoltaic (PV) systems over the past 12 years. In 2010, there were 388 systems installed on Kaua'i; that number has grown to more than 6,000 systems by the end of 2022.

To ensure that members realize the optimum benefit from PV systems KIUC has created parameters and guidelines which follow established Tariff requirements. Before installing a system, rules established by the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission require customers to submit an interconnection request application to KIUC for an engineering review. This step is extremely important and ensures that the PV system can be safely and reliably tied into the utility grid and ensures the member understands the rules of the interconnection agreement.

Occasionally, interconnection request applications are not submitted and systems are installed without a Notice to Proceed from KIUC. Often these are large systems that have the potential to create grid stability issues, due to the relatively small size of our grid compared to other islands. Over the past year, we have worked collaboratively with the County of Kaua'i, and the County is now requiring electrical inspectors to verify a Notice to Proceed issued by KIUC to the property owner/contractor before completing an inspection.

KIUC specifically requests an amendment to §196-B, which was drafted in collaboration with the Hawaii Solar Energy Association, be adopted (added or struck language bracketed and highlighted):



**§196-B Adoption of self-certification for solar and energy storage projects.** (a) Any government entity in the State that issues building permits **[in territories served by an investor-owned electric utility]** shall establish a self-certification process for solar distributed energy resource systems that deems permit applications approved and allows applicants to proceed to build immediately; provided that:

(1) The applicable government entity in the State that issues building permits is notified in writing by the project owner, or an agent of the project owner, that the owner or agent requests issuance of the permit and is prepared to pay any required fees; and

(2) The applicable government entity in the State that issues building permits is notified in writing by the duly licensed electrician or duly licensed plumber, as applicable, who intends to install the solar distributed energy resource system that the installation of the system complies with all applicable codes and laws. **[including having an executed interconnection agreement with the applicable electric utility.]**

We appreciate your consideration.

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2023 3:28:17 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Megan Fox	Testifying for Malama Kaua'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to do everything in our power to lessen our reliance on outside fuel sources and create our own power locally. This is an easy way to help our islands become more energy self-sustaining by empowering those who want solar to be able to get it faster. Win-win for all of us.

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 9:06:17 AM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Keohokalole and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Keith-Agaran, and members of the CPN and WAM committees,

On behalf of Our Revolution Hawaii's 5,000 members and supporters statewide, we Strongly Support SB781 that 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. This measure requires government entities in the State that issue building permits to adopt self-certification for solar distributed energy resource systems that are not SolarAPP+ compatible, and makes the professional engineers, architects, surveyors, and landscape architects licensure law inapplicable to work with respect to residential distributed energy resource systems, and increases the estimated cost of work on certain structures below which that licensure law is inapplicable.

SB781 SD1 is essential because it addresses the longstanding permitting approval backlog that impedes progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. Currently homeowners have had to **wait up to a year** to get their permit to install solar panels. Through SB781 the State will be able to offer the free online SolarAPP+ that will quicken solar permitting authorization **from months to a day**. This will increase the number and quicken the pace of solar projects being approved, and will help families lower their energy costs while helping fight Climate Change. Utilization of the SolarAPP+ alone can save the typical solar consumer more than \$7,000 in red tape.

SolarAPP+ described in SB781 SD1 was developed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in a collaborative partnership with industry and the building safety community, with funding from the U.S. Department of Energy. By the State implementing SolarAPP+ there will be auto-approval, proceed-to-build for all solar and storage projects that qualify for the online submission. In jurisdictions in California already using the SolarAPP+, they have shortened waits for permits from months to a *single day*.

SB781 SD1 provides exemptions based on cost estimates that currently require a licensed professional engineer or architect for the installation, which currently adds on thousands of dollars to the project. These cost thresholds have not been updated since 1979 and will be triggered when a family plans to install solar plus storage. The requirement for a *licensed*

professional engineer or architect is unnecessary and there is no safety issue created by removing this requirement. This work can be done safely and proficiently by professional technicians.

SB781 SD1 will also create more green jobs. That will help Hawaii's economy grow.

In summary SB781 SD1 offers a number of commonsense measures such as:

1. establishing a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;
2. removing the burdensome MM# requirement for solar Distributed Energy Resource (DER) systems;
3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ or the functional equivalent.
4. raising dollar thresholds in HRS 464-13 that establish exemptions from professional stamp requirements that have not been updated since 1979; and
5. carving out residential solar DERs from HRS 464 requirements.

Please pass SB781 SD1, it is an important step to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.

Mahalo for hearing this critically important bill for Hawaii's clean and resilient energy future.

Dave Mulnix, Cofounder & Statewide Organizer

Our Revolution Hawaii

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 9:12:06 AM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am Paul Orem CEO of Photonworks Engineering a locally owned and operated renewable energy and general contractor.

*I strongly support SB781 SD1 (with key amendments to the Section 196-B self-certification clause) which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD1 offers a number of common-sense measures such as:*

- 1. establishing a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;*
- 2. removing the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;*
- 3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)\*\*\**
- 4. raising dollar thresholds in HRS 464-13 that establish exemptions from professional stamp requirements that have not been updated since 1979; and*
- 5. carving out residential solar DERs from HRS 464 requirements.*

*\*\*\*Please note that I concur with the suggested new amendments offered by KIUC and HSEA.*

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

*Respectfully,*

*Paul Orem*



# SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

March 1, 2023.

9:30 AM

Conference Room 211

### In **SUPPORT** of **SB781 SD1**: Relating to Renewable Energy

---

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS** SB781 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. SB781 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 Committee to **PASS** SB781 SD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 12:15:57 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Katherine Wyszowski	Testifying for Sunnova	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Keohokalole and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Fukuknaga and Keith-Agaran, and committee members:

Sunnova is a leading residential solar and energy storage service provider, with nearly 245k customers across the U.S. and its territories, including Hawaii. The purpose of this letter is to register our support for SB781 to improve residential solar permitting on the islands. The implementation proposed by SB781, of SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent, technology for permitting will facilitate more efficient permitting processes and give residents a better experience when going solar and allow the larger community to meet clean energy goals. Supporting efficient and timely installation of rooftop solar is critically important to addressing climate change.

We strongly support SB781, because of the required software implementation and the removal of a professional stamp requirement. Utilizing SolarAPP+ and removing professional stamp requirements will streamline and reduce costs for residents of Hawaii seeking sustainable energy options. SolarAPP+ is free for AHJs to use, has already been introduced in a number of 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. This bill will also improve access to residential solar energy by carving out residential solar DERs from needing a professional stamp requirement. Professional stamp requirements are burdensome and unnecessary for residential scale solar, as they do not increase safety.

Please note that we concur with the suggested new amendments offered by KIUC and HSEA.

Thank you so much for allowing Sunnova to provide testimony on SB781. We believe this bill will help the residents of Hawaii save money and support climate resilience goals.

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 1:42:35 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kim Keahiolalo	Testifying for Sungage Financial	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kim Keahiolalo and I work for a renewable energy finance company that focuses on residential solar installations. I have been working in the solar installation business on the Big Island since 2012 and have seen many changes.

This proposal makes good sense for both homeowners and the solar installation companies.

I strongly support SB781 SD1, along with key amendments to the Section 196-B self-certification clause, which addresses permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals.

What I like about SB781 SD1

1. Establishing a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects.
2. Removing the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource systems.
3. Creating a self-certification pathway for all solar distributed energy resource projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent.
4. Raising dollar thresholds in HRS 464-13 to establish exemptions from professional stamp requirements.
5. Carving out residential solar distributed energy resources from HRS 464 requirements

Please note that I concur with the suggested new amendments offered by KIUC and HSEA.

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

Respectfully,

Kim Keahiolalo





Legislative Testimony of Sunrun Inc.  
Before the CPN/WAM Committee  
March 1, 2023

**IN SUPPORT of SB781 – Relating to Renewable Energy**

Dear Chairs Keohokalole and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Keith-Agaran, 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 Hawaii with office and warehouse locations on Oahu, Maui, and Hawaii Islands. We employ more than 350 professions across the islands, including sales/marketers, customer experience professionals, and installation team members including electrical inspectors, technicians, forepersons and warehouse personnel.

**Sunrun strongly supports SB781**, 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 SB781 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. Establishing a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;
2. Removing the burdensome MM# requirement for solar DER systems;
3. Creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent);
4. Raising dollar thresholds in HRS 464-13 that establish exemptions from professional stamp requirements that have not been updated since 1979; and
5. Carving out residential solar DERs from HRS 464 requirements.

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 2020, 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 2021, Hawaiian Electric (HECO) achieved 38% renewable generation, attributed to “a full year of geothermal production and an increase in private rooftop solar.”<sup>3</sup> Further, rooftop solar is the leading contributor to Hawaii’s clean energy portfolio making up 44.6% 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.

---

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

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

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

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

SolarAPP+ was developed by the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory and has already been successfully deployed in hundreds of municipalities across the nation. It is now required by the state of California after legislation passed last year<sup>5</sup>. Further, the Solar Energy Industry Association (SEIA) estimates that soft costs make up 60-70% of all residential solar installation costs and 50-60% of total commercial solar costs.<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 SB781 and respectfully urges the committee to advance this measure. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this critical legislation. As a national solar, storage and energy services company, Sunrun has a broad view of states' clean energy policies and stands ready to assist Hawai'i with its policy goals.

Sincerely,



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

---

<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://pv-magazine-usa.com/2021/08/27/does-solmart-program-targets-solar-soft-cost-reduction/>

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 10:14:54 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeffrey Kaemmerlen	Testifying for Sunspear Energy / PLS Renewables	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Jeffrey Kaemmerlen, I'm the owner of a solar company, Sunspear. While we have been growing quickly the last few years, our growth has been significantly hindered by the slow permitting processes and slowed down our ability to add new members to our team that would create local jobs.

I strongly support SB781 SD1 (with key amendments to the Section 196-B self-certification clause) which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD1 offers a number of common-sense measures such as:

1. establishing a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;
2. removing the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;
3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)\*\*\*
4. raising dollar thresholds in HRS 464-13 that establish exemptions from professional stamp requirements that have not been updated since 1979; and
5. carving out residential solar DERs from HRS 464 requirements.

\*\*\*Please note that I concur with the suggested new amendments offered by KIUC and HSEA.

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

Respectfully,

Jeffrey Kaemmerlen  
CEO  
Sunspear Energy



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

SENATE COMMITTEES ON COMMERCE & CONSUMER PROTECTION AND WAYS & MEANS  
Wednesday, March 1, 2023 — 9:30 a.m.

**Ulupono Initiative supports SB 781 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 SB 781 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 1/1/2024; requires government entities in the State that issue building permits to adopt self-certification for solar distributed energy resource systems that are not SolarAPP+ compatible; and, makes the professional engineers, architects, surveyors, and landscape architects licensure law inapplicable to work with respect to residential distributed energy resource systems and increases the estimated cost of work on certain structures below which that licensure law is inapplicable.

Ulupono supports the use of SolarAPP+, or an equivalent platform, to help streamline solar and energy storage project permitting. 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 and may even decrease the workload on already burdened county planning and permitting departments. The self-certifying procedure listed in this bill also supports a streamlined process for renewable energy projects. We also note that, as suggested in the bill, there may be a need to adjust the threshold included in statute to accommodate for inflation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata  
Director of Government Affairs

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*



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: Wednesday, March 1, 2023, 9:30am

### **In strong support of SB781 SD1**

Aloha Chairs Keohokalole and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Keith-Agaran, 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 SB781 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 1/1/2024. This measure also requires government entities in the State that issue building permits to adopt self-certification for solar distributed energy resource systems that are not SolarAPP+ compatible. Further, SB781 makes the professional engineers, architects, surveyors, and landscape architects licensure law inapplicable to work with respect to residential distributed energy resource systems and increases the estimated cost of work on certain structures below which that licensure law is inapplicable.

SB781 SD1 addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. This bill offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline permitting ***without compromising on safety***. Addressing these permitting issues is essential if Hawaii is to achieve its decarbonization goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.

**This measure is a true game-changer.** In particular, by establishing a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent, SB781 SD1 will streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects. **It is noted that the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, (NREL), developed SolarAPP+ in a collaborative partnership with industry and the building safety community, with funding from the U.S. Department of Energy.** Currently, Hawaii's families are often waiting more than 8 months to receive their permit, with some families reporting waits *up to a year*. This is unacceptable and must be remedied. By implementing provisions in SB781 SD1, there will be auto-approval, proceed-to-build for all solar and storage projects that qualify for the online submittal. In jurisdictions in California already using the SolarAPP+, they have shortened waits for permits from months to a *single day*.

This bill also provides exemptions based on cost estimates that currently require a licensed professional engineer or architect for the installation, which currently adds on thousands of dollars to the project. **These cost thresholds have not been updated since 1979** and will be triggered when a family plans to install solar plus storage. The requirement for a licensed professional engineer or architect is unwarranted and there is no safety issue created by removing this requirement. This work can be done safely and proficiently by professional technicians.

To strengthen this measure and maximize its benefits, we suggest the following amendments:

**§196-B Adoption of self-certification for solar and energy storage projects.** (a) Any government entity in the State that issues building permits in territories served by an investor-owned electric utility shall establish a self-certification process for solar distributed energy resource systems that deems permit applications approved and allows applicants to proceed to build immediately; provided that:

(1) The applicable government entity in the State that issues building permits is notified in writing by the project owner, or an agent of the project owner, that the owner or agent requests issuance of the permit and is prepared to pay any required fees; and

(2) The applicable government entity in the State that issues building permits is notified in writing by the duly licensed electrician or duly licensed plumber, as applicable, who intends to install the solar distributed energy resource system that the installation of the system complies with all applicable codes and laws., ~~including having an executed interconnection agreement with the applicable electric utility.~~

With the highest electrical rates in the country and the impacts of climate change already being felt, we need to move forward on smart solutions that will help to stimulate our economy and make us more resilient. The current system for processing permits is untenable and a detriment to Hawaii achieving our clean energy goals. SB781 SD1 will remove unnecessary barriers and move us to the clean-energy economy we need.

Rooftop solar power reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and as such, is a key tool in our fight against the climate crisis. **SB781 SD1 is a crucial step needed to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.** We must remove the unnecessary roadblocks and burdens to installing solar plus storage systems so that all may access the benefits from solar energy.

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

Sherry Pollack  
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2023 5:50:12 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support SB781, with the amendments proposed by the KIUC, in order to remove impediments to our progress in de-carbonizing energy production to meet the urgent demands of the climate crisis.



**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2023 8:09:39 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chairs Keohokalole and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Keith-Agaran, and Committee members,

I strongly support this measure. Let's automate and streamline our permitting processes to help us accelerate progress.

Thanks,

Noel Morin

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2023 11:03:35 AM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Committee members CPN and WAM,

I strongly support **SB781 SD1** which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. **SB781 SD1** 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.

Virginia Tincher

Aina Haina, Oahu

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Decision-Making on March 1, 2023 at 9:30 am

SUPPORTING SB 781 SD 1

Aloha, my name is John Kawamoto, and I support SB 781 SD 1. Hawaii should be advancing as quickly as possible to a clean, renewable energy future to mitigate climate change. In this regard, the Legislature passed a resolution declaring a climate emergency, as well as 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, whose costs have also been declining sharply, solar can provide reliable energy, even at night and on cloudy days.

Reliability was highlighted by the recent hurricanes in Florida and Puerto Rico. When power lines went down, residential solar kept generating electricity in the great majority of cases.

Currently in Hawaii, families are often waiting more than eight months to receive their permit to install solar for their homes. This bill will make auto-approval, proceed-to-build a reality for all solar and storage projects that qualify for the online submittal.

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.

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2023 3:16:26 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Judith A Mick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha- Please help Hawaii meet it's climate goals by speeding up the solar permit system. We must continue to protect out fragile environment for all and this action would aid in that direction. Hawaii can be a leader in this realm this action. Mahalo for your consideration.  
Aloha,Judy Mick, Kailua

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2023 4:41:26 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support SB781 SD1.

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2023 5:06:17 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Legislators

Please do the right thing and pass this bill. The future of Hawaii and Hawaii's keiki depend on wise management of our resources.

Malachy Grange

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2023 5:33:28 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

strongly support SB781 SD1 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD1 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 cause a power failure. We must remove the unnecessary roadblocks and burdens to installing solar plus storage systems so that all may access and benefits from solar energy!

--SB781 SD1 establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects. Currently some families are waiting up to a year to receive their permit. This is unacceptable and must be remedied. By implementing provisions in SB781 SD1, there will be auto-approval, proceed-to-build for all solar and storage projects that qualify for the online submittal.

--Rooftop solar power is a key tool in the fight against climate change. SB781 SD1 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals!

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2023 6:24:49 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Strong support!



**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2023 8:32:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Vivien Lee and Charlie Reppun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We strongly support SB781 SD1 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD1 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. Rooftop solar power is a key tool in the fight against climate change. SB781 SD1 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals!

Vivien Lee and Charlie Reppun

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2023 8:42:59 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I tried to get solar panels and it took almost a year to get permits. The permitting process is completely broken and needs to be fixed. This bill is a small step in that direction.

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2023 4:05:00 AM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB781 SD1, which includes essential common-sense measures to streamline solar permitting. Currently families often wait more than 8 months to receive solar installation permits. Expediting the process will help more people to benefit from low solar energy costs and will accelerate our state's climate change mitigation efforts.

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2023 8:00:37 AM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB781 SD1 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. As a renewable source of power, solar energy has an important role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating climate change, which is critical to protecting humans, wildlife, and ecosystems. Solar coupled with battery storage also provides resiliency by providing a backup energy source when storms or other emergencies cause a power failure. We must remove the unnecessary roadblocks and burdens to installing solar plus storage systems so that all may access and benefits from solar energy! SB781 SD1 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 owner of rooftop solar and battery storage, I can attest to the fact that it has enhanced my life and saved my family money. I want others to have the ability to join in this critical step to save money and reduce emissions. Rooftop solar power is a key tool in the fight against climate change. SB781 SD1 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals! Please support SB781 SD1.

Mahalo,

Helen Cox, Kalaheo, Kauai

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2023 8:10:13 AM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Suport

Hawaii desperately needs to streamline solar permitting. An online app, such as SolarAPP+ is already working in CA and has shortened waiting times for permits.

Keith Neal

Waimea

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2023 8:16:05 AM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

-I strongly support SB781 SD1 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD1 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 cause a power failure. We must remove the unnecessary roadblocks and burdens to installing solar plus storage systems so that all may access and benefits from solar energy!

--SB781 SD1 establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects. Currently some families are waiting up to a year to receive their permit. This is unacceptable and must be remedied. By implementing provisions in SB781 SD1, there will be auto-approval, proceed-to-build for all solar and storage projects that qualify for the online submittal.

--Rooftop solar power is a key tool in the fight against climate change. SB781 SD1 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals!

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2023 8:26:02 AM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB781 SD1 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD1 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 cause a power failure. We must remove the unnecessary roadblocks and burdens to installing solar plus storage systems so that all may access and benefits from solar energy!

--SB781 SD1 establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects. Currently some families are waiting up to a year to receive their permit. This is unacceptable and must be remedied. By implementing provisions in SB781 SD1, there will be auto-approval, proceed-to-build for all solar and storage projects that qualify for the online submittal.

--Rooftop solar power is a key tool in the fight against climate change. SB781 SD1 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals!

**Please support SB781 SD1**

Thank you for your consideration,

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2023 9:59:14 AM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

In support of SD1. Thank you.



**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2023 2:14:12 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Dylan Ramos, I was born and raised in Honolulu, and I have worked with environmental, political, and social advocacy groups for the past 10 years. I am proud to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB781. This bill will address longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD1 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline permitting. Utilization of the SolarAPP+ alone can save the typical solar consumer more than \$7,000 in red tape. SB781 SD1 is an important step to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.

Mahalo,

Dylan Ramos

96816

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2023 5:05:31 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Rooftop solar power is a key tool in the fight against climate change. SB781 SD1 is critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals!

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2023 10:02:49 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha

Please support this bill.

Mahalo

Elizabeth Hansen, Hakalau HI 96710

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2023 10:20:06 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha

Please support this bill.

Mahalo, Rodger Hansen, Hakalau HI 96710

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 8:08:07 AM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Kealoha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*I strongly support SB781 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawai'i's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. I am testifying in my personal capacity, with over 25 years of energy experience, including solar. I have seen other jurisdictions be able to permit projects in a much more streamlined process which drives electric bill savings more quickly to Hawai'i's families - something very much needed with the continued inflationary pressures we face.*

*SB781 offers a number of common-sense measures such as:*

- 1. establishing a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;*
- 2. removing the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;*
- 3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)*
- 4. raising dollar thresholds in HRS 464-13 that establish exemptions from professional stamp requirements that have not been updated since 1979; and*
- 5. carving out residential solar DERs from HRS 464 requirements.*

*Permitting is one of the remaining significant roadblocks to DER expansion – this bill is a critical step in addressing those challenges. Mahalo for giving me the opportunity to provide testimony on this critically important bill for Hawai'i's clean and resilient energy future.*

*Mahalo for allowing me to testify in support of SB 781.*

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 10:33:59 AM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Support

Aloha,

My name is Michael Baldwin, President with Hawaii Unified Industries, LLC. I have worked in general construction and renewable energy in Hawaii for close to 10 years. I strongly support those in our industry seeking changes to make things easier and faster for both the contractors and the homeowners.

I strongly support SB781 SD1 (with key amendments to the Section 196-B self-certification clause) which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD1 offers a number of common-sense measures such as:

1. establishing a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;
2. removing the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;
3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)\*\*\*
4. raising dollar thresholds in HRS 464-13 that establish exemptions from professional stamp requirements that have not been updated since 1979; and
5. carving out residential solar DERs from HRS 464 requirements.

\*\*\*Please note that I concur with the suggested new amendments offered by KIUC and HSEA.

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

Respectfully,

Michael Baldwin

President

Hawaii Unified Industries, LLC

[michael.baldwin@hawaiiunified.com](mailto:michael.baldwin@hawaiiunified.com)

808-798-3476

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 11:49:27 AM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, Chairs Keohokalole and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Fukuknaga and Keith-Agaran, and committee members,

My name is Roy Skaggs and I am the Director of Sales at a 30-year old local company, Alternate Energy, and we employ about 100 local people. I am also a solar customer.

I strongly support SB781 SD1 (with key amendments to the Section 196-B self-certification clause) which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD1 offers a number of common-sense measures such as:

1. *establishing a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;*
2. *removing the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;*
3. *creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)\*\*\**
4. *raising dollar thresholds in HRS 464-13 that establish exemptions from professional stamp requirements that have not been updated since 1979; and*
5. *carving out residential solar DERs from HRS 464 requirements.*

*\*\*\*Please note that I concur with the suggested new amendments offered by KIUC and HSEA.*

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

Roy Skaggs



**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 12:12:39 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 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,

I strongly support this bill and ask you to review and pass SB781 SD1.

This bill requires the counties to use an online app, such as SolarAPP+, to process building permits for residential solar systems than can approve projects on the same day if the required information is submitted.

Hawaii needs to transition as quickly as possible to a 100% clean, renewable energy future, but there is an *average backlog of eight months* to process building permits for residential solar systems in Hawaii.

This bill creates the mechanism for the quick approval of residential solar projects that comply with the building code.

- SolarAPP+ saves the typical solar consumer more than \$7,000 in red tape.
- SolarAPP+ is available at no cost to counties and other local jurisdictions.

We have solar at our home in Lawai, and the savings are wonderful. Please pass SB781 SD1 so others can share in the power of solar energy.

Mahalo,

Mary Lu Kelley

Lawai, Kauai

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 12:50:14 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caitlyn Bradle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Good Afternoon, I am Caitlyn Bradle, i am a major advocate for sustainability and green living. bills that improve the overall cleanliness of our planet will always have my support.*

*I strongly support SB781 SD1 (with key amendments to the Section 196-B self-certification clause) which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD1 offers a number of common-sense measures such as:*

- 1. establishing a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;*
- 2. removing the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;*
- 3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)\*\*\**
- 4. raising dollar thresholds in HRS 464-13 that establish exemptions from professional stamp requirements that have not been updated since 1979; and*
- 5. carving out residential solar DERs from HRS 464 requirements.*

*\*\*\*Please note that I concur with the suggested new amendments offered by KIUC and HSEA.*

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

*Respectfully,*

Caitlyn Bradle

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 12:55:20 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

*Aloha Chairs Keohokalole and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Fukuknaga and Keith-Agaran, and committee members:*

*My name is Justin Furuta and I am an employee of Alternate Energy.*

*I strongly support SB781 SD1 (with key amendments to the Section 196-B self-certification clause) which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD1 offers a number of common-sense measures such as:*

- 1. establishing a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;*
- 2. removing the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;*
- 3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)\*\*\**
- 4. raising dollar thresholds in HRS 464-13 that establish exemptions from professional stamp requirements that have not been updated since 1979; and*
- 5. carving out residential solar DERs from HRS 464 requirements.*

*\*\*\*Please note that I concur with the suggested new amendments offered by KIUC and HSEA.*

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

*Respectfully,*

*Justin Furuta*

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 1:00:01 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jason K. Ignacio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Keohokalole and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Fukuknaga and Keith-Agaran, and committee members:

I write in support of the intent of this measure. I am a permanent and longtime resident of Hawaii who has worked in the renewable solar energy industry for over 12 years- currently with Generac Clean Energy.

This bill creates solutions, updates processes, reduces permitting/paperwork delays which will help Hawaii transform to more affordable, clean, and resilient energy technology.

I urge the committees to pass this bill so the delays in permitting for solar projects can be reduced or eliminated. Reducing the time to get a permit will help Hawaii meet its renewable energy goals, help to reduce energy costs for Hawaii residents and help the solar industry in Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important bill for Hawaii's energy future.

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 1:14:15 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support SB781! This bill requires the counties to use an online app, such as SolarAPP+, to process building permits for residential solar systems than can approve projects on the same day if the required information is submitted.

- Hawaii needs to transition as quickly as possible to a 100% clean, renewable energy future, but there is an average backlog of eight months to process building permits for residential solar systems in Hawaii.
- This bill creates the mechanism for the quick approval of residential solar projects that comply with the building code.
- SolarAPP+ saves the typical solar consumer more than \$7,000 in red tape.
- SolarAPP+ is available at no cost to counties and other local jurisdictions.

Please support SB781 to make the transition to solar easier and less expensive!

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 1:31:04 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

--I strongly support SB781 SD1 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD1 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 cause a power failure. We must remove the unnecessary roadblocks and burdens to installing solar plus storage systems so that all may access and benefits from solar energy!

--SB781 SD1 establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects. Currently some families are waiting up to a year to receive their permit. This is unacceptable and must be remedied. By implementing provisions in SB781 SD1, there will be auto-approval, proceed-to-build for all solar and storage projects that qualify for the online submittal.

--Rooftop solar power is a key tool in the fight against climate change. SB781 SD1 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals!

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 1:35:21 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

*Aloha Chairs Keohokalole and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Fukuknaga and Keith-Agaran, and committee members:*

My name is Miles and I consider myself environmentally friendly. Committed to Renewable Energy for the past 10 years, it has been my pleasure helping local families lower their electric bills by going green and installing rooftop solar on their homes, thus reducing our contribution towards a dependency on fossil fuel-based electricity production.

I believe with your support of SB781, we can make sure that our planet remains sustainable for our Ohana and for our keiki. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

I strongly support SB781 SD1 (with key amendments to the Section 196-B self-certification clause) which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD1 offers a number of common-sense measures such as:

1. establishing a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;
2. removing the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;
3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)\*\*\*
4. raising dollar thresholds in HRS 464-13 that establish exemptions from professional stamp requirements that have not been updated since 1979; and
5. carving out residential solar DERs from HRS 464 requirements.

\*\*\*Please note that I concur with the suggested new amendments offered by KIUC and HSEA.

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



Respectfully,

Miles Yoshimoto

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 1:40:36 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Keohokalole and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Keith-Agaran,

My name is Michael Johnson, and I have been a Hawai'i resident for 35 years and was raised in the islands. I have also passionately been involved working in the solar industry for the past 14 years on Maui and Oahu.

I strongly support SB781 SD1 (with key ammendments to the Section 196-B self-certification clause) which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD1 offers a number of common-sense measures such as:

1. establishing a requirement to implement SolarApp+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;
2. removing the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;
3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarApp+ (or the functional equivalent.)\*\*\*
4. raising dollar thresholds in HRS 464-13 that establish exemptions from professional stamp requirements that have not been updated since 1979; and
5. carving out residential solar DERs from HRS 464 requirements.

\*\*\*Please note that I concur with the suggested new ammendments offered by KIUC and HSEA.

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

Respectfully,

Michael J. Johnson

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 3:05:04 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Keohokalole and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Fukuknaga and Keith-Agaran, and committee members:

I am a Makiki resident and solar company employee at a locally owned and operated solar company. I work daily with city & county permitting processes in my position.

I strongly support SB781 SD1 (with key amendments to the Section 196-B self-certification clause) which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD1 offers a number of common-sense measures such as:

- 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 MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;
- creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)\*\*\*
- raising dollar thresholds in HRS 464-13 that establish exemptions from professional stamp requirements that have not been updated since 1979; and
- carving out residential solar DERs from HRS 464 requirements.

\*\*\*Please note that I concur with the suggested new amendments offered by KIUC and HSEA.

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

Respectfully,  
Kathryn Troyan

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 3:09:09 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Honorable Members of the Legislature,

I am writing in support of the Renewable Energy Bill, which aims to lower administrative barriers to the deployment of energy generation and storage technology systems. As a resident of the State of Hawaii, I strongly believe that this bill is necessary to promote the adoption of locally available renewable energy sources, as well as to ensure the timely build-out of a diverse, resilient, and reliable portfolio of low-cost renewable energy.

The purpose of this bill is commendable and I fully support the implementation of SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform. This will make the permitting process for residential and commercial-scale distributed energy resources much more efficient, reducing the time and cost associated with adoption of residential solar and energy storage projects.

In addition, I believe that the self-certification process for solar and energy storage projects is a critical step in reducing administrative barriers to the deployment of these technologies. This process will allow applicants to proceed with the build-out of their projects without delay, while ensuring compliance with all applicable codes and laws.

In conclusion, I urge you to support this bill, which will play a crucial role in advancing the State of Hawaii's clean energy, reliability, and resilience goals. Thank you for considering my thoughts and views on this matter.

Sincerely,

Julian Kahumana

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 3:14:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Honorable Members of the Legislature,

I am writing in support of the Renewable Energy Bill, which aims to lower administrative barriers to the deployment of energy generation and storage technology systems. As a resident of the State of Hawaii, I strongly believe that this bill is necessary to promote the adoption of locally available renewable energy sources, as well as to ensure the timely build-out of a diverse, resilient, and reliable portfolio of low-cost renewable energy.

The purpose of this bill is commendable and I fully support the implementation of SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform. This will make the permitting process for residential and commercial-scale distributed energy resources much more efficient, reducing the time and cost associated with adoption of residential solar and energy storage projects.

In addition, I believe that the self-certification process for solar and energy storage projects is a critical step in reducing administrative barriers to the deployment of these technologies. This process will allow applicants to proceed with the build-out of their projects without delay, while ensuring compliance with all applicable codes and laws.

In conclusion, I urge you to support this bill, which will play a crucial role in advancing the State of Hawaii's clean energy, reliability, and resilience goals. Thank you for considering my thoughts and views on this matter.

Sincerely,

Alexis Badayos

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 3:18:21 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Honorable Members of the Legislature,

I am writing in support of the Renewable Energy Bill, which aims to lower administrative barriers to the deployment of energy generation and storage technology systems. As a resident of the State of Hawaii, I strongly believe that this bill is necessary to promote the adoption of locally available renewable energy sources, as well as to ensure the timely build-out of a diverse, resilient, and reliable portfolio of low-cost renewable energy.

The purpose of this bill is commendable and I fully support the implementation of SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform. This will make the permitting process for residential and commercial-scale distributed energy resources much more efficient, reducing the time and cost associated with adoption of residential solar and energy storage projects.

In addition, I believe that the self-certification process for solar and energy storage projects is a critical step in reducing administrative barriers to the deployment of these technologies. This process will allow applicants to proceed with the build-out of their projects without delay, while ensuring compliance with all applicable codes and laws.

In conclusion, I urge you to support this bill, which will play a crucial role in advancing the State of Hawaii's clean energy, reliability, and resilience goals. Thank you for considering my thoughts and views on this matter.

Sincerely,  
Terri Rhody

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 4:12:15 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Keohokalole and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Fukuknaga and Keith-Agaran, and committee members:

I strongly support SB781 SD1 (with key amendments to the Section 196-B self-certification clause) which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD1 offers a number of common-sense measures such as:

1. establishing a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;
2. removing the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;
3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)\*\*\*
4. raising dollar thresholds in HRS 464-13 that establish exemptions from professional stamp requirements that have not been updated since 1979; and
5. carving out residential solar DERs from HRS 464 requirements.

\*\*\*Please note that I concur with the suggested new amendments offered by KIUC and HSEA.

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

Aloha,

Jeff Lum



**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 4:45:11 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

*I strongly support SB781 SD1 (with key amendments to the Section 196-B self-certification clause) which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD1 offers a number of common-sense measures such as:*

- 1. establishing a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;*
- 2. removing the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems;*
- 3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)\*\*\**
- 4. raising dollar thresholds in HRS 464-13 that establish exemptions from professional stamp requirements that have not been updated since 1979; and*
- 5. carving out residential solar DERs from HRS 464 requirements.*

*\*\*\*Please note that I concur with the suggested new amendments offered by KIUC and HSEA.*

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 7:22:36 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am in strong support of SB 781 SD1

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 8:39:54 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

PLEASE pass critical bill SB781 to streamline the solar permit process.

mahalo and aloha,

William Metzger

Melodee Metzger

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 9:35:20 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 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 respectfully ask that you support SB781 SD1creating a mechanism for the quick approval on residential solar systems in Hawaii.

Thank you for your attention and courtesy.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 9:38:21 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, Senators and Committee Members!

I am a kupuna who is trying to ensure that we achieve Hawai'i's climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient. I understand that currently, some families are waiting up to a year to receive their permit to install Solar Panels. At this rate, we will never achieve effective standards of renewable energy!

**I urge you to pass SB781, which would Streamline Solar Permitting**, so that the 2023 Legislature can make progress in achieving goals that will help save our āina and our families' lives.

Mahalo nui,

Cheryl Ho, Nu'uano

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 10:46:33 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

Please don't let SB781 Sd1 die!

This will quicken the pace of solar projects being OK'd, and will help families quickly lower their energy costs while helping fight Climate Change! saving money for the state and the consumer.

Thank you for simplifying an antiquated process.

Regards,

Pamela Burrell, Kalihiwai, Kaua'i

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 12:11:31 AM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am a voter who lives in Hilo. I am in strong support of SB781. The State will be able to offer a free online app that will quicken solar permitting authorization from months to a day. This will quicken the pace of solar projects being OK'd, and will help families quickly lower their energy costs while helping fight Climate Change. Thank you.

Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

March 1, 2023

Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senate Committee on Consumer Protection

Re: Senate Bill 781 SD1  
Relating to Alternate Energy

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Keohokalole, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Fukunaga and Members of the Committees,

My name is Daniel Chun testifying in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to Senate Bill 781 SD1. I am an architect with 50 years of professional private practice in Honolulu; including 30 years of experience lobbying the legislature on behalf of architects. I concur with testimony submitted by American Institute of Architects also strongly opposing this bill.

### **Section 1 language gives “false impression” and misinformation requires amending**

Page 1 lines 13-14 falsely state “The legislature also finds that exemptions from permitting requirements based on estimated costs that have not been amended since 1979...” County permit requirements are not exempted under design professional licensing law. I sincerely hope that WAM/CPN committees are not being misled by bill drafter’s mistake and thus propose to revise HRS 464-13 in Section 4.

### **Section 4 will have no positive effect on improving county permit processing times**

My opinion is based on half-century of practice in Honolulu designing all kinds of buildings ranging from Bernice Pauahi Bishop Memorial Chapel and UH Center for Hawaiian Studies to over 100 small Repair & Maintenance Projects for the State of Hawaii HIDOEO. I have practice experience in both old and new Honolulu permit processes.

Lengthy delays can be traced to start of computer-based permitting system. In old days, architects submitted half-complete drawings to file for building permit. Only thing that was carefully checked was whether each sheet bore architect seal and signature. We then hand-carried these drawings to various agencies for their approvals before turning these in for final building code check. These agencies did not have jurisdiction over information still being drawn for competitive bidding purposes. During this pre-approval phase, we finalized the drawings and replaced less complete sheets with new completed sheets. We inserted new sheets into rolled set and stapled obsolete sheets to back of the rolled set. I recall about one-third of sheets got replaced by new sheets.

Currently computer-based system drawings must instead be 100% complete, otherwise City will not accept for permit processing. City replaced their weeks-long “eyeball check” with new



automatic system. Thus permit processing time got extended about 6-8 weeks [my sized project] because agency computer-based system requires drawings to 100% completion.

I am now researching Phoenix Arizona permitting process that duplicates Honolulu's old time-saving pre-approval phase ending with code check. Applying/issuing early for a permit application number, without submitting any drawings, can shave time off items like current DLNR SHPO several-week review that requires permit application number before asking for demolition approval.

The sheet numbering system and other requirements were forced upon architects by staff who never consulted with private sector before implementing the system. For my sized projects, the sheet numbering has too many zeros to fit inside detail bubbles. Prime portion of the sheet was commandeered for agency approval box that wastes that valuable space. I heard the staff did not want to ask architects' opinion because we would not like what they planned to do.

AIA recently had the City Council repeal some fresh permit-related ordinances that had such potential for more delay that Mayor Blangiardi held these from going into effect. Mayor Roth had to release permit applications held up by new computer-based permit system; but only for projects having licensed design professional and licensed contractor.

Most time added is because architect no longer self-transmits drawings to various agencies for approvals prior to building code check. Currently computer-based transmittals can only be done by agency staff who have less urgency to complete multiple agency pre-approvals. I have had to pull my drawings out of the computer-based system and hire third party reviewer at more cost because agency staff just "sits" on my drawings for weeks without action. This is the cause of recent bribery scandal that had agency staff prioritize some projects before others. Otherwise, more weeks slip by.

More time is added by review comments that can be incomplete. Architect revises the drawings to comply with agency comments, resubmit and another new set of agency comments is made. Most **inane** comment I have ever received was from Board of Water Supply checker who said architect must note on drawings all of the things I am not asking BWS approval for! Old practice is architect put notes on drawings only for things needing approval. But if you want water, you just grin and bear it.

I understand the frustration of solar energy industry related to lengthy permit processing. I acknowledge that HRS 454-13 has not been amended since 1979. But SB 781 is badly drafted for a very real economic problem. Adding to the challenges discussed above, agency is reportedly understaffed by some 80 persons. My evident frustration is intent of this bill to revise HRS 464-13. My grim prediction based on 50 years of experience is that passing Section 4 language will not move permits any faster because architects are not part of the problem. Architects are part of a solution. Please defer this bill or at least delete Sections 3 and 4 language. Thank you for this opportunity to **STRONGLY OPPOSE** SB 781 SD1.

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 5:47:31 AM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha CPN/WAM Chairs, Vice Chairs & Committees, please support and pass SB781 SD1. This is a revolutionary climate bill .

OK. So SB781 would be a godsend if PV installation could take place in a day! Bill SB781 would streamline solar permitting via an online app that in jurisdictions in CA (already using it) have shortened wait time for permits from months to a single day. It also provides exemptions based on cost estimates that currently require a licensed professional engineer or architect for the installation, which currently adds on thousands of dollars to the project. These cost thresholds have not been updated since 1979 and will be triggered when a family plans to install solar + storage. The requirement for a *licensed* professional engineer or architect is unwarranted and there is no safety issue created. This work can be done safely and proficiently by professional technicians.

I have spoken to Hawaii County solar permitting department and they admit that there are lots of PVs request but people have to wait 12 months or more. SB781 would see a rapid conversion to PVs for all the islands. Lets' bring SB781on! PLEASE DON'T LET THIS BILL DIE, ITS A PRATICAL WAY TO CREATE MORE SOLAR ON OUR ROOF TOPS!

Mahalo for your consideration,

tlaloc tokuda

Kailua Kona, HI 96740

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 8:00:10 AM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Senators!

SB781, Streamlining Solar Permitting, is an important Game-Changing Climate bill. SB781 will break through the bureaucratic backlog for solar projects. With SB781 the State will be able to offer a free online app that will quicken solar permitting authorization from months to a day. This will help families quickly lower their energy costs while helping fight Climate Change!

Yes, it's a no brainer.

Let's keep Hawaii leading the pack to a renewable future!

Mahalo nui loa!

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 8:44:31 AM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please pass this important bill. SB781 SD1 will fix longstanding permitting issues that hold back progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD1 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline permitting. Utilization of the SolarAPP+ alone can save the typical solar consumer more than \$7,000 in red tape. SB781 SD1 is an important step to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 9:13:17 AM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

this bill creates a mechanism for quick application of residential solar projects which may now have an 8 month backload. We are up against time in solving climate change.

Thank You.

Linda Harmon

Hanapepe Hi.

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 10:15:28 AM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear chairs and members of the CPN/WAM Committees,

I strongly support SB781 SD1 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. Currently some families are waiting up to a year to receive their permit. Solar coupled with battery storage provides non-polluting energy as well as resiliency by providing a backup energy source when storms or other emergencies cause a power failure. We must remove the unnecessary roadblocks and burdens to installing solar plus storage systems so that all may access and benefits from solar energy! SB781 SD1 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.

For these reasons, please support SB781 SD1.

Thank you for your attention.

Severine Busquet  
Honolulu, 96825

**LATE**

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 11:46:09 AM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please pass SB781 to accelerate Hawaii's transition to renewable energy production. Distributed production through rooftop solar is efficient and will save households money otherwise spent on electricity from fossil fuels. Simplifying and speeding up the permitting process is a key factor.

**LATE**

**SB-781-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 11:55:54 AM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Dela Cruz a s Committee Members,

my name is Stuart Coleman, and I am writing in strong support of SB781. This Streamlining Solar Permitting bill is important because it will break through the bureaucratic backlog for solar projects. Currently homeowners have to wait up to a year to get their permit to install solar panels. Through SB781 the State will be able to offer a free online app that will quicken solar permitting authorization from months to a day. This will quicken the pace of solar projects being approved and help families quickly lower their energy costs while helping fight Climate Change. Mahalo for your consideration and support of this common sense bill.

Aloha, Stuart Coleman



March 1, 2023

**LATE**

TO: Chair Jarrett Keohokalole  
Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz  
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

FR: *Noelani Derrickson*  
Noelani Derrickson  
Public Policy & Business Development

**RE: SB781 SD1 Relating to Renewable Energy. - Support**

---

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding SB781 SD1, which requires government entities to implement online automated platforms and streamline permitting processes for residential solar and storage.

Tesla strongly supports SB781 SD1, as it addresses some of the biggest obstacles to solar and storage growth in Hawaii.

Today, local permitting processes can be complex and costly for contractors and consumers alike, sometimes taking weeks or even months for a simple solar permit. Automatic and online systems, such as SolarAPP+, can produce 14 times more solar permits than traditional over-the-counter processes.

Although we acknowledge and appreciate recent improvements in residential solar and storage permitting review under Honolulu City and County's Director Dawn Takeuchi Apuna, additional process improvements as proposed in S.B 781 are important to ensure Hawaii can meet its climate goals and support residential resilience and reliability.

Additionally, Tesla supports the suggested amendments offered by KIUC and HSEA.