



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

GWEN S. YAMAMOTO LAU
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HAWAII GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY

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Testimony of
Gwen Yamamoto Lau
Executive Director
Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AND WATER & LAND
March 16, 2023, 9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325
in consideration of
SENATE BILL NO. 781, SD2
RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama, Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and Members of the Energy & Environmental Protection and Water & Land Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and provide comments on Senate Bill No. 781,SD2, 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, SD2.

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



March 13, 2023

Strong Support for SB781 SD1.

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Cochran, and Members of the EEP Committee,

On behalf of the Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) Hawaii, I'm testifying in **strong support of SB781 SD1**. CCL Hawaii is comprised of over 960 members in four local chapters - Hawaii Island, Honolulu, Kauai, and Maui. We advocate for effective, efficient, and fair climate legislation.

SB781 SD1 addresses longstanding permitting issues that are the primary roadblock to the installation of more solar energy in Hawai'i. If we're to meet our renewable energy and climate resilience goals, we must reform and improve upon our existing permitting system. SB781 SD1 includes a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline permitting. Rooftop solar is a key component of our arsenal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and fight climate change.

The bullets below lay out why this bill would reduce the backlog of building permits for residential solar systems and hasten the state's transition to 100% clean energy.

- 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 SD1 and pass it out of your committee.

Respectfully,

Doug Hagan **Maui Chapter Leader**

Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy organization focused on national policies to address climate change solutions. CCL Hawaii's 900+ members are part of a 180,000+ global organization. For more information, visit citizensclimatelobby.org.



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

March 16, 2023.

9:00 AM

Conference Room 325

In **SUPPORT** of **SB781 SD2**: Relating to Renewable Energy

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama, Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and Members of the Committees,

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS** SB781 SD2, 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 SD2 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 SD2. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 9:13:20 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Bernstein	HECA Decarbonization of Buildings Task Force	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii Environmental Change Agents' Decarbonization of Buildings Task Force

March 14, 2023

Position: **Support** of SB781 SD1

Aloha Chair Lowen, Chair Ichiyama, and committee members of EEP and WAL:

On behalf of HECA's Decarbonization of Buildings Task Force, I'm testifying in **support** of SB781 SD1 because it addresses longstanding permitting issues that are the primary roadblock to the installation of more solar energy in Hawai'i. If we are to meet our renewable energy and climate resilience goals, we must reform and improve upon our existing permitting system. SB781 SD1 includes a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline permitting:

1. Establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects;
2. Removes the burdensome materials and methods requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems
3. Raises dollar thresholds in HRS 464-13 that establish exemptions from professional stamp requirements that have not been updated since 1979; and
4. Carves 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 residents save money on their electric bills and help the State meet its clean energy goals. Rooftop solar is a key component of our arsenal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and fight climate change. Additionally, 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.

Mahalo nui loa,

Paul Bernstein

Chair of HECA's Decarbonization of Buildings Task Force



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Executive Officers

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Gary Okimoto, Safeway, *Vice Chair*
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Lauren Zirbel, HFIA, *President and Executive Director*
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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 Energy and Environmental Protection, and Committee on Water and Land
Rep. Nicole E. Lowen and Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Chairs
Rep. Elle Chochran and Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chairs

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: Thursday March 16, 2023
TIME: 9am

RE: SB781 SD2 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.

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama, Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and committee members:

My name is Michael Baldwin, President of Hawaii Unified Industries, LLC. We support the adoption of SolarApp+ as it will allow contractors and homeowners to take advantage of opportunity and savings now. Contractors are suffering and cannot conduct viable business with the delays it takes in acquiring permits. Homeowners cannot construct projects and take advantage of savings for months or even a year or more following contracts to acquire solar. The committee can help local businesses and their constituents by adopting this program. This program will also free up a considerable back log of permits, allowing the DPP and individuals responsible for review to work through a larger volume of delayed projects and permits. This is a win win for everyone involved.

I strongly support SB781 SD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 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; and
3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.).***

***Please note that I concur with the suggested amendments offered by HSEA. The first clarifies that a duly licensed architect, engineer, or plumber (where applicable) is responsible for the certification (stamp) in the self-certification pathway. The second reinserts the exemption from HRS 464 requirements for "residential distributed energy resource systems."

Mahalo for hearing 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
808-798-3476

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 10:22:16 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am Paul Orem CEO of a locally owned and operated general contracting and renewable energy company based in Honolulu. These bills are critically important to Hawaii's clean energy future therefore I strongly support SB781 SD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 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; and*
- 3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.).****

****Please note that I concur with the suggested amendments offered by HSEA . The first clarifies that a duly licensed architect, engineer, or plumber (where applicable) is responsible for the certification (stamp) in the self-certification pathway. The second reinserts the exemption from HRS 464 requirements for "residential distributed energy resource systems."*

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

Respectfully,

Paul Orem - CEO

Photonworks Engineering LLP

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 10:43:37 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julian Kahumana	Alternate Energy Hawaii	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

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama, Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and committee members:

My name is Desta Rudolph, I am 2nd generation Solar Professional and President of Independent Energy Hawaii. Our company works with members of our community to install solar on their homes and free themselves from costly electric bills. There are several compelling reasons why a bill to improve solar permitting in Hawaii would be beneficial for both the economy and the people of the state. Streamlining the solar permitting process would help to accelerate the growth of the solar industry in Hawaii. This would create new jobs in the solar installation, maintenance, and manufacturing sectors, providing a significant boost to the local economy. Increased investment in solar energy would also reduce Hawaii's reliance on fossil fuels, thereby improving energy security and reducing the state's carbon footprint.

I strongly support SB781 SD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 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; and*
- 3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.).****

****Please note that I concur with the suggested amendments offered by HSEA. The first clarifies that a duly licensed architect, engineer, or plumber (where applicable) is responsible for the certification (stamp) in the self-certification pathway. The second reinserts the exemption from HRS 464 requirements for "residential distributed energy resource systems."*

Thank you for hearing this critical bill for Hawaii's clean energy future and for giving me the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Desta Rudolph





Green Power Projects LLC
Alan Lennard, Managing Director
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Haleiwa, HI 96712
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E alan.lennard@greenpowerprojects.com

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Testimony of Alan Lennard
Managing Director of Green Power Projects LLC
e-mail: alan.lennard@greenpowerprojects.com

In SUPPORT of SB781 SD2 Regarding longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals

Before the

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Rep. Elle Cochran, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND
Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Chair
Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 16, 2023
TIME: 9:00AM
PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Conference Room 325 State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Cochran, Chair Ichiyama, Vice-Chair Poepoe and Members of both Committees,

My name is Alan Lennard. I am the Managing director of Green Power Projects LLC. Green Power Projects LLC is a Solar project facilitation company working towards 100% Renewable Energy capacity in Hawaii. Our vision is a Hawaiian energy economy based 100% on renewable sources indigenous to Hawaii.

I Support SB781 SD2

I strongly support SB781 SD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 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; and
3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent).***

***Please note that I concur with the suggested amendments offered by HSEA. The first clarifies that a duly licensed architect, engineer, or plumber (where applicable) is responsible for the certification (stamp) in the self-certification pathway. The second reinserts the exemption from HRS 464 requirements for "residential distributed energy resource systems."

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

Thank you for supporting clean solar energy and giving me the opportunity to testify.

Alan Lennard -dig signature

Alan Lennard
Managing Director
Green Power Projects LLC
P.O. Box 818
Haleiwa, HI 96712-0818



Laurence Ponce
Solar Services Hawaii LLP
98-121 Kihale Pl
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(808) 721-3585

Testimony of Laurence Ponce
RME of Solar Services Hawaii
e-mail: solar.services.hi.testimony@gmail.com

In SUPPORT of SB781 SD2 Regarding longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals

Before the

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Rep. Elle Cochran, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Chair
Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 16, 2023

TIME: 9:00AM

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Conference Room 325 State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Cochran, Chair Ichiyama, Vice-Chair Poepoe and Members of both Committees,

My name is Laurence Ponce. I am RME of Solar Services Hawaii. and a Member of HSEA. Solar Services Hawaii is a Solar installation company working towards 100% Renewable Energy capacity in Hawaii.

I Support SB781 SD2

I strongly support SB781 SD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 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; and
3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent).***

***Please note that I concur with the suggested amendments offered by HSEA. The first clarifies that a duly licensed architect, engineer, or plumber (where applicable) is responsible for the certification (stamp) in the self-certification pathway. The second reinserts the exemption from HRS 464 requirements for "residential distributed energy resource systems."

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

Thank you for supporting clean solar energy and giving me the opportunity to testify.

Laurence Ponce – dig signature

Laurence Ponce
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John Grandinetti
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Testimony of John Grandinetti
President of
Grand Solar Inc.
e-mail: grandsolar808@gmail.com

In SUPPORT of SB781 SD2 Regarding longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals

Before the

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Rep. Elle Cochran, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Chair
Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 16, 2023

TIME: 9:00AM

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Conference Room 325 State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Cochran, Chair Ichiyama, Vice-Chair Poepoe and Members of both Committees,

My name is John Grandinetti. I am the President of Grand Solar Inc. and a Member of HSEA. Grand Solar is a Solar installation company working towards 100% Renewable Energy capacity in Hawaii.

I Support SB781 SD2

I strongly support SB781 SD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 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; and
3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent).***

***Please note that I concur with the suggested amendments offered by HSEA. The first clarifies that a duly licensed architect, engineer, or plumber (where applicable) is responsible for the certification (stamp) in the self-certification pathway. The second reinserts the exemption from HRS 464 requirements for "residential distributed energy resource systems."

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

Thank you for supporting clean solar energy and giving me the opportunity to testify.

John Grandinetti – dig signature

John Grandinetti
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SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 7:02:48 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha EEP & WAL Committees,

On behalf of Our Revolution Hawaii's 5,000 members and supporters statewide, we Strongly Support SB781 SB2 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 in real time. Requires government entities in the State that issue building permits in territories served by an investor-owned electric utility to adopt self-certification for solar distributed energy resource systems that are not SolarAPP+ compatible.

SB781 SD2 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 SB2 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.

In summation SB781 SD2 addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. The bill 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 projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)

While we wholeheartedly support advancing the current draft, we are disappointed and concerned that Sections 3 and 4 were deleted. We recommend reinserting Section 3 (the definition of "residential distributed energy resource system") in its entirety and Section 4 in part -- the exemption from HRS 464 for "residential distributed energy resource systems." It is our understanding that the requirements of HRS 464 are resulting in the imposition of overly burdensome permitting requirements for relatively small and simple residential rooftop solar and storage installations. Exempting these simple retrofits makes sense.

Please pass SB781 SB2 with sections 3 and 4 reinserted into the bill, because this bill 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



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND WATER & LAND
Wednesday, March 1, 2023 — 9:30 a.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports SB 781 SD2, Relating to Renewable Energy.

Dear Chair Lowen, Chair Ichiyama, 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 SD2, 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 in territories served by an investor-owned electric utility to adopt self-certification for solar distributed energy resource systems that are not SolarAPP+ compatible.

Ulupono supports the use of SolarAPP+, or an equivalent platform, to help streamline solar and energy storage project permitting. 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 House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection (EEP)
and
The House Committee on Water & Land (WAL)
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023, 9:00am

In strong support of SB781 SD2

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama, Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and members of the EEP and WAL 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 SD2** 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 further requires government entities in the State that issue building permits in territories served by an investor-owned electric utility to adopt self-certification for solar distributed energy resource systems that are not SolarAPP+ compatible.

SB781 SD2 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 SD2 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 SD2, 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*.

While we wholeheartedly support advancing the current draft, we are disappointed and concerned that Sections 3 and 4 were deleted in the SD2 version of this measure. To strengthen this measure and maximize its benefits, we recommend reinserting Section 3 (the definition of "residential distributed energy resource system") in its entirety and Section 4 in part -- the exemption from HRS 464 for "residential distributed energy resource systems." It is our understanding that the requirements of HRS 464 are resulting in the imposition of overly burdensome permitting requirements for relatively small and simple residential rooftop solar and storage installations. Exempting these simple retrofits makes good sense.

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

Rooftop solar power reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and as such, is a key tool in our fight against the climate crisis. **SB781 SD2 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



To: The Honorable Chairs Nicole Lowen and Linda Ichiyama, the Honorable Vice Chairs Elle Cochran and Mahina Poepoe, and Members of the Committees on Energy and Environment and Water and Land

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

Hearing: Thursday March 16, 2023, 9:00 a.m., room 325

Re: **Hearing SB781 SD2 RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.**

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama, Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and Members of the Committees on Energy and Environment and Water and Land:

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB781 SD2!

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 in areas served by an

investor-owned utility (rather than an electric cooperative) to adopt self-certification for solar distributed energy resource systems that are not SolarAPP+ compatible.

This bill would **lower administrative barriers** that constrain deployment of residential and commercial-scale distributed energy resources.

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)

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 5:04:12 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Wyszowski	Sunnova	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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 Solar APP+ 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.

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-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 6:00:15 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris DeBone	Hawaii Energy Connection, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama, Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and committee members:

My name is Chris DeBone and represent the 50+ employees at Hawaii Energy Connection (a.k.a. KumuKit Solar). We have been providing affordable and environmentally friendly saolar energy alternatinves since 2007. We are currently scheduling our crews on a month to month basis. This is not due to lack of demand, but due to the whack-a-mole game we are playing in our efforts in receiving permits in time for scheduled installations. We have single family homes that have been waiting over 6 months for a solar PV permit. The permitting struggles are real.

I strongly support SB781 SD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 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; and
3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.).***

***Please note that I concur with the suggested amendments offered by HSEA . The first clarifies that a duly licensed architect, engineer, or plumber (where applicable) is responsible for the certification (stamp) in the self-certification pathway. The second reinserts the exemption from HRS 464 requirements for "residential distributed energy resorurce systems."

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

Mahalo,

Chris DeBone



Legislative Testimony of Sunrun Inc.
Before the EEP/WAL Committee
March 16, 2023

IN SUPPORT of SB781 SD2 – Relating to Renewable Energy

Dear Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama, Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and distinguished Members of the Committees on Energy & Environmental Protection and Water & Land,

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

Sunrun strongly supports SB781 SD2 (“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 distributed energy resource (DER) systems; and
3. Creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.).¹

Hawai‘i has a 100% renewable portfolio standard (RPS) by 2045,² 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.³ In 2021, Hawaiian Electric (HECO) achieved 38% renewable generation, attributed to “a full year of geothermal production and an increase in private rooftop solar.”⁴ Further, rooftop solar is the leading contributor to Hawai‘i’s clean energy portfolio making up 44.6% of all renewable energy in the state.⁵ 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.

¹ Sunrun concurs with the suggested amendments offered by HSEA. The first clarifies that a duly licensed architect, engineer, or plumber (where applicable) is responsible for the certification (stamp) in the self-certification pathway. The second reinserts the exemption from HRS 464 requirements for “residential distributed energy resource systems.”

² <https://energy.hawaii.gov/what-we-do/clean-energy-vision/>

³ <https://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=HI#tabs-1>

⁴ <https://www.hawaiianelectric.com/hawaiian-electric-hits-38-renewable-energy-in-2021>

⁵ <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 year⁶. 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.⁷ 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

⁶ 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

⁷ <https://pv-magazine-usa.com/2021/08/27/does-solsmart-program-targets-solar-soft-cost-reduction/>



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

Testimony of The Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) Regarding SB781 SD2, Relating to Renewable Energy, Before the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection and the House Committee on Water and Land

Thursday, March 16th, 2023

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama, Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and committee members:

The Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) **strongly supports SB781 SD2**, which contains measures to streamline and remove barriers to permitting for solar and energy storage projects critical to achieving Hawaii's clean energy transition. We also offer some suggested amendments to improve and clarify the intent of the bill.

HSEA members include the majority of locally owned and operated renewable energy companies doing business in the state of Hawaii along with leading global cleantech manufacturers and service providers that invest and sell in our market. We employ thousands of residents in diverse green economy jobs that are innovating, designing, and building Hawaii's pathway to a renewable energy future. We advocate for policies that help Hawaii achieve critical climate and resilience goals by enabling residents and businesses to invest in and benefit from the transition to clean energy. 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 communities, permitting delays have emerged as a primary obstacle to progress.

SB781 SD2 addresses ongoing permitting challenges in several important ways:

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



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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. To clarify that a duly licensed design professional such as an architect or engineer should be responsible for certifying that the project application submission is compliant with all applicable codes and laws, we suggest the following amendment (*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



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(2) The applicable government entity in the State that issues building permits is notified in writing by the duly licensed ~~electrician~~-architect, duly licensed engineer, 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.

Finally, while HSEA strongly supports this bill for the measures in it, we are concerned with the removal of Sections 3 and 4 in the SD2 draft and recommend reinserting language to restore the exemption from HRS 464 for “residential distributed energy resource systems.” HSEA members with day-to-day expertise and experience with the permitting process have firsthand knowledge that permitting authorities are using or planning to use HRS 464 dollar thresholds as a basis to create a permitting requirement, and this is causing significant delay for relatively simple, smaller-scale rooftop solar and storage installations. See suggested amendment as follows ***(added or struck language bracketed and highlighted)***:

SECTION 3. Section 464-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted and to read as follows:

“Residential distributed energy resource system” means an assembly of energy-generating or energy-storing materials, or any combined assembly of solar energy-generating and energy-storing materials, sited on a residence and the related infrastructure for its operation.

SECTION 4. Section 464-13, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

“§464-13 [Structures] Work exempted from provisions of chapter. (a) The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to work in respect to any privately owned or privately controlled one-storied building, dwelling, or structure, the estimated cost of which does not exceed \$40,000, nor to any privately controlled two-storied building, dwelling, or structure, the estimated cost of which does not exceed \$35,000. However, no structure, dwelling, or building in which the principal structural members consist of reinforced concrete or structural steel having riveted, bolted, or welded connections shall be exempted from this chapter.



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(b) The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to work in respect to any privately owned or privately controlled one-storied structure, which is used primarily as a residence, the estimated cost of which does not exceed \$50,000, nor to any privately owned or privately controlled two-storied structure, which is used primarily as a residence, the cost of which does not exceed \$45,000.

(c) The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to work with respect to residential distributed energy resource systems.

~~(e)~~(d) Whenever the exemption provided for in subsection ~~(b)~~(c) is applied to the construction of a new building, it shall be noted and recorded with the bureau of conveyances."

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.

HSEA **strongly supports SB781 SD2** and respectfully urges the committee to advance this measure, and **we also offer suggested amendments to improve the bill.**

Thank you for providing the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

/s/ Rocky Mould

Rocky Mould
Executive Director



Before the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

Testimony in Support of SB781 SD2: Relating to Renewable Energy

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support and provide comments on Senate Bill 781 SD2.

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

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

Projects that help the state progress toward its renewable energy, energy efficiency, and climate resiliency goals can run into delays for a variety of reasons – something Hawai'i Energy is certainly familiar with – and permitting issues are a longstanding obstacle. SB781 SD2 addresses solar and energy storage project permitting issues by establishing a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects; removing the burdensome materials and methods requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems; and creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent).

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 781 SD2.

Sincerely,
Caroline Carl
Executive Director
Hawai'i Energy

March 16, 2023

TO: Chair Nicole E. Lowen
Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Chair Linda Ichiyama
Members of the Committee on Water & Land

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

RE: SB781 SD2 Relating to Renewable Energy. - Support

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding SB781 SD2, which requires government entities to implement online automated platforms and streamline permitting processes for residential solar and storage.

Tesla **strongly supports SB781 SD2**, 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 SB781 SD2 are important to ensure Hawaii can meet its climate goals and support residential resilience and reliability.

Additionally, we are supportive of the proposed amendments from Hawaii Solar Energy Association clarifying the self-certification pathway and aligning with HRS 464 requirements.

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 9:37:41 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randall S Bricker	Photonworks Engineering LLP.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB781 SD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 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; and*
- 3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.).****

****Please note that I concur with the suggested amendments offered by HSEA . The first clarifies that a duly licensed architect, engineer, or plumber (where applicable) is responsible for the certification (stamp) in the self-certification pathway. The second reinserts the exemption from HRS 464 requirements for "residential distributed energy resource systems."*

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

Respectfully,

Randall Bricker, COO at Photonworks Engineering, LLP

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 9:52:52 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Ah Sue	Malama Solar	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama, Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and committee members:

My name is Rachel Ah Sue, co-owner of Malama Solar. I was born and raised in Honolulu and my kids are growing up here. I believe in Hawaii's mission in being 100% renewable by 2045. One of the BIGGEST issues that we face in our industry currently, is in permitting. There is too much red tape, the process is too slow and inefficient, and too MANUAL!

I strongly support SB781 SD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 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; and
3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.).

Please note that I concur with the suggested amendments offered by HSEA. The first clarifies that a duly licensed architect, engineer, or plumber (where applicable) is responsible for the certification (stamp) in the self-certification pathway. The second reinserts the exemption from HRS 464 requirements for "residential distributed energy resource systems."

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

Respectfully,

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 3:13:44 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurel brier	Kauai 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.

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 8:59:52 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ella Aki	Fortress Power	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama, Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and committee members:

My name is Ella Aki, and I am a the Hawaii Regional Sales Manager for Fortress Power, a provider of premium LFP energy storage solutions since 2016. I am also a native Hawaiian female representing regenerative, renewable, and indigenous interests in the state's renewable energy industry.

I strongly support SB781 SD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 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; and
3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent).***

***Please note that I concur with the suggested amendments offered by HSEA . The first clarifies that a duly licensed architect, engineer, or plumber (where applicable) is responsible for the certification (stamp) in the self-certification pathway. The second reinserts the exemption from HRS 464 requirements for "residential distributed energy resource systems."

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

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Ella Henanipuakea Aki

Testimony of
Pacific Resource Partnership

House Committees on
Energy & Environmental Protection
Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Representative Elle Cochran, Vice Chair

and

Water & Land
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

SB 781 SD2 —Relating To Renewable Energy
Thursday, March 16, 2023
9:00 A.M.

Aloha Chair Lowen, Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Cochran, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committees:

Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP) is a non-profit market recovery trust fund which represents approximately 7,000 men and women union carpenters and 240 large and small contractors. With our expertise in research, compliance, marketing, and project advocacy, we are committed to building a stronger, more sustainable Hawai'i in a way that promotes a vibrant economy, creates jobs, and enhances the quality of life for all residents of Hawai'i.

PRP writes in **support** of SB 781 SD2 with the following amendment to be inserted on page 4 of the bill:

(d) In issuing building permits in compliance with subsection (a), the applicable government entity in the State may promote the use of labor standards including, but not limited to living wages, benefits, and requirements for participation in state-approved apprenticeship programs.

This amendment will authorize (not require) the counties to include labor standards in county ordinances related to the issuance of building permits for solar distributed energy resource systems.

Labor standards, including, but not limited to living wages, benefits, and requirements for participation in state-approved apprenticeship programs are vital to attracting and maintaining local workers with the requisite knowledge, skill, training, and experience needed to construct safe renewable energy systems in a timely manner.



(Continued From Page 1)

Authorizing counties to include labor standards will encourage the timely build-out of diverse, resilient, and reliable portfolio of low-cost renewable energy systems consistent with the purpose of SB 781 SD2 and to help meet Hawai'i's 100% renewable energy goal by 2045.

As such, we respectfully request your favorable decision on this measure. Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony.

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 10:28:53 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathaniel Kinney	Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters	Comments	In Person

Comments:

We believe that SB781 should be amended to allow counties to establish labor standards to ensure that workers in the solar industry are paid a living wage, with decent benefits, and participate in state approved apprenticeship programs.

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 7:26:24 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samuel M Mitchell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

--I strongly support SB781 SD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 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 benefit from solar energy!

--SB781 SD2 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 permits. This is unacceptable and must be remedied. By implementing provisions in SB781 SD2, there will be auto-approval, and 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 SD2 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals!

THANK YOU SAMUEL MITCHELL MAKIKI Nb-10

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 8:14:37 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

Please support streamling of solar permits so we can reduce greenhouse gases. With solar, delivery of fuel for your power system is always free!

mahalo,

Cory Harden

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 8:32:23 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Garris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Remove overburdensome regulations on rooftop solar

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 8:41:03 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Harvey Arkin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The DPP is under staffed and uses a broken permitting system that is jeopardizing our ability to move to truly clean renewable energy at the pace that is needed to meaningfully address climate breakdown and work towards a livable future for our children. SB781 will streamline solar permitting

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 8:52:14 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB781 SD2.

By implementing provisions in SB781 SD2, 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 SD2 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals!

Thank you for your consideration.

L. Osterer, long term resident and registered voter.

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 8:53:37 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I waited over a year to get my solar battery backup hooked up. No reason for the delay but incompetency.

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 10:55:32 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

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.

SB781 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 OK'd, and will help families quickly lower their energy costs while helping fight Climate Change!

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 11:15:59 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Strong support, we need to remove all commonsense barriers to expanding our islands solar capacity.

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 5:14:24 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I STRONGLY support this bill! We need to make solar power pannels easier to install in order to achieve our green energy targets

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 8:53:42 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
P Noel Bobilin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB781 SD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. This is an important step to help Hawaii meet its climate goals. Rooftop solar power is a key tool in the fight against climate change. SB781 SD2 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals! Thank you.

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 9:32:17 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Members of EEP/WAL Committees,

I strongly support **SB781 SD2** which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. **SB781SD2** 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.

I know people with solar plus battery on Oahu who are now 60% plus self powered saving them money and reducing the load on the grid.

Virginia Tincher, Oahu

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 12:03:40 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dale Jensen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear EEP/WAL Committee Members:

I am a retired mechanical/ocean engineer who worked in renewable energy technology for the 35 years of my professional career. The many projects on which I worked often demonstrated to me that permit requirements can often delay, make more costly or even totally stifle worthwhile renewable energy projects. I think it is important for legislators to consider that our current addiction to fossil fuel power generation technology all began before the advent of the EPA or the many other government permitting agencies and sign-offs. Now with civilization threatening climate change upon us, it is imperative that we find a way to cut through the "red tape" we have imposed upon new power technology to quickly adapt our power generation and transportation technology - two of the current fossil fuel systems most easily converted to renewable energy sources.

I consider Bill SB781 SD2 a good step in the right direction with regard to easing permit restrictions. Let's not look back 10 or 20 years from now and say, "we could have done more and faster". Future generation depend upon responsible and imagination solutions now. SB781 SD2 certainly qualifies in these categories and should be adopted. The risks involved are small and smaller still considering the threat society faces from climate change. I strongly encourage your committee's actions to pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Dale Jensen, Professional Engineer, Ret'd.

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 12:38:51 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Geyer	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Testimony in support of S.B. NO. 781, S.D. 2

This bill will significantly reduce administrative barriers to the deployment of energy generation and storage technology systems in Hawaii. I believe that this bill is an important step towards achieving Hawaii's goal of transitioning away from imported fossil fuels and towards locally available renewable energy sources.

By making it easier and more efficient for licensed contractors to obtain permits, this bill will encourage the timely build-out of a diverse, resilient, and reliable portfolio of low-cost renewable energy generation and storage assets.

By passing this bill, you will be taking an important step towards reducing Hawaii's dependence on imported fossil fuels and promoting the growth of renewable energy generation and storage in the state.

Thank you for hearing this important measure.

Sincerely, Matthew Geyer

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 1:44:23 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

--I strongly support SB781 SD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 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 SD2 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 SD2, 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 SD2 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals!

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 2:33:46 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANDREW ISODA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

--I strongly support SB781 SD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 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 SD2 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 SD2, 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 SD2 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals!

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 4:22:11 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brodie Lockard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB781, the bill to Streamline Solar Permitting, 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 this bill 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 costs while helping the planet!

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 6:11:04 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosie F Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I support SB781

Thank you

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 9:30:14 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in support of SB 781

Tgank you, Faith Tuipulotu

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 10:36:24 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Johnson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama, Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and committee members:

My name is Michael Johnson and I've been a Hawai'i resident for over 35 years, having grown up in our wonderful State since a keiki. I have also passionately dedicated my career over the past 12+ years working towards the same renewable energy goals that we have established as a State.

I am providing my testimony as I strongly support SB781 SD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 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; and*
- 3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.).****

****Please note that I concur with the suggested amendments offered by HSEA . The first clarifies that a duly licensed architect, engineer, or plumber (where applicable) is responsible for the certification (stamp) in the self-certification pathway. The second reinserts the exemption from HRS 464 requirements for "residential distributed energy resource systems."*

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

Respectfully,

Michael Johnson

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 10:42:24 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
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-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 11:03:07 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama, Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and committee members:

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

I strongly support SB781 SD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 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; and*
- 3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.). ****

****Please note that I concur with the suggested amendments offered by HSEA . The first clarifies that a duly licensed architect, engineer, or plumber (where applicable) is responsible for the certification (stamp) in the self-certification pathway. The second reinserts the exemption from HRS 464 requirements for "residential distributed energy resource systems."*

Mahalo for hearing 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-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 12:11:17 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joy Cho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama, Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and committee members:

My name is Joy Cho and I wish to see a more renewably powered Hawaii. It is imperative that we have the right access if we wish to meet our goals to be mainly powered by sustainable, renewable-energy.

I strongly support SB781 SD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 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; and*
- 3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.).****

****Please note that I concur with the suggested amendments offered by HSEA . The first clarifies that a duly licensed architect, engineer, or plumber (where applicable) is responsible for the certification (stamp) in the self-certification pathway. The second reinserts the exemption from HRS 464 requirements for "residential distributed energy resource systems."*

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

Respectfully,

Joy Cho

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 12:25:41 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. There has been a stranglehold on Solar for too long.

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 12:34:58 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama, Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and committee members:

I strongly support SB781 SD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 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; and
3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.).***

***Please note that I concur with the suggested amendments offered by HSEA . The first clarifies that a duly licensed architect, engineer, or plumber (where applicable) is responsible for the certification (stamp) in the self-certification pathway. The second reinserts the exemption from HRS 464 requirements for "residential distributed energy resource systems."

Mahalo for hearing 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-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 2:11:29 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 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, and committed to Renewable Energy for the past 10 years. I take pride in my work in helping families make the switch in going green clean renewable energy. I know with your support of SB781, together we can make sure that our planet remains sustainable for our keiki and their future. 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.

Sincerely,

Miles Yoshimoto

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 2:17:01 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama, Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and committee members:

My name is Radford Nakamura and I have worked in the solar / renewable energy sector since 2012.

I strongly support SB781 SD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 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; and*
- 3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.).****

****Please note that I concur with the suggested amendments offered by HSEA . The first clarifies that a duly licensed architect, engineer, or plumber (where applicable) is responsible for the certification (stamp) in the self-certification pathway. The second reinserts the exemption from HRS 464 requirements for "residential distributed energy resource systems."*

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

Radford Nakamura

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 2:26:44 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB781 SD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 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; and*
- 3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.).****

Mahalo!

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 3:19:25 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama, Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and committee members,

My name is Roy Skaggs and I am the Director of Sales at Alternate Energy, a local 30-year old company who employess ~100 local people. I am also a solar customer and believer of consumer choice for their financiala benefit as well as for the bettering of the environment.

I strongly support SB781 SD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 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; and*
- 3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.).****

****Please note that I concur with the suggested amendments offered by HSEA . The first clarifies that a duly licensed architect, engineer, or plumber (where applicable) is responsible for the certification (stamp) in the self-certification pathway. The second reinserts the exemption from HRS 464 requirements for "residential distributed energy resorurce systems."*

Mahalo for hearing 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-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 3:49:04 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Morin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama, Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and Committee members,

I am in SUPPORT of **SB781 SD2**.

Sincerely,

Noel Morin

Climate, Sustainability, and Resilience Advocate

Hilo, Hawaii

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 4:03:05 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support SB781 SD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 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 SD2 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 SD2, 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 SD2 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals!

This is important. Please, Do the Right Thing and pass this bill.

Thank you.

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 5:29:03 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Keahiolalo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama, Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and committee members:

My name is Kim Keahiolalo. I have been working in solar on the Big Island since 2012. I have witnessed many adaptations in Hawaii that are very encouraging in the adoption of clean energy. Along that theme: SB781 SD2 makes good sense for Oahu. I ask that you support this bill.

I support SB781 SD2 because it addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. We have experienced and successfully overcome similar issues here on the Big Island. I have plenty of Ohana on Oahu who would benefit from the passage of this bill and the ultimate repair of the permitting system.

SB781 SD2 offers the following positive measures.

1. Establishing a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting.
2. Removing the burdensome MM# requirement.
3. Creating a self-certification pathway for all solar projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+

I concur with the suggested amendments offered by HSEA, of which I am a member. *The first clarifies that a duly licensed architect, engineer, or plumber is responsible for the certification stamp in the self-certification pathway.

**The second reinserts the exemption from HRS 464 requirements for residential distributed energy resource systems.

Mahalo for hearing this critically important bill for Hawaii's clean and resilient energy future and for giving me the opportunity to provide testimony. I ask that you support this bill.

Respectfully, Kim Keahiolalo

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 5:53:43 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doug Kroll	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a must for Hawaii to get to our sustainability goals.

Doug Kroll

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 7:44:36 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support SB781. We need more solar power and we need it quickly, efficiently and effectively! --Rooftop solar power is a key tool in the fight against climate change. SB781 SD2 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals!

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 8:57:18 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

STRONGLY SUPPORT !

Common sense. Helps ratepayers / taxpayers / residents, and our ailing planet!

Please vote for!



**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**

March 16, 2023, 9:00 AM
Room 325

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 781 SD2

Aloha Chair Lowen, Chair Ichiyama, and members of the Committees:

Blue Planet Foundation **supports SB 781 SD2**, 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 island¹ and 6,000 homes on Kaua'i² 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;

¹ "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)

² 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

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.

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 10:17:09 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven Freiberger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am superintendent at Photonworks Engineering. I have been in the Solar Industry for 15 years.

Here in Hawaii, we are at the fore front of Solar technology implementation and programs, and we have an incredible Goal of Self Sustainability. We can only get there in a timely manner, if our projects are reviewed and approved in a timely manner. We beg of our representatives, and our community, to implement modern technology to keep up with our modern world. Please let us all know what we can do to bring us to the next level.

I strongly support SB781 SD2 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB781 SD2 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; and*
- 3. creating a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.).****

****Please note that I concur with the suggested amendments offered by HSEA . The first clarifies that a duly licensed architect, engineer, or plumber (where applicable) is responsible for the certification (stamp) in the self-certification pathway. The second reinserts the exemption from HRS 464 requirements for "residential distributed energy resorurce systems."*

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

Testimony in favor of SB781



cheryl ho <hiipoikealoha@gmail.com>
To  cochran2 - Adante

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Wed 3/15/2023 11:16 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi, Adante!

What a relief to receive your phone call, offering your help to submit this testimony on SB781!

Took me a while to locate what I had written (when we were trying to get it scheduled for hearing), and edit it.

Mahalo nui loa for your assistance!!
Cheryl Ho (cell: 808-651-2303)

-in SUPPORT

-as an Individual

-Written only

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 please vote for SB781, which would Streamline Solar Permitting, so that the 2023 Legislature can make progress in achieving goals that will help save our āina and ultimately, our families' health and welfare.

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 6:43:06 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
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 SD2 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 SD2 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-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 6:24:14 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Barker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members,

I respectfully ask that you support SB781 SD2 which will address longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals.

Thank you for your attention and courtesy.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

SB-781-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 7:39:53 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/16/2023 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Support