

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

**Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Wednesday, February 14, 2024
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 329 and Videoconference**

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

Chair Nakashima and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sheena Choy, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects (Board). The Board will discuss this bill at its next publicly noticed meeting on February 13, 2024, at 9:30am, after which it will be able to provide this Committee with its position.

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

Historically, the Board has emphasized the importance of a final inspection process for consumer safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR



Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority

An Agency of the State of Hawaii

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
CHAIR

GWEN S YAMAMOTO LAU
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Testimony of
Gwen Yamamoto Lau
Executive Director
Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
February 14, 2024, 2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329
in consideration of
HOUSE BILL NO. 2614, HD1
RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

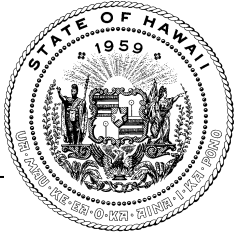
Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and Members of the Consumer Protection & Commerce Committee:

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

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

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

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



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone:
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JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

MARK B. GLICK
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

(808) 451-6648
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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Wednesday, February 14, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329 and Videoconference

In Support of
HB 2614, HD1

RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.

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

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

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

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

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

And also

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

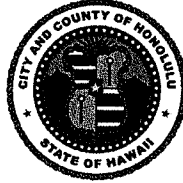
Regarding the self-certification section of the bill, HSEO notes the efficiency of the concept and looks forward to supporting the authorities having jurisdiction as they “establish a self-certification process” (page 4, lines 13-14) to allow residential and commercial on-site solar distributed energy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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING
KA 'OIHANA HO'OLĀLĀ A ME NĀ PALAPALA 'AE
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 SOUTH KING STREET, 7TH FLOOR • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
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RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA



DAWN TAKEUCHI APUNA
DIRECTOR
PO'O

JIRO A. SUMADA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
HOPE PO'O

February 14, 2024

The Honorable Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection
and Commerce
Hawai'i House of Representatives
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: House Bill No. 2614, HD 1
Relating to Renewable Energy

Dear Chair Nakashima and Committee Members:

The Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) **offers comments** on House Bill No. 2614, HD 1, which would require government entities in the State that issue building permits to implement SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform that verifies code compliance and issues permits to licensed contractors for solar distributed energy resource systems in real-time by January 1, 2025. This Bill also would require government entities in the State that issue building permits in areas served by an investor-owned electric utility to adopt a self-certification process for solar distributed energy resource systems that are not SolarAPP+ compatible.

The DPP agrees that online permit processing apps such as SolarAPP+ are a must in order to process solar applications in a timely manner. In 2021, the DPP refined our own automated online permitting system for solar permits. This functionally equivalent system has proven very successful and processes solar permits that equal 60% of our residential permits. Recently, Ordinance 23-29 was signed by Mayor Rick Blangiardi that allows for self-certification of many building permits and the ordinance could be amended to include solar permits to comply with this Bill, should it be approved.

The DPP's current system has the same instant online functionality as SolarAPP+ and has proven very effective in reducing our backlog of residential building permit applications. We support House Bill No. 2614, HD 1, so long as the counties are given the option of using a functionally equivalent automated system.

The Honorable Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection
and Commerce
Hawai'i House of Representatives
House Bill No. 2614, HD 1
February 14, 2024
Page 2

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dawn", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Dawn Takeuchi Apuna
Director

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

JOSIAH K. NISHITA
Managing Director



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov

February 13, 2024

TO: Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
Rep. Jackson D. Sayama, Vice Chair
Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

FROM: Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor
Luana Mahi, Director for the Office of Economic Development

DATE: February 13, 2024

SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF HB2614 HD1, RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure. The Act requires government entities in the State that issue building permits to implement, by 1/1/2025, SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform that verifies code compliance and issues permits to licensed contractors for solar distributed energy resource systems in real time. This act also requires government entities in the State that issue building permits in areas served by an investor-owned electric utility to adopt a self-certification process for solar distributed energy resource systems that are not SolarAPP+ compatible.

We **SUPPORT** this measure for the following reasons:

1. This bill will streamline permitting for solar and storage. This measure requires government entities in the State that issue building permits to implement SolarAPP+ or a functionally of equivalent online automated permitting platform.
2. This bill addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. HB2614 HD1 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline permitting. This is an important step to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.
3. This bill establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects. Currently applicants are often waiting more than a year to receive their permit. By implementing provisions in HB2614, there will be auto-approval, proceed-to-build for all

solar and storage projects that qualify for the online submittal making for a more efficient permitting process.

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

For the foregoing reasons, we **SUPPORT** this measure.

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 3:14:27 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Nakashima; Vice Chair Sayama, and committee members:

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

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

Mahalo for scheduling this critically important bill and thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo piha,

Ella Aki, Pacific Islands RSM

Sol-Ark

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 3:21:30 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
P Kuromoto	Solar Help Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Nakashima; Vice Chair Sayama, and committee members:

Solar Help Hawai'i strongly supports HB2614 HD1 which offers a number of common-sense measures to fix long-standing permitting issues. The Bill:

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

Mahalo for scheduling this critically important bill and thank you for giving us the opportunity to testify.



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI‘I

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

February 14, 2024

2:00 PM

Conference Room 329

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

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and Members of the Committee,

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

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

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

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



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
Wednesday, February 14, 2024 — 2:00 p.m.

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

Dear Chair Nakashima and Members of the Committee:

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

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

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

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



February 12, 2024

SUPPORT FOR HB2614 HD1 – SolarAPP+ online automated permitting platform

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and members of the committee.

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

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

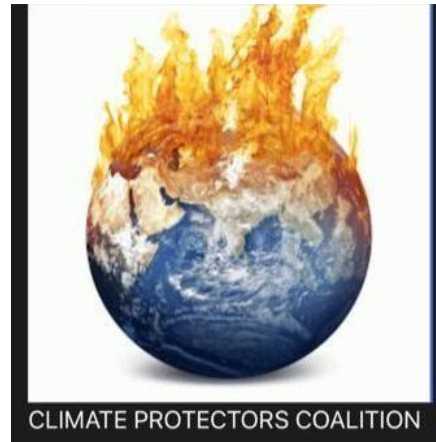
Hawaii having a consistent permitting platform will benefit public and private concerns. Please implement SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform.

Please support HB2614 HD1.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,
CCL Hawai`i

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



To: The Honorable Chair Mark Nakashima, the Honorable Vice Chair Jackson Sayama, and Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce.

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

Re: **Hearing HB2614 RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Hearing: Wednesday February 14, 2023, 2:00 p.m., room 329

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce:

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

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

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

residents and commercial customers install on-site distributed energy resource systems, including roof-top solar energy and storage systems, and save permitting costs that can be extensive!

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

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

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

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

Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)



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

www.greenpowerprojects.com

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

IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2614 HD1 RELATING TO FIXING LONG-STANDING PERMITTING ISSUES

**Before the
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF
2024 COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair Rep. Jackson D. Sayama, Vice Chair
Wednesday, February 14, 2024
02:00 p.m.
Conference Room 329 State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street**

Dear Chair Nakashima; Vice Chair Sayama, and committee members:

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 strongly support HB2614 HD1 which offers a number of common-sense measures to fix long-standing permitting issues. The Bill: establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects; removes the burdensome MM# requirement for solar distributed energy resource (DER) systems; creates a self-certification pathway for all solar DER projects that do not qualify for SolarAPP+ (or the functional equivalent.)

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2614 HD1

Please advance HB2614 HD1 to achieve the common-sense measures to fix long-standing permitting issues .

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

Respectfully,

Alan Lennard –dig signature

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



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

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

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and committee members:

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

HSEA members include the majority of locally owned and operated 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 and contributes to Hawaii’s energy security as we decarbonize our economy and electric grid.

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

HB2614 HD1 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 an equivalent that processes and approves applications in real time. SolarAPP+ was developed by the U.S. Department of Energy’s National Renewable Energy Laboratory and has been successfully deployed for solar



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

PV and battery storage projects in numerous municipalities across the nation. Adoption of SolarAPP+ or an equivalent 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+ or an online equivalent 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 standard national product safety certification and documentation requirements. In addition to causing delay and extra cost that are ultimately born by residents and businesses that want to install solar and energy storage, this unnecessary requirement stifles innovation and blocks new lower-cost, higher-efficiency technologies from entering our market.

Finally, 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 the construction phase if the applicant understands that the project must still pass final inspection. This will speed up the overall process and significantly enhance current efforts at the municipal level.

HSEA and other stakeholders have long collaborated with city and county administrations at the leadership and departmental level to improve permitting processes. While significant progress has been made, there is still room for progress. We are committed to continue working together to fix issues with current systems and help implement internal process changes. This bill provides a clear way to save time and resources for all involved, aiding Hawaii's renewable energy goals and carbon reduction targets.

HSEA **strongly supports HB2614 HD1.** Thank you for providing the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

/s/ Rocky Mould, Executive Director



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

February 14, 2024 at 2:00 PM
Room 329

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2614 HD1

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and members of the Committees:

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

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

Hawaiian Electric's current plan for achieving Hawai'i's 100% renewable energy goal includes power generation from the rooftop of nearly every home across the islands. Over 106,000 homes on O'ahu, Maui, and Hawai'i island¹ and 6,000 homes on Kaua'i² have already installed rooftop solar. Residential rooftop solar is a proven tool to help homeowners and renters save money and reduces the need for utility investments in the power grid. When paired with batteries, rooftop solar panels can also increase resiliency in neighborhoods, helping homes keep the lights on and communication powered during a blackout.

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 11:12:47 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and Consumer Protection & Commerce Committee Members, Amato, Belatti, Gates, Hashem, Hussey-Burdick, Lowen, Onishi, Tam, Peirick,

My name is Dave Mulinix and I am CoFounder of the Hawai'i chapter of Greenpeace, the largest environmental organization in the world, with an international membership of over 3 million. On behalf of Greenpeace Hawai'i's thousands of members statewide, we Stand in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2614 HD1 that addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawai'i's renewable energy and climate resilience goals.

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

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

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

Please pass HB2614 HD1 to help remove the unnecessary roadblocks and burdens to installing solar plus storage systems so that all may access and benefit from solar energy. This would be an important step forward to support Hawai'i in achieving our decarbonization goals!

Mahalo for your kind attention,

Dave Mulinix, CoFounder

Greenpeace Hawai'i

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 11:36:49 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Nakashima; Vice Chair Sayama, and committee members:

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

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

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

Respectfully,

George Kuo

Sr. Director, Products

Canadian Solar Inc

1(831) 234-6550



Legislative Testimony of Sunrun Inc.
Before the CPC Committee
February 14, 2024

IN SUPPORT of HB2614 HD1 – Relating to Renewable Energy

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and distinguished Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce,

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

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

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

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

SolarAPP+ was developed by the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory and has already been successfully deployed in hundreds of municipalities across the nation. It is now

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

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

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

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

required by the state of California after legislation passed in 2022.⁵ Further, the Solar Energy Industry Association (SEIA) estimates that soft costs make up about 65% of all residential solar installation costs, up from 58% in 2014.⁶ This bill is a powerful tool to drive down soft costs for residents and businesses looking to install solar equipment.

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

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

Sincerely,



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

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

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

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



To: The House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce (CPC)
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Wednesday, February 14, 2024, 2pm

In strong support of HB2614 HD1

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and Consumer Protection & Commerce Committee members,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org



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

Executive Officers

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

TO: Committee Consumer Protection and Commerce

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 14, 2024
TIME: 2pm
PLACE: Room 329

RE: HB2614 HD1 Relating to Renewable Energy

Position: Support

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

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and Members of the Committee,

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

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

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

Making Essential Industries More Sustainable Makes Our State More Sustainable –

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

February 12, 2024

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

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and committee members:

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Meghan Nutting".

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

LATE

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 4:07:36 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Dean	Recycle Hawaii, Clean The Pacific	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We're way behind. 80% of the world's coral reefs are already dead due to the increase in global temperatures. The disasters we're experiencing now are the result of CO2 we put in the atmosphere 30 years ago. Since then, we've doubled the amount of CO2 we put in the atmosphere. So, you can extrapolate from that the extinction of the majority of corals on this planet. Besides the emotional tragedy of losing the most beautiful thing that has ever existed on Earth, the economic disaster and the repercussions for the web of life are incalculable.

That's just one example out of millions of tragic consequences caused by our failure to act. For that reason, you must act now in every way possible to stop this tragedy from getting worse. Time is out. This bill will help expedite our transition to clean sustainable energy. Anything and everything to speed up that transition must be done.

Thank you for having the courage to do the right thing.



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

To: House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
Hon. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
Hon. Jackson D. Sayama, Vice Chair

LATE

Re: HB 2614 HD 1 RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

Hearing: Wednesday, February 14, 2024, 2:00 p.m., Room 329 & videoconference

Position: Strong Support

Aloha, Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce:

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

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

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 1:51:08 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Nakashima; Vice Chair Sayama, and committee members,

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

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

Mahalo for scheduling this critically important bill and thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify!

Roy Skaggs

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 2:38:13 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Strongly Support.

Make it easier to save ourselves & the planet.

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 3:12:59 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason K. Ignacio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Nakashima; Vice Chair Sayama, and committee members:

Mahalo for scheduling this critically important bill and thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify.

I strongly support HB2614 HD1 which offers a number of common-sense measures to fix long-standing permitting issues for residential renewable energy projects. The Bill:

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

Respectfully,

Jason Ignacio

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 4:00:25 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Nakashima; Vice Chair Sayama, and committee members:

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

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

Mahalo for scheduling this critically important bill and thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify.

aloha, Jeff Lum

856 Nana Honua St

Honolulu, HI 96825

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 4:12:47 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Nakashima; Vice Chair Sayama, and committee members:

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

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

Mahalo for scheduling this critically important bill and thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Radford Nakamura

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 5:00:35 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tom Schmidt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Nakashima; Vice Chair Sayama, and committee members:

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

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

Mahalo for scheduling this critically important bill and thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Tom Schmidt

Kaneohe

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 5:12:54 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

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

Mahalo , Faith Texeira

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 6:20:58 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Committee members,

I strongly support this bill which will further reducing GHG.

HB2614 directly addresses ongoing permitting challenges with installing solar panels. As some of you may already be aware, permit approvals in some cases have been delayed for more than a year! HB2614HD1 will change that. In jurisdictions on the continent that have already begun using the SolarAPP+, wait times for permits have decreased from months to a single day!

Respectfully

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 6:27:17 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rob Weltman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Speeding up and simplifying the permitting progress for roof-top solar will help Hawai'i meet its renewable energy goals by stimulating the adoption of distributed energy resources. Please pass HB2614 HD1.

Thank you,
Rob

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 7:14:37 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Nandoskar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support!

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 8:16:49 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hello,

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

- I strongly support HB2614 HD1 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. HB2614 HD1 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline 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!

- HB2614 HD1 establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects. Currently families are often waiting more than a year to receive their permit. This is unacceptable and must be remedied. By implementing provisions in HB2614, 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. HB2614 HD1 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals!

me ke aloha 'āina,

Nanea Lo, Mō'ili'ili, O'ahu

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 8:20:20 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Strong support!

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 8:23:53 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
donn viviani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am Donn Viviani, I live in Kailua. I am a retired EPA scientist who served as director of EPA's Climate Policy Assessment Division. I am board President of the Climate Protection and Restoration Initiative. I support HB2614.

Solar energy must be deployed quickly if we aew to avoid the worst consequences of climate change, including sea level rise, extreme weather. The volume of solar permitting applications can cause a backlog and slow down solar deployment. The National Renewal Energy Lab NREL has developed the SolarAPP+ permitting to reduce workload while accelerating solar deployment. Allowing developers to check code compliance of designs before submitting them for permit approval. Eligible permits are approved through automated code compliance checks and more technically complex systems are re-routed for manual review. This enables contractors to speed up installation., SolarAPP+ has the potential to significantly expand access to solar and battery technology and reduce soft costs associated with the installation process. Please approve this measure Mahalo

Donn Viviani PhD

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 9:29:08 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Bernstein	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima and Members of the CPC Committee:

I'm writing in **support of HB2614** since it will reduce delays and uncertainties in solar installations. Addressing these issues will reduce costs and lead to a more stable grid with fewer blackouts.

Mahalo,

Paul Bernstein

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 6:54:33 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Nakashima; Vice Chair Sayama, and committee members:

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

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

Mahalo for scheduling this critically important bill and thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 7:10:51 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Nakashima; Vice Chair Sayama, and committee members:

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

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

Mahalo for scheduling this critically important bill and thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Weilun Lian

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 7:27:23 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

HB2614 HD1 Solar Permitting

CPC Hearing 2/13/24

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2614 HD1

I ask for your support and vote to and pass HB2614 HD1.

HB2614 HD1 will resolve permitting issues that have blocked progress on our clean, renewable energy and climate goals.

HB2614 HD1 will help reduce costs for responsible residents who are trying to do their part to reach our RPD clean energy goals and fight climate disaster.

We need to REMOVE unnecessary roadblocks and disincentives to installing solar (and solar plus storage) systems.

HECO has, unfortunately, and shamefully been convincing the PUC to make decisions that may help HECO's profits, but will DAMAGE our progress towards truly clean, sustainable, equitable solar policy and our RPS Goals.

HB2614 HD1 will establish a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a similar, functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for small-scale solar and energy storage projects. You well know - These permits are now taking a ridiculous and unnecessary amount of time. Currently families are often waiting more than a year to receive their permit.

By implementing HB2614, there will be auto-approval, proceed-to-build for small-scale solar and storage projects that qualify for online submittal.

Rooftop solar power (especially with storage) is our single most logical, do-able, and important means of;

- Replacing polluting combustion-sourced power, (fossil fuel, burning waste, and burning "biomass" (trees, which should be left to scrub and sequester CO2),
- Slowing climate change, and

- Achieving our RPS and decarbonization goals.

I respectfully ask you to vote FOR HB2614 HD1.

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 7:39:18 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Nakashima; Vice Chair Sayama, and committee members:

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

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

Mahalo for scheduling this critically important bill and thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Alexis

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 7:46:54 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Nakashima; Vice Chair Sayama, and committee members:

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

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

Mahalo for scheduling this critically important bill and thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Justin Furuta

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 8:45:20 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Gregory	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

strong support

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 8:47:41 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please pass this bill. This will eliminate more of the roadblocks the solar energy industry faces daily.

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 8:54:11 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris Crosby	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kakou!

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

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

HB2614 HD1 establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects. Currently families are often waiting more than a year to receive their permit. This is unacceptable and must be remedied. By implementing provisions in HB2614, 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. HB2614 HD1 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals!

I am an owner of PV rooftop solar and a Tesla powerwall and can attest to the benefits to the system. The power often goes out in my windward valley neighborhood and we are one of the only residents with uninterrupted power. The entire neighborhood goes black in the evening and we still have full power for our refrigerator and important equipment. This happens in high winds and other storm events frequently, however, we never have an interruption of power when the battery kicks in. Every home, even those unable to have solar panels, should have a backup power source to provide power to important devices in case the grid is down during storm or high wind events.

We also have two electric vehicles which are charged with the rooftop solar during the day. I have owned an EV for over 10 years and do not miss going to the gas station and love the convenience of charging from home using my rooftop solar panels.

Please approve this bill to help address climate change sources by reducing the reliance on burning fossil fuels for energy. Hawaii has abundant solar, wind and other sources of renewable energy that can be utilized and stored to provide for the needs of the community. Climate change is happening and affecting our islands so we need to act quickly to reduce the contribution from our energy needs.

mahalo!

Chris Crosby

HB-2614-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 11:44:03 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support HB2614 HD1 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. HB2614 HD1 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline 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!

- HB2614 HD1 establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects. Currently families are often waiting more than a year to receive their permit. This is unacceptable and must be remedied. By implementing provisions in HB2614, 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. HB2614 HD1 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals!