

**Testimony of the Contractors License Board**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs  
and  
Senate Committee on Government Operations**

**Thursday, January 30, 2025  
3:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 225 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:  
S.B. 232 RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Chair Wakai, Chair McKelvey, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Candace Ito, and I am the Executive Officer of the Contractors License Board (Board). The Board opposes this bill.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) require government entities in the State that issue building permits to implement SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform that verifies code compliance and issues permits to licensed contractors for solar distributed energy resource systems in real-time by 1/1/2026; 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.

While the Board does not object to the intent of this bill to lower administrative barriers during the permitting process, the Board believes it should not be done at the risk of consumer safety. The Board has serious concerns because this bill includes commercial on-site solar distributed energy resource systems. Commercial and large utility-scale photovoltaic plant projects are complex and do not appear to be suited to a self-certification permitting process.

The Board also requests clarification on proposed subsection 196-B(a)(2) on page 5, lines 6 through 11. The written notice referred to is required prior to the start of the installation of the system; thus, it appears that it would be appropriate for the written notice to be provided by a licensed design professional (e.g., licensed architect or

licensed engineer), rather than the installers (e.g., licensed electrician or licensed plumber) of the solar distributed energy resource system.

The Board believes that the self-certification permit process is better suited for residential solar distributed energy resource systems, provided that there is an inspection following the completion of the project that deems the installation to be in compliance with all applicable codes and laws.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



# SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

January 30, 2025

3:00 PM

Conference Room 415

### In **SUPPORT** of **SB232**: Relating to Renewable Energy

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Aloha Chair Wakai, Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Chang, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS** SB232, which will help to enhance our islands' climate resiliency by expanding 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. SB232 is therefore an important step forward to ensure a timely and equitable transition towards a cheaper, more resilient, and climate-friendly energy future for our islands.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i respectfully urges the Committees to **PASS** SB232. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.



Testimony Before the Senate Committees on Energy and Intergovernmental  
Affairs and Government Operations

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

Thursday, January 30, 2025; 3:00 pm  
Conference Room #225 & Videoconference

**Senate Bill No. 232 – RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY**

To the Honorable Chairs Glenn Wakai and Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chairs Stanley Chang and Mike Gabbard, and Members of the Committees:

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

**KIUC offers amendments to this measure.**

Over the past 10 years, KIUC has significantly increased its renewable generation. In 2010, KIUC's energy mix included 10% renewable. Over the past five years, renewable production on Kaua'i has averaged between 50% and 70%. In addition, since 2019 KIUC has operated the Kaua'i electric grid at 100% renewable for thousands of hours on sunny days. KIUC's renewable mix currently includes biomass, biofuels, hydropower, utility-scale solar, utility-scale paired with battery energy storage systems (BESS), and distributed (rooftop) solar.

Specific to its solar generating capacity, KIUC currently has 119.7 megawatts of total solar generating capacity: roughly 35% of which comes from rooftop solar. The number of rooftop solar systems on Kaua'i has risen from 388 in 2010 to more than 6,500 today. Of that total, 2,100 have batteries. In 2024 KIUC members added 498 new rooftop solar systems with 323 members adding a battery storage component to either new or existing systems.

KIUC's board of directors has set a goal of reaching 100% renewable by 2033, twelve years ahead of the State of Hawai'i mandate. We have identified a viable path to reaching that goal via a combination of additional utility scale solar + BESS projects, projected continued growth in the number of member-owned rooftop solar systems, and expanded use of biofuels.

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

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

KIUC specifically requests that the proposed amendment to §196-A be amended as follows (changes highlighted):

"§196-A Building permits; issuing entities; adoption of online automated permitting platform; solar distributed energy resource systems. (a) Any government entity in the State that issues building permits in any area of the State served by an investor-owned electric utility shall:..."

It is important to note that the unique circumstances of each of Hawai'i's distinct island grids must be considered when determining the relative value of customer-sited distributed energy resources. While an island like O'ahu is land-constrained and will presumably need to take advantage of as much rooftop space as possible to reach mandated renewable targets, the same is not true for Kaua'i. KIUC has taken advantage of the availability of tens of thousands of acres of fallow, sub-standard agricultural lands to develop utility-scale solar projects under long-term, fixed-price power purchase agreements. As a result, KIUC's rates went from being the highest in the state to the lowest when Kaua'i hit its peak renewable generating capacity between 2021 and 2024. This is directly attributable to the relatively low cost of solar generated by utility-scale solar projects brought online between 2015 and 2021.

In the event this legislation progresses, KIUC would recommend that member-owned electric cooperatives be exempted from its provisions.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment.

**SB-232**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 8:13:03 PM

Testimony for EIG on 1/30/2025 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
KODA DAILY	Testifying for OLA I KA WAI	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB232 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB232 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline solar permitting. This is an important step to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.



To: The Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs (EIG)  
and  
The Senate Committee on Government Operations (GVO)  
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org  
Date: Thursday, January 30, 2025, 3pm

### **In strong support of SB232**

Aloha Chairs Wakai and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Chang and Gabbard, and members of the EIG and GOV 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 SB232** 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 1/1/2026. 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.

SB232 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 solar 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, SB232 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 up to 6 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 SB232, 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. **SB232 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



**SB-232**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 6:13:36 AM

Testimony for EIG on 1/30/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Help make it easier for builders and homeowners to do the right thing by streamlining the solar permitting process. It has long been acknowledged that the solar permitting process is cumbersome and takes too long. Other states and counties that have streamlined the process in similar fashion are seeing immediate positive results. It truly is low hanging fruit that we need to grab before another year goes by to help meet our energy goals. Our Climate Action group strongly supports this bill for the third year in a row. IMUA



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#### Executive Officers

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**Toby Taniguchi**, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*  
**Joe Carter**, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, *Advisor*  
**Eddie Asato**, Pint Size Hawaii, *Advisor*  
**Gary Okimoto**, Safeway, *Immediate Past Chair*

TO: Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs and Committee on Government Operations

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: January 30, 2025

TIME: 3pm

RE: SB232 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.

HFIA is in support of this measure to reduce administrative barriers to the deployment of energy generation and storage technology systems by: (1) Requiring government entities in the State that issue building permits to implement SolarAPP+, or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform, that processes and issues permits to licensed contractors for solar distributed energy resource systems in real time by January 1, 2026; and (2) Requiring 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 SolarAPPt compatible.

Both of these options can play a crucial role in lowering administrative barriers to the deployment of energy generation and storage technology in our state. This 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.

Jan. 30, 2025, 3 p.m.  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Conference Room 415 and Videoconference

**To: Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs**

**Sen. Glenn Wakai, Chair**  
**Sen. Stanley Chang, Vice Chair**

**Senate Committee on Government Operations**

**Sen. Angus McKelvey, Chair**  
**Sen. Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair**

**From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii**

**Ted Kefalas, Director of Strategic Campaigns**

RE: SB232 — RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

Aloha Chairs, Vice-Chairs and other members of the Committees,

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii **supports** [SB232](#), which would mandate that Hawaii's four counties adopt the SolarAPP+ tool or an equivalent online process for approving solar-related permits. It would also require counties served by an investor-owned electric utility to adopt a self-certification program for the approval of certain solar systems that are not SolarAPP+ compatible.

This bill would serve the dual goals of speeding up Hawaii's permitting process and increasing residents' access to low-carbon electricity.

And there is precedent for requiring counties to adopt SolarAPP+. For example, both California and Maryland have passed laws in recent years directing their local governments to implement it.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Jonathan Helton, "[Seven low-cost ways to speed up permitting in Hawaii](#)," p. 8.

Developed by the federal National Renewable Energy Laboratory, the SolarAPP+ tool is an automated process for reviewing solar-related building permits. State and local governments can use the tool for free.<sup>2</sup>

As Grassroot identified in its 2024 report "[Seven low-cost ways to speed up permitting in Hawaii](#)," the mainland cities that have adopted SolarAPP+ often see solar permits issued the same day of the application. For solar-plus storage projects, permits were issued in less than 10 days.<sup>3</sup>

By contrast, the Grassroot report noted that "obtaining building permits [in Hawaii] to install new solar panels and solar-plus-storage systems can be a lengthy process."

It said this is due in part "to the sheer volume of building permits filed for solar panels. In Hawai'i County, for example, almost one-third of permits issued between November 2024 and March 2024 — about 1,300 — were for residential solar panels. During that time, Hawai'i County had an average approval time of 33 days for residential solar projects, provided the permits were not returned to the applicants for corrections. Non-residential solar permits had a 45-day average approval time."<sup>4</sup>

Honolulu already offers a self-certification process and an online permitting tool for solar panels; however, the county's implementation has hit a few snags and is not yet as fast as it could be. Still, Honolulu has been issuing solar permits faster than other building permits.

For example, between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024, 47% of the Honolulu permits issued were tagged as "solar" or "solarPVinstallation." The wait time for these permits, from application to issuance, averaged 38 days, compared to 239 for all other Honolulu permits.<sup>5</sup>

In light of these facts, Grassroot supports the direction of this bill and the possibilities it has to reduce Hawaii's onerous permitting delays.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ted Kefalas  
Director of Strategic Campaigns  
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

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<sup>2</sup> Justin Rickard, "[Safe and Fast Permitting Using NREL's SolarAPP+ Continued To Grow Throughout 2023](#)," National Renewable Energy Laboratory, June 12, 2024.

<sup>3</sup> Jonathan Helton, "[Seven low-cost ways to speed up permitting in Hawaii](#)," Grassroot Institute of Hawaii, October 2024, p. 8.

<sup>4</sup> [Ibid](#), p. 7.

<sup>5</sup> Calculations performed using: "[Building Permits - January 1, 2005 through June 30, 2024](#)," Data.gov, July 13, 2024.



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

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

**RE: SB 232 Relating to Renewable Energy – In Support**  
**Thursday, January 30th, 2025 at 3:00 PM**

Aloha Senator Wakai, Chang, McKelvey, and Gabbard:

**Sunnova Energy International Inc. (NYSE: NOVA)** is an industry-leading adaptive energy services company focused on making clean energy more accessible, reliable, and affordable for homeowners and businesses. Founded in 2012, Sunnova services more than 422,000 customers across 51 States and U.S. territories including Hawaii. We strongly support SB 232 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that have impeded progress on Hawaii’s renewable energy and climate resilience goals.

SB 232 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. Instantaneous 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 SB 232. 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". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Meghan Nutting  
Executive Vice President of Government and Regulatory Affairs  
Sunnova Energy Corporation

**SB-232**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 2:09:44 PM

Testimony for EIG on 1/30/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha EIG/GVO Chairs Wakai & Gabbard, Vice Chairs Chang & [McKelvey](#), and Committee Members [Moriwaki](#), [San Buenaventura](#), [Fevella](#), [DeCoite](#), and [Richards](#),

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 and supporters statewide, we Stand in STRONG SUPPORT of SB232 that addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawai'i's renewable energy and climate resilience goals.

SB232 establishes a requirement to implement SolarAPP+ or a functional equivalent to streamline online permitting for smaller-scale solar and energy storage projects. Currently families can wait more than a year to receive their permit. This measure will help the counties overcome the obstacles they have with issuing permits. By implementing provisions in SB232, there will be auto-approval, proceed-to-build for all solar and storage projects that qualify for the online submission.

It is important to note that Solar APP+ has been very successful on the continent reducing solar permitting time down to as little as one day. SB232 will greatly reduce solar permitting approval time in Hawai'i. Streamlining permit processing time will greatly increase the installation of solar panels to help cut Hawai'i's carbon emissions.

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

Please pass SB232 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 & Representative

Greenpeace Hawai'i





**SB-232**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 4:33:14 PM

Testimony for EIG on 1/30/2025 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- I strongly support SB232 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB232 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline solar 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!

-- SB232 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 SB232, 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 breakdown. SB232 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals!

**SB-232**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 6:31:05 PM

Testimony for EIG on 1/30/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hello

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nanea Lo, and I am submitting testimony in **strong support of SB232**. This bill is a critical step in addressing the **longstanding permitting issues** that have hindered Hawai‘i’s transition to renewable energy. By requiring the implementation of **SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform**, SB232 will **streamline the solar and storage permitting process**, making it faster, more efficient, and more accessible for families across the state.

Currently, some homeowners in Hawai‘i have had to wait **up to a year or more** just to receive a permit for solar panel installation. This delay is **unacceptable** and directly contradicts our state's urgent climate and energy resilience goals. Jurisdictions on the continent that have implemented SolarAPP+ have **reduced permit wait times from months to a single day**. Hawai‘i should not be left behind when solutions already exist to remove these unnecessary roadblocks.

By passing SB232, we will:

- **Break through the bureaucratic backlog** that is slowing down solar adoption.
- **Reduce costs for families** by allowing them to install solar faster and lower their electricity bills.
- **Increase Hawai‘i’s resilience** by expanding access to battery-backed solar systems, which serve as critical backup power sources during storms and emergencies.
- **Accelerate our progress toward decarbonization** by making it easier and faster to install clean energy systems.

We must do everything in our power to **remove the unnecessary burdens to installing solar plus storage systems** and make renewable energy accessible to all. SB232 is a **common-sense solution** that will help move Hawai‘i toward a **cleaner, more resilient future**.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, Mō‘ili‘ili, HI 96826



**SB-232**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 7:43:51 PM

Testimony for EIG on 1/30/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB232, which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. As a renewable source of power, solar energy has an important role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating climate change, which is critical to protecting humans, wildlife, and ecosystems. Solar coupled with battery storage also provides resiliency by providing a backup energy source when storms or other emergencies cause a power failure. We must remove the unnecessary roadblocks and burdens to installing solar plus storage systems so that everyone can benefit from solar energy.

**SB-232**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 7:52:13 PM

Testimony for EIG on 1/30/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support SB232 because it's a common sense improvement to permitting solar projects. We all deserve a clear and easy process for getting permits approved. This is a win-win for everyone.

**SB-232**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 8:35:36 PM

Testimony for EIG on 1/30/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Stong support. Thank you.

**SB-232**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 4:48:21 AM

Testimony for EIG on 1/30/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Noreen Dougherty Kapaa Hawaii

I strongly support SB232. We need to expedite building permits to implement SolarAPP or a functional equivalent.

Mahalo.

**SB-232**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 5:50:34 AM

Testimony for EIG on 1/30/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support SB232



**SB-232**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:14:19 AM

Testimony for EIG on 1/30/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Honorable Comittee Members,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you support SB232 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB232 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline solar permitting. This is an important step to help Hawaii meet its climate goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.

SB232 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.

Rooftop solar power is a key tool in the fight against climate breakdown. SB232 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

**SB-232**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 9:27:06 AM

Testimony for EIG on 1/30/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Strong support of SB232

We must addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB232 will break through the bureaucratic backlog for solar projects.

Keith Neal

Waimea

**SB-232**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 9:49:33 AM

Testimony for EIG on 1/30/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This bill will allow citizens and businesses to make empowered choices regarding solar panel usage. I see no downside to quickening solar permitting authorization. Thank you.

**SB-232**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 10:08:02 AM

Testimony for EIG on 1/30/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB232! It tackles some of the biggest hurdles we face in Hawaii when it comes to clean energy. Hawaii's permitting process is one of the most arduous in the nation. It doesn't need to be so difficult. There are tools that will make it easier for the homeowner and the permitting office. SB232 will alleviate the unnecessary stress and delays for homeowners installing rooftop solar.

Sincerely,

Nanette Vinton

Mililani resident

**SB-232**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 10:11:54 AM

Testimony for EIG on 1/30/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

-- I strongly support SB232 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB232 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline solar 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!

-- SB232 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 SB232, 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 breakdown. SB232 is a critical step needed to support Hawaii in achieving its decarbonization goals!

To: Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs Chair Wakai, Government Operations Chair McKelvey,  
and Committee Members

From: Brodie Lockard, Common Cause Hawaii Board Member

Date: Thursday, January 30, 2025, 3:00 pm

**In strong support of SB232**

Dear Chairs Wakai and McKelvey and Committee Members—

Rooftop solar power is the easiest, most available way for Hawaii to meet its goal of reducing emissions—now only 21 years away. It's available nearly everywhere in the state, causes no issues with neighbors, and gets more affordable every year.

The Department of Planning & Permitting is *always* overwhelmed and has a huge backlog, causing one of the biggest hurdles to installing more distributed energy resource systems across Hawaii's sunny landscape. SB232 would put in place a method to ameliorate this obstacle, letting property owners install PV and batteries at a rate much closer to what they have been clamoring for all these many years.

Tools such as the United States Department of Energy's SolarAPP+ have been successfully implemented by hundreds of government permitting entities throughout the nation, saving significant money, time and red tape. Hawaii needs to get on board. The startup costs for adopting this program are negligible compared to the savings.

Kauai is included in SB232, bringing the entire state up to speed.

Please pass this much-needed bill and help us all achieve our energy goals.

Sincerely,

Brodie Lockard  
Common Cause Hawaii Board Member

**SB-232**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 1:47:05 PM

Testimony for EIG on 1/30/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in full, strong support of SB232! Let's make permitting for solar easier and faster. This bill will help families and the earth we live upon.

Mahalo,

**LATE**

**SB-232**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 9:33:21 PM  
Testimony for EIG on 1/30/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB232 which addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. SB232 offers a number of critical, common-sense measures that will streamline solar 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!

Mahalo 'aina 🌍

Diane Ware

Volcano 96785



**LATE**

**SB-232**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 10:09:12 PM  
Testimony for EIG on 1/30/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

**Testimony in Support of SB232**

Esteemed Members of the Legislature,

I strongly support SB232, which removes permitting inefficiencies that hinder Hawaii’s renewable energy and climate resilience goals. By streamlining solar permitting, this bill will accelerate adoption, lower costs, and help meet climate targets. Expanding rooftop solar is vital for reducing emissions and strengthening energy resilience. Removing delays ensures more residents can access clean energy.

SB232 mandates SolarAPP+ or an equivalent to fast-track permits for smaller solar and storage projects. Families currently wait over a year for approvals—an unacceptable barrier. By enabling automatic approval for qualifying projects, SB232 ensures a faster, fairer process. Hawaii must remove roadblocks to clean energy, and this bill is a critical step forward.

Yours sincerely,

Jon Brodziak