

January 31, 2023

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Rep. Elle Cochran, Vice Chair
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Thursday, February 2, 2023
8:30 A.M.
Via Videoconference



RE: HB195 Relating to Renewable Energy (Support with Amendments)

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran & Committee Members,

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce testifies in support of HB195, which will automate the permitting of licensed contractors for solar distributed energy resource systems. As business owners who believe we can strengthen our economy without hurting employees, consumers, communities or the environment, we urge this committee to pass HB195 and allow Hawaii to recover from the backlog in permitting these vital carbon-reducing projects.

We also ask that this committee to insert language that assures the state that this automation process would not allow contractors to circumvent any environmental or cultural (HRS 6E Burial Site) safeguards, protections or obligations proscribed in statute or county ordinances.