



**Hawaii
Legislative
Council
Members**

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

Wednesday, February 28, 2024
12:00 PM, Room 308 or Via Videoconference

RE: **HB2738 HD1** Relating to Renewable Energy - **Strong Support**

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa and Committee Members,

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce represents over 100 small businesses across the State that strive for a triple bottom line: people, planet and prosperity; we know Hawaii can strengthen its economy without hurting workers, consumers, communities or the environment.

This is why we are in strong support of HB2783 HD1, which requires state facilities to prepare a report assessing the feasibility of installing distributed energy resource systems at each facility, requires state facilities to implement and install the distributed energy resource systems detailed in the reports no later than five years from the issue date of the reports, and assigns priority for the required energy efficiency measures to first responder facilities.

HB2783 HD1 is an opportunity for the State to build our resilience to future disasters and emergencies. The Maui wildfires demonstrate the need for the State to reduce ignition risk and build grid resiliency, which can be significantly aided by distributed rooftop solar and energy storage.

The return on the State's investment in solar energy and battery storage will be realized in just a few years; starting with ensuring first responders can have access to reliable power when they need it most is crucial for the larger community during natural disasters.

The growing climate crisis threatens the health and well-being of our state. If we are better prepared for that next disaster that is bound to hit, we will save lives and be able to recover faster from whatever disaster has occurred. Essentially, this bill will help first responders so they can help us. Bottomline: HB2738 HD1 saves us money while protecting the climate. It will also probably save lives. Please pass HB2738 HD1.

Joell Edwards
Wainiha Country
Market
Hanalei

Russell Ruderman
Island Naturals
Hilo/Kona

Dr. Andrew Johnson
Niko Niko Family
Dentistry
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Hawaii Taro Farm
Wailuku

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