

March 20, 2023



Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair  
Committee on Energy, Economic Development & Tourism  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair  
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Tuesday, March 21, 2023  
9:45 am  
via Video Conference

RE: **HB949 HD2** Relating to Renewable Energy (**Support**)

Dear Chairs DeCoite & Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Wakai & Fukunaga, & Committee Members,

Chamber of Sustainable Commerce offers this testimony in support of HB949 HD2, which establishes and appropriates funds for a solar energy storage system loan program to provide asset limited, income constrained, employed households with low-interest loans to purchase and install solar energy storage systems, and establishes and appropriates funds for a renewable energy system installation loan program to provide asset limited, income constrained, employed households with low-interest loans to purchase and install residential photovoltaic and energy storage systems, including battery storage systems.

As business owners who strive for a triple bottom line and know we can strengthen our economy without hurting workers, consumers or the environment, we urge this committee to vote in favor of passing HB949 HD2 because without this program, capital constrained households will be unable to switch to lower, cleaner sources of electricity – and we will not be able to achieve the state’s 2045 carbon emission goals without more households on board.

Furthermore, as the cost of solar energy is currently about one-half the cost of oil-fired electricity, ALICE households would directly benefit from a program that helps overcome financial challenges such as high electricity costs and inflation.

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<b>Hawaii Legislative Council</b>	Maile Meyer Na Mea Hawaii Honolulu	Russel Rudderman Island Naturals Hilo / Kona	Tina Wildberger Kihei Ice Maui	Joell Edwards Wainiha Country Market Kauai	Kim Coco Iwamoto AQuA Rentals, LLC Honolulu
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