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Abundant Life
Natural Foods
Hilo

Kim Coco Iwamoto
Enlightened Energy
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Chamber of
Sustainable
Commerce
P.O. Box 22394
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Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Committee on Government Operations

Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Committee on Energy, Economic Development and Tourism

Tuesday, February 13, 2024
3:10 PM Room 225 or via Videoconference

RE: **SB3357** Relating to Renewable Energy - **Strong Support**

Dear Chairs McKelvey & DeCoite, Vice-Chairs Gabbard & Wakai and
Members of both Committees,

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 SB3357, 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.

SB3357 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. Lahaina was the canary in the coal mine; we must implement changes now.

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.