

BILL051(22)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 360

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Sep 7, 2022 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 3

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 1

Name: Michele DAmico	Email: michele@damicogroup.com	Zip: 96823
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Sep 2, 2022 @ 04:47 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>My question is what is the point of this bill? If the point of the bill is to have the property owners clear all fines and liens with the City it fails. The bill states for applicants not to have fines and liens with the City when submitting for a building permit. 95% of the applications submitted for permits are by the architect, permit routing company, or construction company, and these entities are subsequently named as the applicant under their company names so we can conduct business with the Department of Planning and Permitting. The Permitting Department will not discuss the project with anyone except the applicant. The bill should state property owner, not the applicant.</p>		
Name: Chris DeBone	Email: chris@hawaiienergyconnection.com	Zip: 96701
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 6, 2022 @ 09:16 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>From our understanding, BILL008(22), CD2 ORDINANCE 22-8 was conceived to deal with a single rouge contractor that now has consequences for every contractor and homeowner pulling a permit on the island of Oahu.</p> <p>This single action has caused additional unnecessary expense in both time and money on homeowners. Our solar contracting company alone will likely pull up to 1,000 permits in 2022.</p> <p>Just the expense of a traveling notary, at approximately \$75 per, is an additional \$75,000 for those permits. Not including homeowners time and frustration. We are in the midst of rising consumer costs, rising electricity pricing, and an energy emergency due to the closing of the AES coal plan on Oahu. The solar industry is trying to install as many solar battery systems as possible to prevent an energy shortfall. Oahu citizens don't need this right now. DPP is hard enough to deal with already.</p> <p>Mahalo for your consideration in passing this bill.</p>		
Name: Roy Skaggs	Email: roy8820@yahoo.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 6, 2022 @ 09:17 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Mahalo for allowing me to comment. I support Bill 51 as requiring a notarized affidavit puts undue pressure on people who may not even know if they have a lien or a fine. Worse, is the idea that we should have to drive to a bank or hire a mobile notary and spend money on something we're not positive of. Why should we have to pay to get it notarized? It's already bad enough to fill out this Affidavit in the first place. Are we going to get in legal trouble because we said we didn't have a lien or a fine and maybe you do without realizing it? This sounds like an issue where the Council should have focused on the bad actor or actors that caused the original sloppy bill and not make every normal local family feel like they're guilty unless proven innocent!</p> <p>Aloha, Roy Skaggs</p>		
Name: Rocky Mould	Email: rmould@hsea.org	Zip: 96816
Representing: Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA)	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 6, 2022 @ 09:43 AM



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

Testimony Supporting Bill 51 (2022) Relating to Building Permit Applications

Wednesday, September 7, 2022

Dear Chair Waters and Councilmembers:

HSEA **supports** Bill 51 (2022) Relating to Building Permit Applications.

HSEA includes the majority of locally owned and operated solar and renewable energy companies in the State of Hawaii, employing thousands of residents in well-paying jobs including, but not limited to, contractors, designers, electricians, engineers, financiers, installers, salespeople, and service technicians.

Rooftop solar and energy storage have been and continue to be one of the most effective and powerful tools to lower customer energy costs, replace inflexible and dirty fossil fuel generation such as the AES coal plant, and decarbonize Oahu's economy. Since 1977, HSEA's member companies have led investment in Hawaii's renewable energy transition installing over 94,000 residential and commercial solar systems representing over a gigawatt of renewable production capacity. Rooftop solar systems are overwhelmingly the largest contributor to Hawaii's renewable energy portfolio at 44.7%. In the City and County of Honolulu alone, we've installed over 64,000 systems representing 774 megawatts of capacity.¹ These systems have not only produced clean and cost-effective energy for our island, but they have acted as a buffer against high and volatile global energy prices. Increasingly, existing and newly installed systems will provide critical grid services to allow for the cost-effective attainment of the City and State's critical 100% renewable energy mandate and other resilience goals. The pioneering Battery Bonus Program, which provides incentives for customers to add battery storage as a reliable system resource, is only the beginning of what is yet to come.² Going forward with the right set of policies, solar and storage installations will become increasingly accessible for lower income

¹ See HECO PV and renewable energy statistics here

(https://www.hawaiianelectric.com/documents/clean_energy_hawaii/clean_energy_facts/pv_summary_2Q_2022.pdf) and here (<https://www.hawaiianelectric.com/clean-energy-hawaii/our-clean-energy-portfolio>)

² See HECO Battery Bonus Program details here (<https://www.hawaiianelectric.com/products-and-services/customer-renewable-programs/rooftop-solar/battery-bonus>)



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customer segments, create jobs, drive our clean energy transition, and become a foundation for strong and healthy economic growth.

Bill 51 is a commonsense measure that removes an overly burdensome, costly, and newly imposed requirement for permit applicants to provide a **notarized affidavit** attesting that they do not have any outstanding fines or penalties owed to the City and County of Honolulu. Bill 51 replaces the notarized affidavit with a simple written and signed attestation.

We appreciate the Council's rapid response to this problematic new requirement. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Sincerely,

/s/

Rocky Mould

Executive Director