

**BILL051(22)**  
**Testimony**

**MISC. COMM. 414**

ZONING AND PLANNING

## **ZONING AND PLANNING Meeting**

Meeting Date: Sep 22, 2022 @ 09:00 AM

Support: 1

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Rocky Mould	Email: rmould@hsea.org	Zip: 96816
Representing: Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA)	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 21, 2022 @ 06:56 AM



**Hawaii Solar Energy Association**  
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**Testimony Supporting Bill 51 (2022) Relating to Building Permit Applications before the  
Council Committee on Zoning and Planning**

**Wednesday, September 22, 2022**

Dear Chair Elefante and committee members:

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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> Going forward with the right set

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<sup>1</sup> See HECO PV and renewable energy statistics here

([https://www.hawaiianelectric.com/documents/clean\\_energy\\_hawaii/clean\\_energy\\_facts/pv\\_summary\\_2Q\\_2022.pdf](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>)

<sup>2</sup> 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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of policies, solar and storage installations will become increasingly accessible for lower income 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 remedy this unnecessary and counter-productive new requirement. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Sincerely,

/s/

Rocky Mould

Executive Director