

BILL046(22)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 434

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Oct 5, 2022 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 1

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

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Representing: Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA)	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 4, 2022 @ 07:29 AM



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Testimony in Support of Bill 46 (2022) CD2, FD1 Relating to Height Limits for Rooftop Structures

Wednesday, October 5, 2022

Dear Chair Waters and Councilmembers:

HSEA supports Bill 46 (2022) CD2, FD1 Relating to Height Limits for Rooftop Structures which establishes a 12-foot height limit exemption for solar canopies on rooftops and provides that the area underneath solar canopies not be enclosed or counted as floor area.

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 and their customers 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 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 also 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 for

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>)



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system resource reliability and adequacy, 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 to lower income customer segments, create jobs in the new green economy, and become a foundation for strong and healthy economic growth.

Bill 46 helps us achieve these goals by clarifying rules and setting common-sense height exemptions for solar canopies in the crucial multi-family, commercial, and mixed-use sectors. We appreciate the communications with Council and DPP staff and support passage of the bill with the increased 12-foot height exemption. This will give system designers and building owners/managers flexibility to design innovative multi-use spaces that will simultaneously benefit building residents and the City's energy resilience and sustainability.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to testify **in support of Bill 46 (2022) CD2, FD1.**

Sincerely,

/s/ Rocky Mould

Rocky Mould

Executive Director

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