

BILL040(24)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 347

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Aug 7, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 14

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Roy Skaggs	Email: roy8820@yahoo.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 5, 2024 @ 08:23 AM
Testimony: Aloha, Chair Waters and Council Members, I am writing in strong support of Bill 40 Related to Professional Self-Certification. If passed, the bill will open a pathway for professional self-certification if a design professional undergoes additional certification with DPP for larger-scale commercial and multifamily solar, energy storage and energy efficiency projects. This segment of the solar market offers an attractive opportunity to lower costs and increase resilience for businesses as well as residents in condominiums, many of whom are low-to-moderate income (LMI). For Honolulu and Hawaii to achieve critical renewable energy and resilience goals, and to protect our citizens from an increasingly expensive and unreliable grid, we need to maximize solar on every rooftop. Removing the barriers to solar permitting for businesses and condos is essential. Please advance this bill. Mahalo for providing me the opportunity to testify in support of Bill 40. Aloha, Roy Skaggs		
Name: Jeff Lum	Email: jeff@visit-hawaii.com	Zip: 96825
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 5, 2024 @ 03:24 PM
Testimony: Aloha Chair Waters and Council Members: I am writing in strong support of Bill 40 Related to Professional Self-Certification. If passed, the bill will open a pathway for professional self-certification if a design professional undergoes additional certification with DPP for larger-scale commercial and multifamily solar, energy storage and energy efficiency projects. This segment of the solar market offers an attractive opportunity to lower costs and increase resilience for businesses as well as residents in condominiums, many of whom are low-to-moderate income (LMI). For Honolulu and Hawaii to achieve critical renewable energy and resilience goals, and to protect our citizens from an increasingly expensive and unreliable grid, we need to maximize solar on every rooftop. Removing the barriers to solar permitting for businesses and condos is essential. Please advance this bill. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to testify in support of Bill 40. aloha, Jeff Lum		
Name: Justin Furuta	Email: justin@alternateenergyhawaii.com	Zip: 96782

Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 5, 2024 @ 03:30 PM
Testimony: Aloha Chair Waters and Council Members: I am writing in strong support of Bill 40 Related to Professional Self-Certification. If passed, the bill will open a pathway for professional self-certification if a design professional undergoes additional certification with DPP for larger-scale commercial and multifamily solar, energy storage and energy efficiency projects. This segment of the solar market offers an attractive opportunity to lower costs and increase resilience for businesses as well as residents in condominiums, many of whom are low-to-moderate income (LMI). For Honolulu and Hawaii to achieve critical renewable energy and resilience goals, and to protect our citizens from an increasingly expensive and unreliable grid, we need to maximize solar on every rooftop. Removing the barriers to solar permitting for businesses and condos is essential. Please advance this bill. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to testify in support of Bill 40. Respectfully, Justin Furuta		
Name: Radford Nakamura	Email: radfordn@gmail.com	Zip: 96701
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 5, 2024 @ 03:39 PM
Testimony: Aloha Chair Waters and Council Members: I am writing in strong support of Bill 40 Related to Professional Self-Certification. If passed, the bill will open a pathway for professional self-certification if a design professional undergoes additional certification with DPP for larger-scale commercial and multifamily solar, energy storage and energy efficiency projects. This segment of the solar market offers an attractive opportunity to lower costs and increase resilience for businesses as well as residents in condominiums, many of whom are low-to-moderate income (LMI). For Honolulu and Hawaii to achieve critical renewable energy and resilience goals, and to protect our citizens from an increasingly expensive and unreliable grid, we need to maximize solar on every rooftop. Removing the barriers to solar permitting for businesses and condos is essential. Please advance this bill. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to testify in support of Bill 40. Respectfully, Radford Nakamura		
Name: Yuko Ahina	Email: ymauldin@gmail.com	Zip: 96706
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:

Self	Support	Aug 5, 2024 @ 05:45 PM
Testimony: Aloha Chair Waters and Council Members: I am writing in strong support of Bill 40 Related to Professional Self-Certification. If passed, the bill will open a pathway for professional self-certification if a design professional undergoes additional certification with DPP for larger-scale commercial and multifamily solar, energy storage and energy efficiency projects. This segment of the solar market offers an attractive opportunity to lower costs and increase resilience for businesses as well as residents in condominiums, many of whom are low-to-moderate income (LMI). For Honolulu and Hawaii to achieve critical renewable energy and resilience goals, and to protect our citizens from an increasingly expensive and unreliable grid, we need to maximize solar on every rooftop. Removing the barriers to solar permitting for businesses and condos is essential. Please advance this bill. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to testify in support of Bill 40. Respectfully, YUKO AHINA		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Miles Yoshimoto	miles@aeihawaii.com	96814
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 5, 2024 @ 10:56 PM
Testimony: Aloha Chair Waters and Council Members: I am writing in strong support of Bill 40 Related to Professional Self-Certification. If passed, the bill will open a pathway for professional self-certification if a design professional undergoes additional certification with DPP for larger-scale commercial and multifamily solar, energy storage and energy efficiency projects. This segment of the solar market offers an attractive opportunity to lower costs and increase resilience for businesses as well as residents in condominiums, many of whom are low-to-moderate income (LMI). For Honolulu and Hawaii to achieve critical renewable energy and resilience goals, and to protect our citizens from an increasingly expensive and unreliable grid, we need to maximize solar on every rooftop. Removing the barriers to solar permitting for businesses and condos is essential. Please advance this bill. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to testify in support of Bill 40. Sincerely, Miles Yoshimoto Project Developer Alternate Energy Inc. 96-1276 Waihona Street Unit 114 Pearl City HI 96782		

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Michael Baldwin	michael.baldwin@hawaiiunified.com	96792
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Hawaii Unified Industries, LLC	Support	Aug 6, 2024 @ 07:37 AM
Testimony: Aloha Chair Waters and Council Members: I am writing in strong support of Bill 40 Related to Professional Self-Certification. If passed, the bill will open a pathway for professional self-certification if a design professional undergoes additional certification with DPP for larger-scale commercial and multifamily solar, energy storage and energy efficiency projects. This segment of the solar market offers an attractive opportunity to lower costs and increase resilience for businesses as well as residents in condominiums, many of whom are low-to-moderate income (LMI). For Honolulu and Hawaii to achieve critical renewable energy and resilience goals, and to protect our citizens from an increasingly expensive and unreliable grid, we need to maximize solar on every rooftop. Removing the barriers to solar permitting for businesses and condos is essential. In addition our organization employees over a hundred individuals, primarily located on the leeward coast. Delays in permitting and project execution puts jobs in jeopardy and weakens local business trying to keep renewable jobs in Hawaii. Please advance this bill. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to testify in support of Bill 40. Respectfully, Michael Baldwin President Hawaii Unified Industries, LLC		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Steven Rymsha	steven.rymsha@sunrun.com	96793
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Sunrun	Support	Aug 6, 2024 @ 07:37 AM
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Rocky Mould	rmould@hsea.org	96816
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA)	Support	Aug 6, 2024 @ 08:37 AM
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Ted Kefalas	tkefalas@grassrootinstitute.org	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii	Support	Aug 6, 2024 @ 09:03 AM
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Kathryn Troyan	ktroyan@gmail.com	96822
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:

Alternate Energy Inc.	Support	Aug 6, 2024 @ 09:46 AM
Testimony: Aloha Chair Waters and Council Members: I am writing in strong support of Bill 40 Related to Professional Self-Certification. If passed, the bill will open a pathway for professional self-certification if a design professional undergoes additional certification with DPP for larger-scale commercial and multifamily solar, energy storage and energy efficiency projects. This segment of the solar market offers an attractive opportunity to lower costs and increase resilience for businesses as well as residents in condominiums, many of whom are low-to-moderate income (LMI). For Honolulu and Hawaii to achieve critical renewable energy and resilience goals, and to protect our citizens from an increasingly expensive and unreliable grid, we need to maximize solar on every rooftop. Removing the barriers to solar permitting for businesses and condos is essential. Please advance this bill. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to testify in support of Bill 40. Respectfully, Kathryn Troyan Project Manager, Alternate Energy Inc.		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
John McClure	john.d.mcc@gmail.com	96707
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 6, 2024 @ 10:11 AM
Testimony: Aloha Chair Waters and Council Members: I am writing in strong support of Bill 40 Related to Professional Self-Certification. As it now stands, the DPP backlog and associated administrative difficulties have made renewable energy and energy-efficiency projects on multi-dwelling units, many of which are LMI, untenable. Allowing self-certification will help Honolulu and Hawaii to achieve renewable energy and resilience goals, not only by enabling investment in the underserved market of solar PV for multi-dwelling units, but also by enabling residents to take advantage of other concurrent opportunities via the IRA such as HOMES and HEAR. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to testify in support of Bill 40. Respectfully, John McClure, PE		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Sandie Wong	sawonglaw@hawaii.rr.com	96817
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 6, 2024 @ 11:07 AM
Testimony:		

I am in support of Bill 40 (2024) and request that you pass it out. Thank you.

Name: Simon Shaw	Email: simon.shaw@hawaiiunified.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 7, 2024 @ 08:11 AM

Testimony:

As someone who has been in the solar industry for years, this self certification bill will help move the approval process for energy efficient products faster. The reason I entered this industry is to help Hawaiian people afford to stay living in Hawaii. With energy efficient products this helps with the cost of living here in Hawaii. I am in full support of this bill.



Legislative Testimony of Sunrun Inc.
Before the Honolulu City Council
August 7, 2024

IN SUPPORT of Bill 40 (2024) – Relating to Professional Self-Certification

Dear Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia‘āina, and distinguished Members of the City Council,

Sunrun is the nation’s leading home solar, battery storage and energy services company, and has a long and proud history in Hawai‘i with office and warehouse locations on O‘ahu, Maui, and Hawai‘i Islands. We employ more than 350 professions across the islands, including sales/marketers, customer experience professionals, and installation team members including electrical inspectors, technicians, forepersons and warehouse personnel.

Sunrun strongly supports Bill 40 (2024), which would create a self-certification pathway for larger-scale commercial and multifamily solar, energy storage and energy efficiency installations by expanding the list of eligible projects under current Ordinance 23-29.

Hawai‘i has a 100% renewable portfolio standard (RPS) by 2045,¹ and DER systems are critical to achieving the state’s RPS goals. In 2022, solar power generated nearly 17% of the state’s total electricity, largely due to the rapid uptake of small-scale, customer-sites solar systems.² In 2023, Hawaiian Electric (HECO) achieved a 33% consolidated RPS, largely due to continued DER adoption.³ Rooftop solar is the leading contributor to Hawai‘i’s clean energy portfolio, making up over 46% of all renewable energy in the state.⁴ Continued implementation of rooftop solar has proven to be a strong component of the state’s renewable energy generation and contributes to a more resilient energy system, however there are still significant permitting barriers hindering rooftop solar expansion, particularly for larger-scale commercial and multifamily sectors.

If passed, the bill will open a pathway for professional self-certification if a design professional undergoes additional certification with DPP for larger-scale commercial and multifamily solar, energy storage, and energy efficiency projects. This segment of the solar market offers an attractive opportunity to lower costs and increase resilience for businesses as well as residents in condominiums, many of whom are low-to-moderate income (LMI). We need to maximize solar on every rooftop in order to achieve the City and State’s critical renewable energy and resilience goals, and to protect our citizens from an increasingly expensive and unreliable grid. Removing the barriers to solar permitting for businesses and condos is essential to expediting rooftop solar adoption for these sectors.

Sunrun strongly supports Bill 40 (2024) and respectfully urges the committee to advance this measure. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this critical legislation. As a national solar, storage

¹ <https://energy.hawaii.gov/what-we-do/clean-energy-vision/>

² <https://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=H1#tabs-1>

³ <https://www.hawaiianelectric.com/hawaiian-electric-achieves-33-renewable-energy-in-2023>

⁴ <https://www.hawaiianelectric.com/about-us/performance-scorecards-and-metrics/renewable-energy>

and energy services company, Sunrun has a broad view of state and local clean energy policies and stands ready to assist O'ahu with its policy goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Rymsha', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Steven Rymsha
Director Grid Solutions, Public Policy
steven.rymsha@sunrun.com
808-220-7377



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

**Testimony in Support of Bill 40 (2024) Relating to Professional Self-Certification Before the
Honolulu City Council**

Wednesday, August 7, 2024

Dear Chair Waters and Council Members:

The Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) **strongly supports Bill 40 (2024)** which adds solar, energy storage and energy efficiency installations as eligible projects under the City's current professional self-certification program pilot. If passed, the bill will open a pathway for professional self-certification if a design professional undergoes additional certification with DPP for larger-scale commercial and multifamily solar, energy storage and energy efficiency projects.

HSEA members include the majority of locally owned and operated renewable energy companies doing business in the state of Hawaii along with leading global cleantech manufacturers and service providers that invest and sell in our market. We employ thousands of residents in diverse green economy jobs that are innovating, designing, and building Hawaii's pathway to a renewable energy future. We advocate for policies that help Hawaii achieve critical climate and resilience goals by enabling residents and businesses to invest in and benefit from the transition to clean energy. These investments provide reliable and affordable power that reduces energy cost burden and contributes to Hawaii's energy security as we decarbonize our economy and electric grid.

Permitting obstacles and delays in the commercial and condominium market have impeded progress and added unnecessary cost, time, and risk to Hawaii's renewable energy transition. This impacts all residents and businesses in Hawaii, particularly those that have not yet been able to install or participate in a solar and energy storage project. As new federal, state and local programs are introduced to bring the cost of solar and energy storage systems down for residents and businesses, and systems become more available and accessible to underserved communities, permitting delays have emerged as a primary obstacle to progress.

Self-certification has the potential to drive meaningful progress towards Hawaii's critical renewable energy, climate, and economic development priorities. If implemented effectively and with proper safeguards, self-certification will save on cost and time for building permit officials, businesses, and residents with equal or greater compliance and mitigation of risk.



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

HSEA and other stakeholders have been working diligently with the City administration at the leadership and departmental level to effect improvements in the permitting process. We continue to offer our assistance and expertise to fix issues with current systems and help implement internal process changes. If passed, Bill 40 will mark a significant step forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to ***testify in strong support of Bill 40 (2024).***

Respectfully,

/s/ Rocky Mould

Rocky Mould
Executive Director

Aug. 7, 2024, 9 a.m.

Honolulu Hale

To: Honolulu City Council

Tommy Waters, Chair

Esther Kia'āina, Vice Chair

From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

Ted Kefalas, Director of Strategic Campaigns

RE: Bill 40 (2024) — RELATING TO PROFESSIONAL SELF-CERTIFICATION

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice-Chair Kia'āina and other members of the Council,

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii would like to offer its **support** for [Bill 40 \(2024\)](#), which would allow building permits for solar, energy storage and energy-efficiency projects for multi-family dwellings and commercial buildings to be approved through self-certification.

The Council created a self-certification program for certain projects at the end of 2023 with [Ordinance 23-29](#). This program allows qualified architects and engineers to self-approve their building permits, subject to several requirements.

Expanding self-certification to energy-related projects would speed up their deployment and cut down the existing permitting backlog, allowing the city Department of Planning and Permitting staff to focus more on complicated projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ted Kefalas

Director of Strategic Campaigns

Grassroot Institute of Hawaii