

BILL040(24)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 393

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Sep 4, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 24

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Kim Keahiolalo	kim.keahiolalo@csisolar.com	96720
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Canadia Solar	Support	Sep 3, 2024 @ 06:50 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 for qualified design professionals for larger-scale commercial and multifamily solar, energy storage and energy efficiency projects. This underserved 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 STRONG SUPPORT of Bill 40. Respectfully, Kim Keahiolalo		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Roy Skaggs	roy8820@yahoo.com	96816
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Sep 3, 2024 @ 06:51 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 for qualified design professionals for larger-scale commercial and multifamily solar, energy storage and energy efficiency projects. This underserved 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 STRONG SUPPORT of Bill 40! Roy Skaggs		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jeff Lum	jeff@visit-hawaii.com	96825
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Sep 3, 2024 @ 07:15 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 for qualified design professionals for larger-scale commercial and multifamily solar, energy storage and energy efficiency projects. This underserved 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 STRONG SUPPORT of Bill 40.

aloha, Jeff Lum

Name: Rocky Mould	Email: rmould@hsea.org	Zip: 96816
Representing: Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA)	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 3, 2024 @ 07:19 AM
Name: Leilani Schultz	Email: leilanis Schultz@gmail.com	Zip: 96797
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 3, 2024 @ 07:25 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 for qualified design professionals for larger-scale commercial and multifamily solar, energy storage and energy efficiency projects. This underserved 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 STRONG SUPPORT of Bill 40.

Respectfully,

Name: wei lian	Email: wei@alternateenergyhawaii.com	Zip: 96782
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 3, 2024 @ 07:28 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 for qualified design professionals for larger-scale commercial and multifamily solar, energy storage and energy efficiency projects. This underserved 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 STRONG SUPPORT of Bill 40.

Respectfully,
Wei Lian

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Ted Kefalas	tkefalas@grassrootinstitute.org	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii	Support	Sep 3, 2024 @ 07:32 AM
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Justin Furuta	justin@alternateenergyhawaii.com	96782
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Sep 3, 2024 @ 07:58 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 for qualified design professionals for larger-scale commercial and multifamily solar, energy storage and energy efficiency projects. This underserved 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 STRONG SUPPORT of Bill 40.

Respectfully,
Justin Furuta

Name: Chris DeBone	Email: chris@hawaiienergyconnection.com	Zip: 96701
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 3, 2024 @ 08:10 AM
Testimony: We severely reduced our solar solutions to the commercial sector due to the 1+ year timeline associated with these projects. The risk is too great to provide pricing on a product that takes over 1 year to be approved to install. This bill is vital for local small businesses to continue offering renewable energy offerings to this sector.		
Name: Joseph Saturnia	Email: joseph@islandpacificenergy.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: Island Pacific Energy	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 3, 2024 @ 08:55 AM
Name: Katherine Wyszowski	Email: katherine.wyszowski@sunnova.com	Zip: 77046
Representing: Sunnova Energy Corporation	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 3, 2024 @ 09:05 AM
Name: Kathryn Troyan	Email: kathryn@alternateenergyhawaii.com	Zip: 96782
Representing: Alternate Energy Inc.	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 3, 2024 @ 09:29 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 for qualified design professionals for larger-scale commercial and multifamily solar, energy storage and energy efficiency projects. This underserved 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 STRONG SUPPORT of Bill 40. Respectfully, Kathryn Troyan Project Manager Alternate Energy Inc.		
Name:	Email:	Zip:

Sherry Pollack	Sherry.350Hawaii@gmail.com	96744
Representing: 350Hawaii	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 3, 2024 @ 09:41 AM
Name: Micah Munekata	Email: mmunekata@ulupono.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: Ulupono Initiative	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 3, 2024 @ 09:50 AM
Name: Miles Yoshimoto	Email: miles@aeihawaii.com	Zip: 96782
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 3, 2024 @ 09:56 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 for qualified design professionals for larger-scale commercial and multifamily solar, energy storage and energy efficiency projects. This underserved 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 STRONG SUPPORT of Bill 40. Respectfully, Miles Yoshimoto Project Developer Alternate Energy Inc. 96-1276 Waihona Street Unit 114 Pearl City HI 96782		
Name: David Thompson	Email: dtewabeach@gmail.com	Zip: 96826
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 3, 2024 @ 10:02 AM
Testimony:		

I'm in strong support of this bill		
Name: Natasha Chang	Email: tasha@hipowersolar.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: HI Power Solar	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 3, 2024 @ 10:24 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 for qualified design professionals for larger-scale commercial and multifamily solar, energy storage and energy efficiency projects. This underserved 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 STRONG SUPPORT of Bill 40. Respectfully,		
Name: Yuko Ahina	Email: ymauldin@gmail.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 3, 2024 @ 10:33 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 for qualified design professionals for larger-scale commercial and multifamily solar, energy storage and energy efficiency projects. This underserved 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 STRONG SUPPORT of Bill 40. Respectfully,		
Name: Sandie Wong	Email: sawonglaw@hawaii.rr.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Hawaii Solar Energy Association	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 3, 2024 @ 11:02 AM

Testimony:

On behalf of Hawaii Solar Energy Association, I am in support of Bill 40 because it will improve the permitting process for solar projects and help the County and State meet their renewable energy goals. The stakeholders are talking and making good process. Thank you.

Name:

Ryan Smith

Email:

ryan@sunspearenergy.com

Zip:

96817

Representing:

Self

Position:

Support

Submitted:

Sep 3, 2024 @ 11:20 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 for qualified design professionals for larger-scale commercial and multifamily solar, energy storage and energy efficiency projects. This underserved 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 STRONG SUPPORT of Bill 40.

Respectfully,

Ryan Smith

Name:

Christian Manansala

Email:

cjmanans@gmail.com

Zip:

96817

Representing:

Sunspear Energy, LLC

Position:

Support

Submitted:

Sep 3, 2024 @ 11:54 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 for qualified design professionals for larger-scale commercial and multifamily solar, energy storage and energy efficiency projects. This underserved 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 STRONG SUPPORT of Bill 40.

Respectfully,
C.J. Manansala

Name:
Steven Rymsha

Email:
steven.rymsha@sunrun.com

Zip:
96793

Representing:
Sunrun

Position:
Support

Submitted:
Sep 3, 2024 @ 12:07 PM

Name:
Neal Martin

Email:
nmartin@elcchoelectric.com

Zip:
96732

Representing:
Elcco Inc.

Position:
Support

Submitted:
Sep 3, 2024 @ 01:44 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Waters and Council Members:

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill 40, which addresses Professional Self-Certification. If enacted, this bill would create a much-needed pathway for qualified design professionals to self-certify larger-scale commercial and multifamily solar, energy storage, and energy efficiency projects. This segment of the market is currently underserved but holds significant potential to reduce costs and improve resilience for both businesses and condominium residents, many of whom are low-to-moderate income (LMI). In order for Honolulu and Hawaii to meet their critical renewable energy and resilience goals—and to shield our communities from an increasingly costly and unreliable power grid—we must prioritize maximizing solar installations on every viable property. Easing the solar permitting process for businesses and condominiums is an essential step in this direction. I urge you to advance this bill.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to testify in STRONG SUPPORT of Bill 40.

Respectfully,

Name:
Ella Aki

Email:
ella.aki@sol-ark.com

Zip:
96734

Representing:
Sol-Ark

Position:
Support

Submitted:
Sep 4, 2024 @ 09:17 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 for qualified design professionals for larger-scale commercial and multifamily solar, energy storage and energy efficiency projects. This underserved 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 STRONG SUPPORT of Bill 40.

Mahalo piha,
Ella Aki



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, September 4, 2024

Aloha 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 qualified design professionals to self-certify commercial and multifamily solar, energy storage and energy efficiency projects.

HSEA members include the majority of locally owned renewable energy companies doing business in Hawaii, along with leading global cleantech manufacturers and service providers that invest in our market. Collectively, we employ thousands of residents in diverse green economy jobs. We advocate for policies that enable residents and businesses to invest in and benefit from the transition to clean energy, helping Hawaii achieve critical climate and resilience goals.

Permitting obstacles and delays in the commercial and condominium markets have impeded progress and added unnecessary cost, time, and risk to Hawaii's renewable energy transition. Self-certification has the potential open up this critical segment to drive meaningful progress towards Hawaii's critical renewable energy, climate, and economic development priorities. If implemented effectively with appropriate safeguards, self-certification will save cost and time for building permit officials, businesses, and residents with equal or greater compliance and mitigation of risk.

HSEA and other stakeholders have been working with the City administration at the leadership and departmental level to effect improvements in the permitting process. We continue to offer our assistance to fix issues and implement process changes.

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

Respectfully,

/s/ Rocky Mould, Executive Director

Sept. 4, 2024, 10 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 **supports** [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.

As you might recall, the Council created a self-certification program for certain projects at the end of 2023 with [Ordinance 23-29](#), which 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 on more complicated projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ted Kefalas

Director of Strategic Campaigns

Grassroot Institute of Hawaii



September 3, 2024

Re: Testimony in Support of Bill 40 Related to Professional Self-Certification

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 for qualified design professionals for larger-scale commercial and multifamily solar, energy storage and energy efficiency projects. This underserved 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 **STRONG SUPPORT** of Bill 40.

Respectfully,

Joseph Saturnia
President
Island Pacific Energy LLC



Sunnova Energy Corporation
20 Greenway Plaza, Suite 540
Houston, TX 77046
sunnova.com

Councilmember Tommy Waters, Chair
Councilmember Esther Kia'aina, Vice Chair
Honolulu City Council

RE: Bill 40 Relating to Professional Self-Certification – In Support
Wednesday, September 4th, 2024

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'aina and members of the Council:

Sunnova Energy Corporation is a national adaptive energy services company. Founded in 2012, Sunnova services more than 438,000 customers across 51 States and U.S. territories including Hawaii. Sunnova Energy Corporation is in strong support of Bill 40, which amends Ordinance 23-29 by adding solar, energy storage and energy efficiency projects for multi-family dwellings and commercial buildings to the list of eligible projects for professional self-certification.

The city and county of Honolulu have a goal of 100% renewable energy and net-negative carbon emissions no later than 2045.¹ Bill 40 will help Honolulu meet its renewable energy and resiliency goals by addressing permitting bottlenecks that have hindered solar development. Bill 40 will streamline permitting by creating a self-certification pathway for larger-scale commercial and multifamily solar, energy storage and energy efficiency installations. The bill creates a pathway for the Department of Planning and Permitting to validate licensed design professionals and allow them to self-certify projects. Currently, these types of projects are facing months of delay waiting for permit approvals. Bill 40 will allow the DPP to safely and quickly approve solar permits, while developers continue to help Honolulu reach its goals.

Thank you for the chance to submit testimony supporting Bill 40.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Meghan Nutting".

Meghan Nutting
Executive Vice President of Government and Regulatory Affairs
Sunnova Energy International

¹ “Resilience Office - City and County of Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency.” *Resilience Office - City and County of Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency*, www.resilientoahu.org/.



Wednesday, September 4, 2024

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

Aloha Chair Waters and Council Members:

My name is Sherry Pollack and I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of Bill 40 (2024)** which adds solar, energy storage and energy efficiency installations as eligible projects under the City's current professional self-certification program.

Solar power reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and as such, is a key tool in our fight against the climate crisis. Bill 40 addresses longstanding permitting issues that impede progress on Hawaii's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. If passed, the bill will open a pathway for qualified design professionals to self-certify commercial and multifamily solar, energy storage and energy efficiency projects.

This bill offers critical, common-sense measures that will streamline permitting ***without compromising on safety***. Addressing solar permitting issues and delays for businesses and condos is essential if Hawaii is to achieve its decarbonization goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.

With the highest electrical rates in the country and the impacts of climate change already being felt, we need to move forward on smart solutions that will help to stimulate our economy and make us more resilient. This measure will remove unnecessary barriers and move us to the clean-energy economy we need.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** for this very important measure.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, September 4, 2024 —10:00 a.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports Bill 40 (2024), Relating to Professional Self-Certification

Dear Chair Waters and Members of the Council:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food, renewable energy and clean transportation choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

Ulupono supports Bill 40 (2024), which amends Ordinance 23-29 by adding solar, energy storage, and energy efficiency projects for multi-family dwellings and commercial buildings to the list of eligible projects for professional self-certification.

Ulupono supports efforts to streamline solar, energy storage, and energy efficiency project permitting. The Hawai'i State Energy Office recently published its Hawai'i Pathways to Decarbonization Report, which identifies, among other things, the significant need for additional renewable energy generation to meet broader economy-wide decarbonization goals.¹ Solar photovoltaic (PV) systems are becoming so common that there is little risk and much to gain in terms of timeliness with such systems, as more renewable energy can be installed at a faster rate. Similarly, on-site energy storage can support deeper grid integration and improve energy resiliency and redundancy, particularly in light of new protection measures such as Public Safety Power Shutoff policies.² Adding these projects to be eligible for professional self-certification supports a streamlined process for renewable energy projects, which may even decrease the workload on already burdened county planning and permitting departments.³

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

¹ Hawai'i Pathways to Decarbonization Act 238, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2022, Report to the 2024 Hawai'i State Legislature, December 2023. <https://energy.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Act-238-HSEO-Decarbonization-Report.pdf>

² <https://www.hawaiianelectric.com/safety-and-outages/wildfire-safety/public-safety-power-shutoff>

³ The counties all struggle with a backlog of permit applications, so any effort to streamline the process would be welcomed. For example, Honolulu Civil Beat recently reported that the median residential permitting time for the City and County of Honolulu's Department of Planning and Permitting was 330 days and commercial jobs were at a median of 420 days. <https://www.civilbeat.org/2023/12/honolulus-building-permit-delays-a-nightmare-decades-in-the-making/>



Legislative Testimony of Sunrun Inc.
Before the Honolulu City Council
September 4, 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=HI#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 dark ink, appearing to read 'Steven Rymsha', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

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