

BILL040(24)

Testimony

MISC. COMM. 425

HOUSING, SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH (HSH)

HOUSING, SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH (HSH)

Meeting

Meeting Date: Sep 25, 2024 @ 02:30 PM

Support: 23

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Katherine Wyszowski	Email: katherine.wyszowski@sunnova.com	Zip: 77046
Representing: Sunnova Energy Corporation	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 23, 2024 @ 10:16 AM

Name: Micah Munekata	Email: mmunekata@ulupono.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: Ulupono Initiative	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 23, 2024 @ 11:33 AM

Name: PAUL OREM	Email: paul@photonworks.com	Zip: 96789
Representing: Photonworks Engineering	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 23, 2024 @ 11:55 AM

Testimony:

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 the proposed CD1 version of the bill.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to testify in support of Bill 40. As a commercial renewable energy contractor this bill will have a major impact on Photonworks Engineering ability to help contribute to meeting Hawaii's 100% renewable energy goals.

Respectfully,

Paul Orem - CEO Photonworks Engineering.

Name: Roy Skaggs	Email: roy8820@yahoo.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 23, 2024 @ 02:11 PM

Testimony:

Aloha, Chair Weyer and Committee 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 the proposed CD1 version of the bill.

Mahalo for providing me the opportunity to testify in support of Bill 40!

Roy Skaggs

Name: Justin Furuta	Email: justin@alternateenergyhawaii.com	Zip: 96782
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 23, 2024 @ 02:21 PM

Testimony:
Aloha Chair Weyer and Committee 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 the proposed CD1 version of the bill.

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

Respectfully,
Justin Furuta

Name: Adam Guzman	Email: adam@independentenergyhawaii.com	Zip: 96814
Representing: Independent Energy Systems LLC	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 23, 2024 @ 02:23 PM

Testimony:
Aloha Chair Weyer and Committee 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 the proposed CD1 version of the bill.

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

Respectfully,
Adam Guzman

Name: Yuko Ahina	Email: ymauldin@gmail.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 23, 2024 @ 02:28 PM

Testimony:
Aloha Chair Weyer and Committee 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 the proposed CD1 version of the bill.
Thank you for providing me the opportunity to testify in support of Bill 40.
Respectfully, Yuko Ahina

Name: Radford Nakamura	Email: radfordn@gmail.com	Zip: 96701
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 23, 2024 @ 02:33 PM

Testimony:
Aloha Chair Weyer and Committee 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 the proposed CD1 version of the bill.

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

Respectfully,
Radford Nakamura

Name: Xyila Caballero	Email: xyila@alternateenergyhawaii.com	Zip: 96782
Representing: Housing	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 23, 2024 @ 02:37 PM
Testimony: None		

Name: James Rudolph	Email: james@independentenergyhawaii.com	Zip: 96789
Representing: Independent Energy	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 23, 2024 @ 02:53 PM

Testimony:
Aloha Chair Weyer and Committee 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 and condominium residents, many of whom are low-to-moderate income (LMI). For Honolulu and Hawaii to achieve critical renewable energy and resilience goals and protect our citizens from an increasingly expensive and unreliable grid, we need to maximize solar on every rooftop.

It is essential to remove the barriers to solar permitting for businesses and condos. Please advance the proposed CD1 version of the bill.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of Bill 40.

Respectfully,

James Rudolph

Owner/RME

Independent Energy Hawaii

Name:

Jeff Lum

Email:

jeff@visit-hawaii.com

Zip:

96825

Representing:

Self

Position:

Support

Submitted:

Sep 23, 2024 @ 02:56 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Weyer and Committee 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 the proposed CD1 version of the bill.

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

Aloha, Jeff Lum

Name:

David Thompson

Email:

dtewabeach@gmail.com

Zip:

96826

Representing:

Self

Position:

Support

Submitted:

Sep 23, 2024 @ 03:11 PM

Testimony:

I strongly support this bill.

Name:

Kathryn Troyan

Email:

kathryn@alternateenergyhawaii.com

Zip:

96782

Representing:

Alternate Energy Inc.

Position:

Support

Submitted:

Sep 23, 2024 @ 03:20 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Weyer and Committee 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 the proposed CD1 version of the 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:
Alan Lennard	greenpowerprojects@gmail.com	96712
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Green Power Projects LLC	Support	Sep 23, 2024 @ 03:27 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Weyer and Committee Members:

My business is located on the North Shore of Oahu.

We work in Solar facilitation in Hawai'i.

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 the proposed CD1 version of the bill.

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

Respectfully,

Alan Lennard Green Power Projects LLC		
Name: Miles Yoshimoto	Email: miles@aeihawaii.com	Zip: 96814
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 23, 2024 @ 04:06 PM
Testimony: Aloha Chair Weyer and Committee 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 the proposed CD1 version of the bill. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to testify in support of Bill 40. Respectfully, Miles Yoshimoto Alternate Energy Inc. 96-1276 Waihona Street Unit 114 Pearl City HI 96782		
Name: Jaime Vasquez	Email: jim@alternateenergyhawaii.com	Zip: 96821
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 24, 2024 @ 06:15 AM
Testimony: I fully support bill 40.		
Name: Ted Kefalas	Email: maliah@grassrootinstitute.org	Zip: 96813
Representing: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 24, 2024 @ 06:20 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Michael Baldwin	michael.baldwin@hawaiiunified.com	96792
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Sep 24, 2024 @ 06:41 AM
Testimony: Aloha Chair Weyer and Committee 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. Our company supports over 100 families on the Leeward coast and delays in permitting often puts the livelihood of these individuals in jeopardy, as it threatens our ability to keep up sustained work volume and can force retraction in our business at times. Please advance the proposed CD1 version of the bill. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to testify in support of Bill 40. Respectfully,		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Terri R	terri@alternateenergyhawaii.com	96782
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Sep 24, 2024 @ 06:49 AM
Testimony: Aloha, I support this bill relating to self-certification Mahalo		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
wei li	wei@alternateenergyhawaii.com	96782
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Sep 24, 2024 @ 07:18 AM
Testimony: Aloha Chair Weyer and Committee 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 the proposed CD1 version of the bill.

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

Respectfully,

-Wei

Name: Rocky Mould	Email: rmould@hsea.org	Zip: 96816
Representing: Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA)	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 24, 2024 @ 08:49 AM

Name: Sandie Wong	Email: sawonglaw@hawaii.rr.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Hawaii Solar Energy Association	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 24, 2024 @ 11:32 AM

Testimony:

Hawaii Solar Energy Association is in strong support of Bill 40. Bill 40 is a product of a collaborative effort by the Solar industry and DPP. We thank Chair Weyer, Chair Waters, and the Administration for their leadership in these efforts.

Name: Alexis Chapman	Email: Alexis.Chapman@HawaiiFood.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: Hawaii Food Industry Association (HFIA)	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 24, 2024 @ 07:49 PM



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

Councilmember Matt Weyer, Chair
Councilmember Esther Kia'aina, Vice Chair
Committee on Housing, Sustainability and Health

RE: Bill 40 Relating to Professional Self-Certification – In Support
Wednesday, September 25th, 2024

Aloha Chair Weyer, Vice Chair Kia'aina and members of the committee:

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/.



Email: communications@uluPono.com

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON HOUSING, SUSTAINABILITY, AND HEALTH
Wednesday, September 25, 2024 —2:30 p.m.

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

Dear Chair Weyer and Members of the Committee:

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/>

Sept. 25, 2024, 2:30 p.m.

Honolulu Hale

To: Honolulu City Council, Committee on Housing, Sustainability and Health

Matt Weyer, 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 Weyer, 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



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 Committee on Housing, Sustainability and Health**

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Aloha Chair Weyer and Committee 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 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 agrees with the clarifying amendments contained in the proposed CD1. We appreciate the leadership of the chair in convening with HSEA members, Council Staff and DPP leadership to constructively edit the bill. We continue to offer our assistance if needed.

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

Respectfully,

/s/ Rocky Mould, Executive Director



1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 | Honolulu, HI 96813
P: 808-533-1292 | e: info@hawaiiifood.com

Executive Officers

Maile Miyashiro, C&S Wholesale Grocer, *Chair*
Kit Okimoto, Okimoto Corp., *Vice Chair*
Jayson Watts, Mahi Pono, *Secretary/Treasurer*
Lauren Zirbel, HFIA, *Executive Director*
Paul Kosasa, ABC Stores, *Advisor*
Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Toby Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Joe Carter, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, *Advisor*
Eddie Asato, Pint Size Hawaii, *Advisor*
Gary Okimoto, Safeway, *Immediate Past Chair*

TO: Committee on Housing Sustainability and Health

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: September 24, 2024
TIME: 2:30pm

RE: Bill 40 Relating to Professional Self-Certification

Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, manufacturers, and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

Dear Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express the strong support of the Hawaii Food Industry Association (HFIA) for Bill 40 Amending 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.

We believe that streamlining the certification process is essential for the food industry, and other industries in our state to efficiently transition to solar without unnecessary administrative hurdles. The ability to self-certify ensures that our industry, which plays a crucial role in Hawaii's food security, can swiftly adopt renewable energy solutions, enhancing our overall resilience.

Food security is a paramount concern for our state, and the Hawaii Food Industry Association believes that enabling businesses to transition to solar through self-certification is a positive step forward. The ability to expedite the deployment of solar distributed energy resource systems will not only contribute to Hawaii's clean energy goals but also fortify the resilience of our food supply chain.

The Hawaii Food Industry Association represents a diverse array of businesses within the food industry, ranging from local grocery stores to food distributors. Our members play a crucial role in the distribution of essential goods and services, especially during emergencies and unforeseen events. Having a resilient power infrastructure is paramount for ensuring the continuous operation of businesses, supporting emergency response efforts, and safeguarding the well-being of our communities. We urge the Committee to pass this measure, and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.