



# HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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Testimony of  
**MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer**

before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
AND  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

Friday, February 3, 2023  
10:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

Comments in consideration of  
**HB 327**

**RELATING TO ROOFTOP SOLAR INSTALLATION.**

Chairs Lowen and Hashimoto, Vice Chairs Cochran and Aiu, and Members of the Committees, the Hawaii State Energy Office (HSEO) supports the intent and offers comments on HB 327, which would assign HSEO the responsibility for granting variances for “a new single family dwelling that is part of a development of ten or more dwellings and does not include a rooftop photovoltaic energy generation system” and states that a variance application shall be accepted “if submitted by an architect or electrical engineer... who attests that...” and lists two possible attestations.

Our comments are guided by our mission to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy resiliency, and clean transportation to help achieve a decarbonized economy. We appreciate the intent of the proposal to make better use of the energy that is delivered to rooftops in Hawaii on a daily basis to help us reach the goal of 100% renewable electricity.

Over the summer, HSEO staff reached out to the California Energy Commission (CEC) staff involved in California's program. CEC personnel shared that, in their view, the following elements were important to the success of the PV mandate in California:

1. Full support of all California counties through approved ordinances, specifically the Building Energy Efficiency Standards.
2. Endorsement and support from the building industries and associations.
3. Enforcement of the mandate is with the building industry and associations.
4. Diligent updates to California's building codes every three years.
5. Creation of four full-time positions within the CEC with a budget of \$800,000 to administer the program statewide.

HSEO does not have an estimate of the resources (staffing or funding) that would be required for HSEO or others to carry out the "variance application" tasks associated with this bill. A source of funding to provide staff is the Energy Security Special Fund, but it should also be noted that those funds are not available to the Hawaii State Energy Office unless appropriated to HSEO by the Legislature.

Another issue to consider in the proposed legislation is how it will interact with the existing solar water heater mandate and other measures proposed during this session, including the "PV-ready" and "EV-ready" mandates.

HSEO looks forward to working with the Committees and others on these important topics.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.