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February 27, 2024

TO: The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair, and  
Members of the Committee on Finance

FROM: Alice L. Lee  
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 28, 2024; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2614, HD1, RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to require government entities in the State to issue building permits to implement, by January 1, 2025, SolarAPP+ or a functionally equivalent online automated permitting platform that processes and issues permits to licensed contractors for solar distributed energy resource systems in real time.

I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. This bill will streamline permitting for solar panels, battery storage, and other beneficial systems. Applicants now often wait more than a year.
2. Without the automated permitting platform envisioned in this bill, permitting issues may impede compliance with Act 97 (2015), which requires electric utilities in the State to achieve a 100 percent renewable portfolio standard by December 31, 2045.

Thank you for your consideration.

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