



# CITY COUNCIL

## CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **COUNCILMEMBER DJOU: NO MORE CITY PERMIT FEES FOR SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS**

Starting today, with the enactment of Bill 76 (2007) introduced by Honolulu City Councilmember Charles K. Djou (Waikiki, East Honolulu), the City will no longer charge any plan or building permit fees for the installation of photovoltaic solar energy systems on Oahu.

"I am excited that the City will finally join HECO, the State and the Feds in encouraging our residents and businesses to use renewable solar energy. Last year, I introduced legislation exempting solar power systems from City permitting fees and I am happy that my legislation becomes effective today," stated Councilmember Djou. "Solar power makes sense for the environment. With Hawaii's sun and Federal, State, and now City credits, installing a solar photovoltaic system can also make financial sense."

"In the past year we have seen a dramatic increase in photovoltaic systems on Oahu and throughout the state. Government incentives like this represent exactly the kind of partnership needed to encourage getting more energy from the sun and other renewable sources," stated Peter Rosegg of Hawaiian Electric Company.

The Hawaii Solar Energy Association is thrilled with the enactment of Bill 76. "Councilmember Djou has demonstrated outstanding leadership with this initiative," stated Richard Reed, HSEA president. He went on to say that HSEA member companies will welcome this new benefit for Hawaii residents.

Djou's measure, Bill 76 (2007), eliminates all City plan review and building permit fees for all photovoltaic solar systems installed on Oahu. This measure passed the City Council last month on a vote of 9 to 0 and was signed into law by the Mayor yesterday.

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