



# Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

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(Testimony is 1 page long)

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2507 HD1 SD1

Chair Baker and members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, with 5500 dues paying members statewide, supports HB 2507 HD1 SD1, providing general funds for two positions to assist in implementing Act 234, the "Global Warming Solutions Act of 2007." We hope the legislature is committed to providing the funds to allow effective implementation of last year's landmark Act 234 (HB 226)—the Global Warming Solutions Act.

While enactment of the Global Warming Solutions Act was a bold step in reducing Hawaii's contribution to global climate change, the hard work of achieving the new greenhouse gas standard remains. The task force has held four monthly meetings thus far and has begun to plot out the timeline for objectives to fulfill the law's mandate and provide workable policy solutions for the Department of Health to codify through rulemaking. It is clear, however, that additional resources are needed to accomplish these tasks. The academic and analytical work involved in calculating and setting fair sectoral emissions limits and determining the optimal policy framework (cap and auction, carbon tax, command and control, etc) is daunting. Additional staff and funding to support contract work (to University of Hawai'i or other consultants) is needed to get the policy right.

***The Sierra Club also supports non-general fund approaches to providing funds for the task force's work. House Bill 3444 proposes to increase the existing petroleum fee from the existing \$0.05 per barrel to \$0.20 per barrel.*** These additional funds could be used to support execution of Act 234 and other related clean energy objectives. We strongly encourage the Committee to consider forwarding HB 3444 in conjunction with this measure and increase the barrel fee for these critical purposes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.