



Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

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LATE TESTIMONY

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

February 5th, 2008, 3:00 P.M.

(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2846

Chair Menor and members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, with 5500 dues paying members statewide, supports SB 2846, providing general funds for two positions to assist in implementing Act 234, the "Global Warming Solutions Act of 2007."

While enactment of Act 234 in 2007 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 three 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. Senate Bill 2932 proposes to increase the existing petroleum fee from the existing \$0.05 per barrel to \$0.25 per barrel. These additional funds could be used to support execution of Act 234 and other related clean energy objectives. We thank the Committee for moving SB 2932 forward last week and we encourage the legislature to consider increasing the barrel fee for these purposes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.