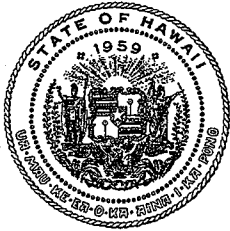


**SB 2933**



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

LINDA LINGLE  
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Statement of  
**THEODORE E. LIU**  
**Director**

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

Thursday, February 7, 2008

3:30 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 414

in consideration of

**SB 2933**

**RELATING TO RELATING TO HOUSEHOLD ENERGY DEMAND.**

Chair Menor, Vice Chair Hooser, and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) supports SB2933, which would allow the use of solar energy for drying clothes.

Allowing Hawaii residents to use renewable energy and to voluntarily reduce their use of fossil fuels for clothes drying is consistent with Hawaii's energy objectives and supportive of Hawaii's renewable energy future.

Each kilowatt-hour delivered to a clothes dryer requires about 10,000 Btu delivered to a power plant. Thus, an electric clothes dryer using 1,079 kilowatt-hours per year<sup>1</sup> uses about 80 gallons of fuel per year. If 20,000 clothes dryers were used 50% less, that would be 800,000 gallons of fuel, per year, not burned. At \$90 per barrel, that's \$1.7 million dollars less in one year paid for oil. But more importantly, with this preference incorporated into State law, new construction may incorporate this feature into building designs.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

Eric M. Matsumoto  
94-464 Kaweloalii Street  
Mililani, Hawaii 96789

February 5, 2008

Senator Ron Menor, Chair  
Senator Gary Hooser, Vice-Chair  
Committee on Energy and Environment  
c/o Legislator's Public Access Room  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

VIA Email: [testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Re: S.B. No. 2933 – Relating to Household Energy Demand  
Hearing: Thursday, February 7, 2008; 3:30PM, Conf Room 414

Dear Senators Menor and Hooser and Committee Members:

My name is Eric Matsumoto, the immediate Past President of the Mililani Town Association. While I continue to serve on the board, I'm submitting testimony on my own behalf given the 20 plus years as its President, and as a Past President of the CAI Hawaii Chapter, and am all too aware of the negative affects this bill would have on 421J planned communities if passed as written.

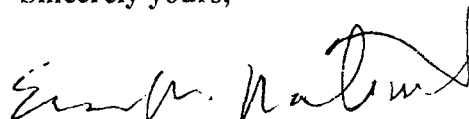
While the bill's intent to minimize household energy use by electric dryers, I strongly oppose the language of this measure as being detrimental to the success of planned communities, created to preserve the aesthetic and architectural features of these properties.

The following is suggested language based on MTA's restrictive covenants to be revised, as follows:

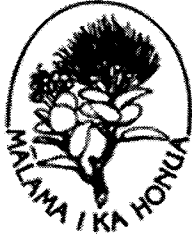
Section 2. Para 196 -, Line 7: "... of the location and installation of clotheslines are allowed for the purpose of enabling access to buildings and evacuation of buildings in caase of fire or other emergency and to screen drying clothes and clotheslines from being viewed from neighboring streets and properties. Screen design plans shall be approved by the association's design committee prior to construction."

I would support the measure with addition of the above suggested language.

Sincerely yours,

  
Eric M. Matsumoto

Cc: Senator Menor



# Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

PO Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803  
808.537.9019 hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008, 3:30 P.M.

(Testimony is 1 page long)

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2933

Chair Menor and members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, with 5500 dues paying members statewide, supports SB 2933, ensuring that Hawai'i homeowners have the choice to save money and save energy by using a clothesline to dry their clothes.

Electric clothes dryers can consume over 10% of a household's energy demand. Reducing the use of clothes dryers could substantially decrease the amount of fossil fuel electricity that Hawaii's households require. Unfortunately, many homeowner associations prohibit the use of using the sun to dry clothes—clotheslines—and some simply make it very difficult to use a clothesline. For example, the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions for the Ewa by Gentry development state that "...no outside clothes line or other outside clothes drying or airing facilities shall be maintained on any lot unless the same are screened from view and are not visible from neighboring property." ***While such an aesthetic condition might have been acceptable 20 years ago, it makes no sense today to restrict smart energy-saving behavior given what we now know about global climate change.***

This measure is a logical extension to the bill passed into law in 2005 prohibiting restrictions that prevent individuals from installing solar energy devices on houses or townhomes that they own. In fact, SB 2933 is arguable a housekeeping amendment to the law, as a clothesline could be considered a "solar energy device," pursuant to HRS 196-7, but it probably wouldn't be placed "on" a house like the allowed solar devices described in the current law.

While we are searching for ways to reduce our dependency on fossil fuel, save residents' money, and decrease global warming pollution, let's not forget about the basic—and decidedly low-tech—approaches to energy conservation. **This bill removes yet another barrier to local residents doing the right thing for the environment and the economy.**

As Benjamin Franklin reminds us: "We must all hang together, or most assuredly we will all hang separately."

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.