



Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2933 SD2 HD1

Chair Oshiro and members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, with 5500 dues paying members statewide, supports SB 2933 SD2 HD1, 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 Hawai'i'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.***

While this measure has drawn chuckles from some quarters, the real effect of its enactment is dead serious: dramatically reduce residential greenhouse gas emissions and save homeowners hundreds on their utility bills. On Kaua'i, for example, where the cost of electricity nears \$0.40 per kilowatt-hour, a family might spend \$450 annually on typical electric clothes dryer usage. Some homeowners' associations on Kaua'i restrict the use of clotheslines. Further, the household average annual clothes dryer use may produce over 1 ton of greenhouse gas.

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 SD2 HD1 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.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.