



Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS February 21st, 2008, 9:30 A.M.

(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2986 SD1

Chair Baker and members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, with 5500 dues paying members statewide, supports SB 2986 SD1, providing a direct refund to retired or low income individuals for the purchase and installation of a renewable energy system.

Hawaii's renewable energy tax credits have proven incredibly successful in helping to promote the use of solar and other renewable energies in the state. Hawai'i currently leads the nation in the number of solar water heaters installed per capita (although 80% of homes still lack this basic renewable energy device).

Senate Bill 2986 SD1 would enable those who lack a taxable income to access the renewable energy incentive. It particularly makes sense to extend this tax credit in the form of a refund to those low-income homeowners who would most benefit from reduced energy costs provided by a solar water heater. Additionally, retired homeowners on a fixed income should be encouraged to invest as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.