

JoAnn A. Yukimura
2749 Kapena Street
Lihue, HI 96766

February 4, 2009

The Honorable Mina Morita
State House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813
Dear Representative Morita:

Per our discussion last Saturday (1/31/09) at the Kanuikapono Charter School gathering, I am hereby outlining proposed amendments to SB644, SD3, HD3, CD1, 2008 Legislative Session, also known as the Solar Water Heating Act:

1. In the new section in Chapter 196, HRS, created in SECTION 2 of said act, delete subsection (4) which reads:

~~"A demand water heater device approved by Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. is installed; provided that at least one other gas appliance is installed in the dwelling. For the purposes of this paragraph, "demand water heater" means a gas-tankless instantaneous water heater that provides hot water only as it is needed."~~

2. Add a new section to the act that says:

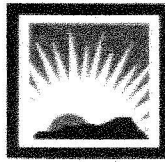
"Nothing in this act shall preclude any county from enacting an ordinance which will more aggressively require the installation of solar water heaters on new single family and duplex residential construction based maximum annual carbon footprint. Upon enactment of such an ordinance, this state law shall not apply to such a county

*only the
Not both
Per MM*

Please contact me if you have any questions—or if I can be of help in lobbying:
iyukimura@hotmail.com or 808-245-2617 or 652-3988.

Sincerely,

JoAnn A. Yukimura



Hawaii Solar Energy Association

Serving Hawaii Since 1977

February 5, 2009

Room 325

House

Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

&

Committee on Housing

HB1464

Mark Duda

President

10:00 AM

Testimony in Support of Some Provisions and Opposition to Others

Chairs Morita and Cabanilla and Members of the Committees:

Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) is comprised of more than 30 installers, distributors, manufacturers and financiers of solar energy systems, both hot water and PV, most of which are Hawaii based, owned and operated. Our primary goals are: (1) to further solar energy and related arts, sciences and technologies with concern for the ecologic, social and economic fabric of the area; (2) to encourage the widespread utilization of solar equipment as a means of lowering the cost of energy to the American public, to help stabilize our economy, to develop independence from fossil fuel and thereby reduce carbon emissions that contribute to climate change; (3) to establish, foster and advance the usefulness of the members, and their various products and services related to the economic applications of the conversion of solar energy for various useful purposes; and (4) to cooperate in, and contribute toward, the enhancement of widespread understanding of the various applications of solar energy conversion in order to increase their usefulness to society.

HSEA members manufacture and install the vast majority of solar water heating systems deployed in the State of Hawaii. Our comments on this measure are based on this expertise, and our related experience in other renewable energy technologies.

Comments on HB 1464:

1. HSEA believes that HB 1464 makes a number of important changes to the implementation of Act 204, most of which HSEA agrees with. The changes in HB1464 that HSEA favors are: changing certain details about the administrative process for granting variances, and achieving incentive parity across renewable technologies qualifying for a variance.
2. HSEA is concerned that HB 1464 intends to leave the energy coordinator in charge of the variance granting process. HSEA prefers to see the variance granting process lodged with the Public Benefits Fee Administrator, on the assumptions that this entity will oversee various issues associated with solar water heating systems on existing homes. HSEA would prefer that the standards and specifications, the expertise, etc. all reside in the same entity for solar water heating on both new construction and retrofits.

3. HSEA is extremely concerned that HB 1464 retains the gas variance, which allows developers to comply with a 'solar mandate' using of oil based synthetic gas. This goes directly against the intent of the legislation and broader efforts to improve Hawaii's energy security.



Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

February 5, 2009, 10:00 A.M.

(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1464

Chair Morita and members of the Committees:

The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, with 5500 dues paying members statewide, supports HB 1464, making clarifying amendments and improvements to the Solar Roofs Act. We would also support additional amendments to this measure.

The Sierra Club has worked with the Hawaii Solar Energy Association ("HSEA") to reach a general agreement as to the refinements that could be made to this historic act. We have reviewed HSEA's testimony and agree with it in principle. We emphasize separately, however, the following suggested amendments:

- **Remove the Gas Variance.** The Sierra Club strongly supports removing the on-demand gas heater option inasmuch as it runs counter to the general principle of the Solar Roofs Act, to wit, to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and lower our carbon emissions. Only if the the first and second variances are met should a developer be permitted -- and perhaps required-- to install an on-demand gas heater.
- **Clarifying the Solar Tax Credit.** We believe the Solar Roofs act is fairly clear, however to remove any ambiguity, a clarification could be made that the solar tax credit for homes constructed prior to January 1, 2010 remain in place.
- **Inspections.** The Sierra Club supports the concept of some form of inspections to ensure quality solar water heater installations occur.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.