



Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

February 3, 2009, 9:00 A.M.

(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 436

Chair Morita and members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, with 5500 dues paying members statewide, supports HB 436, directing the public utilities commission ("PUC") to establish a consumer information program on energy efficient properties. This knowledge helps consumers make informed decisions with respect to saving energy and money.

Intelligent, long-term decisions -- such as energy efficiency investments -- are frequently penalized in the marketplace because they cost more up front, despite being less expensive on a monthly basis. This measure could help influence potential homebuyers or tenants to see what the monthly energy cost of the home would be. This information disclosure would enable an honest assessment of the true costs of home ownership or renting and encourage energy efficiency investments by homeowners.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.