

SB1236



**STATE OF HAWAII**

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY  
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET  
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Statement of  
**Chad K. Taniguchi**  
Hawaii Public Housing Authority  
Before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND HOUSING  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

February 6, 2008, 1:15 p.m.  
Room 225, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of  
**S.B. 1236**  
**RELATING TO PUBLIC HOUSING**

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) **supports the intent** of S.B. 1236, which would require the installation of solar water heating in public housing units and provide funds for the first two years. However, this measure would adversely impact the priorities set forth in the Executive Biennium Budget for Fiscal Years 2009-2010, and given the current fiscal difficulties it would not be prudent to pursue enactment at this time.

HPHA has an Energy Performance Contract (EPC) with Ameresco/Pacific Energy to perform an investment grade energy audit of 5366 federal public housing units statewide, with a report due back in mid-May of this year. Under an EPC, the contractor will pay capital costs of energy efficiency upgrades and the agency will repay the cost over a number of years from energy cost savings.

We support the use of solar water heating wherever feasible for our public housing projects and since state public housing units are not included in the EPC, solar installations may be feasible and appropriate for those. However, until the energy audit has been completed it would be premature to assume that solar hot water is the best solution for all public housing units at this time, or what the cost would be for those where it is appropriate.



# Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND HOUSING SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

February 6, 2009, 1:15 P.M.

(Testimony is 2 pages long)

### TESTIMONY IN **SUPPORT OF SB 1636**

Chair Sakamoto, Chair Gabbard, and members of the Committees:

The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, with 5500 dues paying members statewide, supports SB 1236, requiring the public housing authority to install solar water heating systems in public housing units.

Solar water heaters provide the greatest energy savings per dollar for reducing substantial residential energy demand. Many of the less fortunate are unable to afford the upfront costs of installing solar, however, and are forced to rely on fossil fuel to keep their showers hot. This comes at a significant cost to both the homeowner/tenant as well as continue Hawai'i's dependence on fossil fuels.

Proceeding with SB 1236 will result in significant savings. Solar water heaters are among the most effective means of reducing the high electricity cost burden that residents now endure. The solar roofs bill makes the cost of living more affordable by slashing the electric utility bill of an average new home by 30 to 40 percent— saving over \$1000 annually for an average household on Kaua'i.

Solar water heating is the single best “clean” energy alternative for residences in Hawai'i. A typical family home with solar water heating avoids over 2.5 tons of carbon dioxide from being emitted annually (about 3000 kilowatt-hours avoided). If approximately 1,250 new solar roofs are installed, nearly 10,000 tons of greenhouse gases could be prevented from entering our atmosphere every year and over 3 million tons after 25 years. What's more, the energy from the sun is stored in the form of hot water, offsetting the electrical system peak that occurs in the evening. This helps offset

the need for expensive new power plants—another societal benefit from increased residential solar energy use.

We ask that this timely measure be forwarded for further discussion.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**Kaaumoana  
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96754**

February 4, 2009

Testimony in Support  
SB1236  
EDH-ENE Committees  
February 6, 2009  
Room # 225

Aloha Committee members,

My husband and I are in **strong support** of this bill. This is an important step in reducing the energy use in Hawaii while providing economic benefit to the residents of public housing. It also models the technology that every community should be considering for all housing needs.

Mahalo for your service.

Me ka pono,

Makaala and Harry Kaaumoana