

**SB 2783**



**HAWAI'I HOTEL & LODGING  
ASSOCIATION**

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32<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary  
Are You Walking???  
May 15, 2010  
(Always the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in May)  
[www.charitywalkhawaii.org](http://www.charitywalkhawaii.org)

**TESTIMONY OF MURRAY TOWILL  
PRESIDENT  
HAWAI'I HOTEL & LODGING ASSOCIATION**

**February 23, 2010**

**RE: SB 2783 Relating to Energy Efficiency**

Good afternoon Chairmen Gabbard and Nishihara and members of the Senate Committees on Energy & Environment, and Tourism. I am Murray Towill, President of the Hawai'i Hotel & Lodging Association.

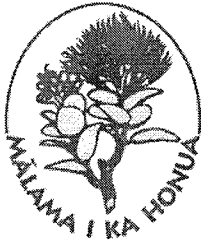
The Hawai'i Hotel & Lodging Association is a statewide association of hotels, condominiums, timeshare companies, management firms, suppliers, and other related firms and individuals. Our membership includes over 150 hotels representing over 48,000 rooms. Our hotel members range from the 2,680 rooms of the Hilton Hawaiian Village to the 4 rooms of the Bougainvillea Bed & Breakfast on the Big Island.

The lodging industry in Hawaii has supported and been actively implementing projects for energy conservation. These are not only good for the environment, but make long term economic sense as well. We are not aware of any new construction projects that do not incorporate energy conservation measures of this type especially involving air conditioning. It is in the air conditioning where the savings are most pronounced.

The Hawai'i Hotel & Lodging Association, however, does not support SB 2783 Relating to Energy Efficiency. Given the current economic situation and the broad nature of the bill, we do not support mandating this sort of retrofit. We are especially concerned that the language in SB 2783 would mandate sensor installation if any part of a hotel is renovated. We believe the unintended consequence could be to curtail renovation in non-guest room areas of a hotel. The result would be contrary to efforts to stimulate construction and job creation.

In these difficult times, we urge you not to impose this additional mandate. We are concerned that it will increase costs and inhibit reinvestment and job creation.

Again, mahalo for this opportunity to testify.



# Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT SENATE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

February 23, 2010, 2:45 P.M.  
*(Testimony is 1 page long)*

### TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 2783

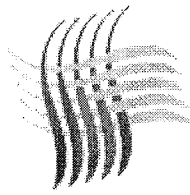
Aloha Chair Gabbard and Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committees,

The Hawai'i Chapter of the Sierra Club is in strong support of SB 2783, which requires hotels to include a motion sensor to limit the waste of air conditioning or unneeded lights when people are absent from the room.

Surveys of the tourism industry have shown a growing number of tourists are refusing to travel to locations that are not actively offsetting their carbon footprint. Approximately ten percent of european tourists have stated this factors strongly into their travel plans. We can only anticipate this number will grow with time.

Little steps, such as the one proposed in this measure, will give Hawai'i hotels a means to appeal to the eco-minded traveler. It will also help reduce electrical costs, save the hotels money in the longterm, and help move Hawai'i towards a clean energy future.

Please move this measure forward. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.



**Integrated Economic Solutions, LLC**

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**LATE TESTIMONY**

**Testimony of Thomas J. Smyth, CEcD  
Before the  
Committee on Finance Energy And Environment  
Committee On Tourism  
Tuesday, February 23, 2010, 2:45 pm Room 225**

**on**

**SB 2783 Relating to Energy Efficiency**

Chairs Gabbard and Nishihara, Vice Chairs English and Galuteria, Members of the Committee:

**I understand the purpose and intent of SB 2783, but as a consultant to an emerging local energy management system company, I have great concern with the approach taken in the bill to reduce energy consumption.**

While the average person may think that an easy way to reduce energy costs is to simply use less energy; that is not always the most cost effective solution. One could argue that you do not need to mandate energy efficiency to a business that has relatively high energy costs. A hotel will do all it reasonably can to keep its costs low, especially with lower occupancy and much lower rates.

I would ask those who live in air-conditioned homes or apartments, if you always turn off the a/c when you are away for a significant period of time. If you are like me, my condo a/c is on low when I am not there and I turn it off when I am; opening my lanai doors to take advantage of the trade winds. Even if you live in a home without a/c, I believe that you probably leave a window partially open or otherwise allow for air flow when you are not there for any length of time.

The fact is that if you shut any room tight and turn off fans or a/c units when the space is not occupied, you are inviting **Mold and Mildew**, the enemy of all of us in Hawaii. We have all experienced "M&M" in some form in our homes. My seldom-worn laced shoes often mildew, leading to a shoe shine. Same for dark colored trousers and other clothes. This, despite keeping a/c on when away.

The firm I represent will soon be rolling out a wireless broad-band system of easily mounted sensors to be put in each hotel room (and in hallways and emergency stairs where even more energy is consumed based on continuous lighting to meet the perceived Fire Code.

Our system of very small sensors, detect not only motion, but also “personnel presence,” since motion detection is not very effective when a person is sleeping. We also measure room temperature and humidity. This allows the system to respond to potential “M&M” conditions by turning the a/c fan on and even the compressor if necessary.

**Nothing is worse for a hotel room than the presence, or perception of the presence, of Mold or Mildew. If we don't like it in our own homes, how does the arriving hotel guest react when the door to the empty room is opened, and the stuffiness and even melodious air is encountered?**

Many may remember when the opening of a beautiful Waikiki hotel tower was delayed for months because the designer and contractor had allowed mold to develop in the walls. The cost of repair and lost revenue far exceeded any energy costs that might have kept the new, empty rooms fresh.

The bill refers to “...other technology to automatically control a building's lighting, heating, ventilation and air conditioning, based on the presence or absence of people.” Motion detection is a poor means of measuring the presence or absence of people in a hotel room. To keep rooms fresh, other more sophisticated personnel presence sensors, as well as light detections sensors that turn off room lighting when measured ambient light is present, would do more to save energy without the increased cost of “M&M.” People are not the main problem in the room, the temperature and humidity are. Even if people are not there is often a need to keep systems operating to avoid a even worse situation.

**I strongly recommend that this bill not go forward in its present form.**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



**OUTRIGGER**  
ENTERPRISES GROUP  
*Hospitality • Retail • Development*

THE SENATE  
25<sup>th</sup> LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION of 2010

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

COMMITTEE ON TOURISM  
Senator Clarence K Nishihara, Chair

2/23/10  
2:45 PM – Room 225

SB 2783  
Relating to Energy Efficiency

My name is Max J Sword, here on behalf of Outrigger Hotels, to offer our opposition to this bill.

SB 2783 mandates that a hotel retrofit its rooms with motion sensor technology, if any new construction, major renovation or retrofit is done to any part of an existing hotel building.

First, due to the rising energy cost, a large number of the new renovations being done include energy saving devises, such as motion sensors being installed in rooms, along with other energy saving measures.

Secondly, we believe that mandates, such as these on private business should be coupled with a tax credit of some type to ease the burden on businesses. A good example is when the city mandated a number of years ago, that commercial properties retrofit to low flush toilets. They passed the ordinance, which included a \$100 credit. The credit was either half or a third of the cost of a new toilet, but it eased the burden on businesses, especially small businesses.

Thirdly, the way the bill reads, if a hotel does renovations to its ballroom, it triggers the mandate to install motion sensor devises in hotel rooms.

Finally, this type of burden on hotels is what we cannot afford at this time. We are having a hard enough time keeping our heads above water and our workers employed.

We believe that this bill is unnecessary, and we urge that you not pass out this bill.