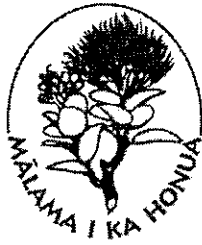


SB 988

RELATING TO ENERGY.

Requires the landlord or lessor of a commercial property to provide written disclosure of energy costs to a prospective lessee before execution of the rental agreement. Requires oral disclosure of energy costs to a prospective lessee for an oral lease agreement at or before commencement of the tenancy. Allows a lessee to terminate the rental agreement, without liability, if the landlord or lessor fails to disclose energy costs



Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

PO Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803
808.538.6616 hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

February 7, 2013, 2:45 P.M.
(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 988

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Baker, and Members of the Committees:

The Sierra Club, Hawaii Chapter, with over 10,000 dues paying members and supporters statewide, respectfully *supports* HB 1407. This measure gives renters the information needed to make informed decisions about what properties to rent and indirectly incentivizes property owners to invest in energy efficiency.

The average electrical bill in Hawaii is approximately three (3) times higher than the mainland. This has real impacts on the cost of living. Renters, particularly those living paycheck to paycheck, deserve to be able to make decisions based on a realistic estimate of potential costs.

Further, buildings account for 72% of electricity use and over 36% of greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. Improving their energy efficiency would lower energy bills, eliminates the need for new power plants, increases our energy independence, reduces air and water pollution, and cuts the carbon emissions that cause global warming. It also directly improves the future comfort and affordability of these homes.

Please advance this measure. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.