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TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2015
8:30 a.m.

TESTIMONY OF JEFFREY T. ONO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF
CONSUMER ADVOCACY, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER
AFFAIRS, TO THE HONORABLE CHRIS LEE, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL NO. 488, S.D. 2 – RELATING TO ENERGY

DESCRIPTION:

This measure proposes to require separate electricity utility metering of nonresidential and residential condominium units in all mixed-use condominium projects and to authorize condominium boards to also authorize separate metering of other utilities and up to half of the cost of installing the meters to be subsidized.

POSITION:

The Division of Consumer Advocacy supports this bill.

COMMENTS:

Hawaii's consumers pay billions of dollars each year for electricity that is generated using imported oil. Energy conservation and efficiency are important means by which the State of Hawaii can wean itself from its dependence upon imported petroleum.

The Consumer Advocate supports this measure as it will make the actual consumer of the electricity used in condominium apartments financially responsible for his own energy usage. There are a number of older condominiums in Hawaii whose apartments are not separately metered. Mandating individual electricity meters in condominiums would be an important step in improving energy conservation.

Furthermore, this bill provides that the cost of installing separate meters to condominium apartments will be borne by the association, not the electric utility. This means that all electric utility ratepayers will not be subsidizing these costs.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

March 17, 2015, 8:30 A.M.

Room 325

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 488

Chair Lee, Vice-Chair Lowen, and members of the Committee,

The Blue Planet Foundation supports SB 488, a measure which promotes sub-metering of condominium units. Sub-metering is a proven method for reducing energy waste, because it aligns behavior (energy consumption) with incentives (energy costs). This alignment is absent in master-metered condominiums, to the detriment of Hawai'i's energy system. Sub-metering empowers residents to manage their energy use, and promotes fairness.

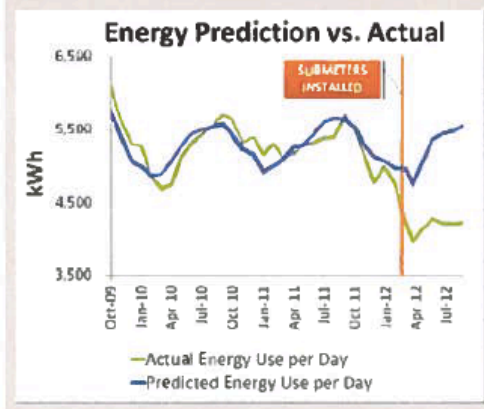
The case study on the right, presented by Hawaii Energy in the February-March 2013 edition of Building Management Hawaii, illustrates the beneficial impact of sub-metering.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

CASE STUDY

Craigside, AOA

Just months after installation, Craigside in Nuuanu is already achieving significant energy reduction. In March 2012, submetering was installed for 242 units. From March to September, actual usage was down from its predicted usage by about 20 percent (approximately 1,000 kWh reduction per day, which is equal to about \$9,120 in electricity cost savings per month, based on 30 cents per kWh and adjusted for weather-related changes).



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2015 1:09 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: amybrinker@mac.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB488 on Mar 17, 2015 08:30AM*

SB488

Submitted on: 3/15/2015

Testimony for EEP on Mar 17, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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lowen2-Thomas

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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To: EEPtestimony
Cc: jamesjtz@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB488 on Mar 17, 2015 08:30AM*

SB488

Submitted on: 3/15/2015

Testimony for EEP on Mar 17, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Gauer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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