

SB 488



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TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2015
2:45 p.m.

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

SENATE BILL NO. 488 – RELATING TO ENERGY

DESCRIPTION:

This measure proposes to require separate electricity utility metering of nonresidential and residential condominium units in all condominium projects.

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.

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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.