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HB 2319 HD 2 RELATING TO THE CONSERVATION OF ENERGY

Senate Committee on
Housing and Hawaiian Programs

Public Hearing - March 24, 1992
1:00 PM, Room 407, SOT

By
John T. Harrison, Environmental Center
H. Hubbard, PICTR/Hawaii Natural Energy Institute

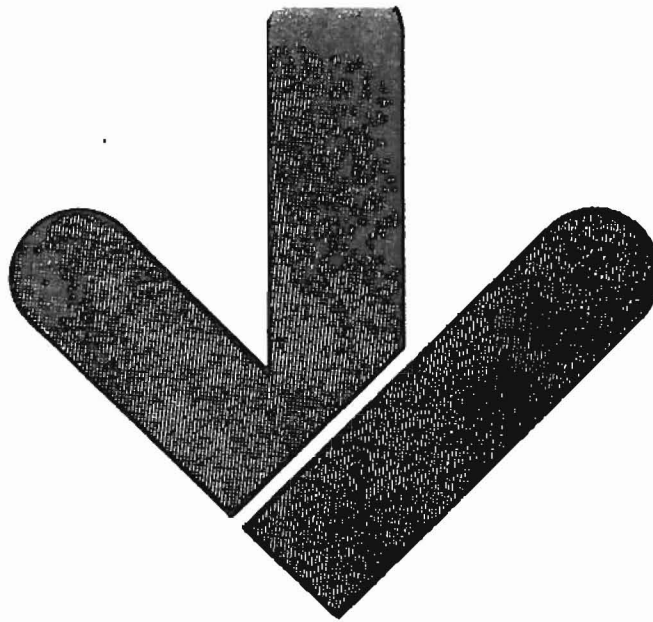
HB 2319 HD 2 would require installation of energy-efficient water heating facilities, including increasing percentages of solar technologies, on residential projects using state lands or state funds.

Our statement on this measure does not constitute an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

Water heating comprises the largest component of residential energy consumption in most houses in Hawaii. Substitution of energy-efficient devices, particularly solar hot water heaters, would significantly reduce individual household energy consumption, and, extrapolated statewide, such measures would substantially reduce our present rate of consumption of fossil fuels. Thus, the intent of this bill clearly is supportive of both state and federal energy policies encouraging energy conservation, and we strongly concur with that intent. In addition, prior amendments to the bill as noted in the present draft appear appropriate.

However, we question the exclusion of projects developed on behalf of the Hawaii Housing Authority (HHA). We note that HHA receives federal funding and perceives an apparent conflict in expenditure of federal funds to comply with state requirements. We suggest that federal funds already are expended routinely in compliance with local requirements, such as building codes and zoning ordinances. Energy policy, like building and zoning guidelines, is established in the public interest, and where federal policy is consistent with local public interest guidelines, such as in the case of energy policy, no conflict is evident.

We also suggest that the categorical exclusion of multi-unit buildings is inappropriate, in that many duplex, triplex, and cluster type developments may readily incorporate solar water heating technology, yet would be excluded under the present language of HB 2319.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TESTIMONY

H.B. 2683, H.D. 2

Relating to Environmental Protection and Health

Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on
Agriculture and Environmental Protection

March 18, 1992

by

Dr. John Harrison, Environmental Coordinator
Environmental Center

