



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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SB 2321 SD 1 SCR 2115  
RELATING TO ENERGY

Statement for House Committee on  
Planning, Energy and Environmental Protection  
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By  
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SB 2321 SD 1 would amend HRS 196 by requiring that solar water heaters be installed in all new state subsidized residential dwellings after June 30, 1991 except for certain specified types of construction.

Our statement on this bill does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

The Environmental Center has long advocated the use of solar water heating devices particularly in areas of high solar insolation such as the Ewa plain. However, it is not clear why buildings which furnish "transient accommodations" as defined in section 237D-1 (paragraph 2) should be exempt from the requirement. "Transient accommodations" that involve hotels or apartment buildings could be exempt from the solar requirements if they have inadequate roof area for effective operation of the solar water heater panels per the provisions of paragraph 5. More modest sized "transient accommodations" such as rooming houses, two story hotel structures or other rental properties that have sufficient roof area to permit effective use of solar panels should not be exempt from the requirement.

Paragraphs 1 and 3 could be combined and simplified to read: "Renovations or additions to existing structures". However, we do question the breadth of this exemption. While it may be appropriate to exempt minimal renovations or additions to existing structures from the requirement for solar heaters, we fail to see the rationale for exemption if major renovations or additions are undertaken, particularly if those renovations or additions involve activities such as renovation or addition of water heater systems and reroofing.

~~The term "insulation" paragraph 4, line 15 should read "insolation".~~