SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I
MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

April 18, 2018

Aloha pumehana Governor Ige,

We are deeply grateful for your consistent commitment to protect Hawai'i's unique natural resources, combat climate change, and promote clean energy.   We are writing to you today on behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters to urge your signature on S.B. 2939, the Hawai'i Ratepayer Protection Act.

We support this bill because we believe that it will hasten our transition to a clean energy economy and thereby better protect our environment. We also know though that the justification for signing this bill extends well beyond that reason.

The Hawai'i Ratepayer Protection Act represents the single biggest shift in consumer protection policy passed by the Hawai'i Legislature. This bill brings the financial interests of the electric utility into line with the public's interest in drastically lower electric bills, clean energy for all, more reliable electrical service, and more responsive customer engagement.

This bill also empowers regulators to better serve the public interest. The Hawai'i Ratepayer Protection Act gives the Public Utilities Commission the tools and guidance it needs to establish strong policies that reward the electric utility for serving its customers better, instead of building unnecessary infrastructure. The information collection and sharing requirement means the PUC's decisions on behalf of consumers will be more firmly rooted in the relevant data.

The Hawai'i Ratepayer Protection Act sets the course for the utility of the future; a course that you have long-championed with your bold commitment to self-reliant energy policies. Please join us in taking the next historic step in the evolution of our electric utility. Signing S.B. 2939 will reduce electrical rates for Hawai'i residents, empower the PUC to set strong, well-informed policies, and encourage the utility to ensure clean energy for all of Hawai'i's residents.

Thank you for this opportunity to bring this important bill to your attention.

Sincerely,

Marti Townsend
Director