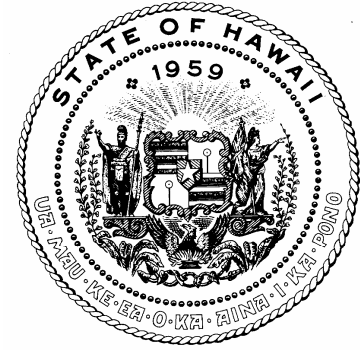


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MEDIA RELEASE
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BILL WILL PROHIBIT SALE OF INCANDESCENT BULBS

Senator Will Espero wants to ban the sale of incandescent light bulbs. S.B. 2885, prohibits the sale of these bulbs, including halogen bulbs, beginning January 1, 2009. The use of the incandescent bulbs would not be affected, however sales would end as of the new year. The bill will be heard in the Senate Energy and Environment Committee on Thursday, February 7, 2008, in Room 414, at 3:30 p.m.

“The price of the more energy efficient bulbs is higher upfront, but the cost is easily recouped in energy savings within the first year,” Senator Espero explained. Rooms will be cooler without the heat produced by incandescent bulbs, lessening the load on air conditioners, and reducing the electricity the consumer uses for lighting and cooling. Compact fluorescent bulbs use one-fourth the energy of an old-fashioned incandescent bulb, last longer and are cooler. Changing just one 100-watt bulb to an equivalent 26-watt CFL, based on three hours use per day, can save \$13.78 per year per bulb.

Brazil, Venezuela, Ireland, Australia, and Canada are among the countries phasing out the sale of these bulbs because of their energy inefficiency. Only 5% of the energy produced is given off as light, with 95% given off as heat. The heat generated increases the workload on air conditioners, but also helps warm a room in cold weather. Fluorescent and LED bulbs work by a more energy efficient technology. Senator Espero hopes the bill will reduce Hawaii’s dependence on fossil fuels, a major contributor to the problem of global warming.

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