

University of Hawai'i

Consent to Participate in Research

**Realizing Rental Energy Efficiency**

My name is Sean Walsh, and I am a graduate student at the University of Hawaii (UH). A requirement of my Master's degree program is to conduct a research project. The purpose of this instructional design project is to develop and evaluate an online resource that will educate property renters ages 18-40 on the techniques and benefits of energy efficiency in lighting, water heating, other large appliances, and phantom loads in their homes. Participation in this study will involve the review of an online resource (website) and the completion of a series of anonymous on-line (Internet) survey. I am asking you to participate in this project because you are between the ages of 18 and 40, a property renter, and living in Hawaii. If you do not meet these requirements, please disregard this request.

**Project Description – Activities and Time Commitment:** Participants will fill out an introductory survey that is posted on the Internet. Survey questions are primarily multiple choice. However, there will be several opportunities to expand upon your answer with an open-ended narrative response. Participants will then review a website with information about energy efficiency in the home. A post survey, of similar format to the introductory survey, will then be completed. Completion of the activities could take as little as 30 minutes but may take longer depending on time dedicated to exploration of the online resource. 20 or more individuals will also be participating in this study.

**Benefits and Risks:** There will be no direct benefit to you for participating in this survey. The results of this project may contribute to a better understanding of ways to encourage renters to conserve energy in the home. There is little risk to you in participating in this project.

**Confidentiality and Privacy:** This survey is anonymous. I will not ask you to provide any personal information that could be used to identify you. Likewise, please do not include any personal information, such as your name, in your survey responses.

**Voluntary Participation:** Participation in this project is voluntary. You can freely choose to participate or to not participate in this survey, and there will be no penalty or loss of benefits for either decision. If you agree to participate, you can stop at any time without any penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.

**Questions:** If you have any questions about this study, you can contact me at 808.283.1499 or [sfwalsh@hawaii.edu](mailto:sfwalsh@hawaii.edu). You can also contact my faculty advisory, Dr. Peter Leong, at 808.956.3902 or [PeterLeo@hawaii.edu](mailto:PeterLeo@hawaii.edu). If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, you can contact the UH Committee on Human Studies at 808.956.5007 or [uhirb@hawaii.edu](mailto:uhirb@hawaii.edu).

**To Access the Survey:** Please return to the home page at [HIsustainability.com](https://HIsustainability.com) for a link to the intro-survey. Submittal of the survey will be considered as your consent to participate in this study.

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