

Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 25th, 2008, 4:00 P.M.

(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 3211 HD1

Chair Oshiro and members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, with 5500 dues paying members statewide, strongly supports HB 3211 HD1, ensuring that Hawai'i homeowners have the choice to save money and save energy by using a clothesline to dry their clothes.

Electric clothes dryers can consume over 10% of a household's energy demand. Reducing the use of clothes dryers could substantially decrease the amount of fossil fuel electricity that Hawaii's households require. Unfortunately, many homeowner associations prohibit the use of using the sun to dry clothes—clotheslines—and some simply make it very difficult to use a clothesline. For example, the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions for the Ewa by Gentry development state that "...no outside clothes line or other outside clothes drying or airing facilities shall be maintained on any lot unless the same are screened from view and are not visible from neighboring property." ***While such an aesthetic condition might have been acceptable 20 years ago, it makes no sense today to restrict smart energy-saving behavior given what we now know about global climate change.***

While this measure has drawn chuckles from some quarters, the real effect of its enactment is dead serious: dramatically reduce residential greenhouse gas emissions and save homeowners hundreds on their utility bills. On Kaua'i, for example, where the cost of electricity nears \$0.40 per kilowatt-hour, a family might spend \$450 annually on typical electric clothes dryer usage. Some homeowners' associations on Kaua'i restrict the use of clotheslines. Further, the household average annual clothes dryer use may produce over 1 ton of greenhouse gas.

This measure is a logical extension to the bill passed into law in 2005 prohibiting restrictions that prevent individuals from installing solar energy devices on houses or townhomes that they own. In fact, HB 3211 HD1 is arguable a housekeeping amendment to the law, as a clothesline could be considered a "solar energy device," pursuant to HRS 196-7, but it probably wouldn't be placed "on" a house like the allowed solar devices described in the current law.

While we are searching for ways to reduce our dependency on fossil fuel, save residents' money, and decrease global warming pollution, let's not forget about the basic—and decidedly low-tech—approaches to energy conservation. **This bill removes yet another barrier to local residents doing the right thing for Hawaii's environment and economy.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Eric M. Matsumoto
94-464 Kaweloalii Street
Mililani, Hawaii 96789

February 21, 2008

Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn Lee, Vice-Chair
Finance Committee
c/o Legislator's Public Access Room VIA Email: FINtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: H.B. No. 3211 HD 1- Relating to Clotheslines
Hearing: Monday, February 25, 2008; 4:00PM, Conf Room

Dear Representatives Oshiro and Lee and Committee Members:

My name is Eric Matsumoto, the immediate Past President of the Mililani Town Association. While I continue to serve on the board, I'm submitting testimony on my own behalf given the 20 plus years as its President, and as a Past President of the CAI Hawaii Chapter, and am all too aware of the negative affects this bill would likely have on 421J planned communities if passed as amended by HD 1.

While this bill's intent to minimize household energy use by electric dryers is economically and environmentally sound, and the amendment's language aids associations in having restrictions, I question whether it resolves the need to screen drying clothes and clotheslines from neighboring streets and properties or trades this for likely litigation because of the language specifies the rules not be "unduly or unreasonably restrictive."

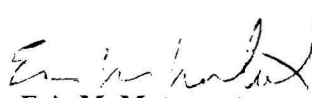
It should be noted that Mililani Town Association was created in 1958, and the first homes delivered in 1968 with screened clotheslines and has been successful over the years in providing homeowners with properly dried clothes.

To resolve this concern, recommend language be inserted as follows:

Section 196-7(a): 8th line: "...residential dwelling or townhouse that the person owns; except that the clotheslines and drying clothes shall be screened from view from neighboring streets and properties; and provided that rules that facilitate...."

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.

Sincerely yours,


Eric M. Matsumoto

Cc: Rep Marilyn Lee,
Rep Ryan Yamane,
Senator Ron Menor,
Senator Bobby Bunda,
Rep Jon Karamatsu

FINtestimony

From: Shannon Wood [swood@hoku.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 24, 2008 9:26 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: 2/25/2008 HB3211 HD1 4 pm Agenda

Shannon Wood, *Interim President*
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COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

PUBLIC HEARING
4 pm
Monday, February 25, 2008
Conference Room 308

HB 3211 HD1 - RELATING TO CLOTHESLINES
STRONGLY SUPPORT WITH AN AMENDMENT

Aloha:

My name is Shannon Wood, *Interim President* of the **Windward Ahupua`a Alliance** which has been working on energy-related issues for the past several years.

The principle behind this measure - to help reduce the total amount of electricity we consume here in Hawai`i no matter what fuel feedstock is used to generate it - makes it a small, but very important step in reaching our goals to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions as well as our carbon footprints.

We're not exactly sure why this particular bill was assigned to the **Finance Committee** because its companion bill **SB 2933** was referred to two subject matter committees but not to **Ways And Means**. That version has one key amendment which I feel is worth supporting:

(3) Screening drying clothes and clotheslines from view from neighboring streets.

This added language addresses most of the aesthetic concerns which might be raised by some of the members of the **House** who represent newer communities where outdoor clotheslines are currently banned..

We here in Hawai`i are blessed with great weather approximately 340 days of the year. People should have option of drying their laundry outdoors in their back yards no matter where they live. We

urge that you move **HB 3211 HD1** - preferably with the above amendment - out for **Third Reading**.
Mahalo.