

Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOUSING

February 12th, 2008, 8:40 A.M.

(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 3211

Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, with 5500 dues paying members statewide, supports HB 3211, 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 Hawai'i'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.***

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 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 the environment and the economy.**

As Benjamin Franklin reminds us: "We must all hang together, or most assuredly we will all hang separately."

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: Windward Ahupua`a Alliance [mailto:info@waa-hawaii.org]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 12:02 AM
To: HSHtestimony
Subject: HB 3211

Shannon Wood, *Interim President*
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COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING
Rep. Maile Shimabukuro, *Chair*
Rep. Karl Rhoads, *Vice Chair*

PUBLIC HEARING
8:40 am
Tuesday, February 12, 2008
Conference Room 329

HB 3436 - RELATING TO TCLOTHESLINES
STRONGLY SUPPORT

The *Windward Ahupua`a Alliance* strongly supports **HB 3211** because it will help reduce the total amount of electricity we consume here in Hawai`i no matter what fuel feedstock is used to generate it.

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 pass **HB 3211** unamended.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

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

February 10,, 2008

Representative Maile Shimabukuro, Chair
Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair
Committee on Human Services and Housing
c/o Legislator's Public Access Room
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

VIA Email: HSHtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: H.B. No. 3211 – Relating to Clotheslines
Hearing: Thursday, February 12, 2008; 8:40AM, Conf Room 329

Dear Representatives Shimabukuro and Rhoads 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 have on 421J planned communities if passed as written.

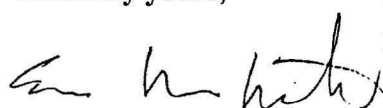
While the bill's intent to minimize household energy use by electric dryers, I strongly oppose the language of this measure as being detrimental to the success of planned communities, created to preserve the aesthetic and architectural features of these properties.

Mililani Town Association was created in 1958, and the first homes delivered in 1968 with screened clotheslines for clothes drying and has been successful in providing homeowners with properly dried clothes.

The effort to allow outside clothes drying would provide a win-win situation with planned communities if the language of the proposed measure were to be revised to require screened clotheslines so as to block the view of the drying clothes and clotheslines from neighboring streets and properties with association approval of the planned construction. To do otherwise would defeat the purpose of having planned communities that come with restrictive covenants which the property owners fully understood when purchasing in planned communities.

I would support the measure with addition of language as cited above.

Sincerely yours,



Eric M. Matsumoto

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