

LATE

Late testimony for SB 254: relating to Tax Credit for generators used for medical life saving devices

February 18, 2009

Chair Ige:

With the possible loss of electricity for our island and remote islands, it is imperative that we assist this medically fragile people with the cost of life saving generators. Generators cost upwards of 700\$ to \$1200 when Carlton Saito and I made inquiry calls.

I investigated with a medical nurse that does homecare visits and she explained about how some patient's lives depend on having continuous electrical service.

1. Ventilators- Used to help the patients to breathe. Without it some may need to be rushed to the hospital and neighbor island babies on Kauai with special needs are especially affected because they have lost their oxygen vendor there.
2. Oxygen concentrators- provides oxygen by mask to patients.
3. Trachestomy- When patients do not have the ability to swallow, they need to have this machine extract fluids from their tracheal tube to breathe.
4. Feeding pumps- To us we might be able to skip meals but some patients need continuous 24 hr feeding. Please keep in mind that we are also talking about babies to the medically fragile elderly.

Please **support SB 254**. We are lucky that nobody died in the last power outage. This will in fact help the families of these sick patients seek other emergency devices. Because of the medical bills and cost of medications perhaps many people would go without a generator. As the Health Committee it is your goal to help the people of Hawaii in this particular area and we should help with preventative measures.

Working for the State of Hawaii,

Nancy K. Gasper

Senator Gabbard's Legislative Staff