

**LATE**

Testimony of William R. Crowe

I, William Crowe, testify that I am in favor of S. B. NO. 466 regarding limiting the use of leaf blowers. I would also support any amendment that proposed banning them outright because they are unsafe to public health, exceeding reasonable decibel levels and because they thereby break noise pollution laws. Furthermore they cause harm and nuisance to ordinary citizens who have a right to enjoy peace and privacy in their homes. The leaf blowers also cause excessive exhaust pollution.

I understand that California cities that have banned leaf blowers completely include: Belvedere, Beverly Hills, Carmel, Claremont, Del Mar, Hermosa Beach, Indian Wells, Lawndale, Laguna Beach, Los Altos, Malibu, Mill Valley, Piedmont, and Santa Monica. That represents a very large population of citizens who felt deprived of their right to live free from the invasion of noise pollution and sets an example for Hawaii to follow. What these garden and landscape workers cannot consider is just how many people are night workers who have to sleep during the daytime hours and yet have their sleep patterns and health crudely interrupted.

Anything that creates pollution in our Islands is a threat to our peaceful idyllic image and lifestyle, one of the attractions for our major industry- tourism, and hence a threat to the livelihood of all Hawaii citizens.

Contrary to what landscape companies now say, gardens worldwide have been maintained for hundreds of years efficiently without these dreadful invasive machines.

I support the passage of S.B.NO. 466 and if an amendment could be made to ban the leaf blowers outright I would support such an amendment

Respectfully,

William R. Crowe  
115 Suite D Maunalua Ave.,  
Honolulu HI 96821  
Tel./ Fax 808 396-8410  
williamcrowe@hawaii.rr.com

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 3:59 PM  
**To:** ENETestimony  
**Cc:** dadamah@aol.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB466 on 2/17/2009 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for ENE 2/17/2009 2:45:00 PM SB466

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: HARVEY HAKODA  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 1560 Kanunu St., ph1 Hon, HI  
Phone: 808 348 3068  
E-mail: [dadamah@aol.com](mailto:dadamah@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 2/17/2009

**Comments:**

Leaf blowers are polluting Hawaii's clean air. I've observed on numerous occasions leaf blowers being used to blow yard waste and dirt onto public sidewalks and roadways. However, the most egregious practice is when leaf blowers are used to blow clouds of dirt and debris into the air to be fill the neighborhood with dust and debris. One user in particular consistently blows dust and debris into the neighboring home. Fortunately for that user, the neighbor is senile and has no clue where all the dust and dirt are coming from.

Leaf blowers are a convenient tool for people who are too lazy to rake up the debris and bag the green waste. I don't expect any restrictive legislation to pass because our legislature is too partial to the commercial lobby. But I commend the sponsors for trying to keep Hawaii's air nice and clean.

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**From:** tim apicella [apicella58@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 12:19 PM  
**To:** ENETestimony  
**Subject:** Testify for S.B. No. 466

Tim Apicella and Darcy Day hereby testify that we are in favor of S. B. NO. 466 regarding limiting the use of leaf blowers.

We believe that a bill banning leaf blowers completely would offer a better solution as these devices are detrimental to residents health and well being due to noise and exhaust pollution.

I personally witness hours of landscaping professionals chasing around very few leafs with landscaping equipment (leaf blowers) at the expense of homeowners/residents of the community. Much of this work is performed in the early morning hours.

If hand pushed mechanical lawn sweepers (not rakes) would be used we believe landscape companies could actually do the job now done by leaf blowers at less time and charges to customers.

These lawn sweepers are very efficient when applied properly and will work on hard surfaces as well as lawns.

Again, we favor the passage of S.B.NO. 466 as a step in the right direction.

Respectfully,

Tim Apicella  
Darcy Day  
500 Lunalilo Home Road  
Honolulu, HI 96825

**From:** andrea barnes [barnesa008@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2009 6:33 PM  
**To:** ENETestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of 1233 and 1174

Chair Gabbard and members of the committee:

I think we should pass these pieces of legislation to reduce our consumption of gasoline and ensure our environment improves.

Hawaii has the cleanest air of the states thanks to our tradewinds, but there are days where our automobile pollution is evident. By reducing car emissions with more efficient cars we can aid California in their efforts to clean the air as well as lessen our dependence on oil.

Thank you,  
Andrea Barnes

**LATE**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 17, 2009  
Senate Conference Room 229  
2:45 PM

**SENATE BILL 466**  
**Relating to Pollution**

**PLEASE HELP US! THESE MACHINES ARE DRIVING US OUT OF OUR HOMES!**

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair English and Committee Members:

Please make the 2009 Legislative Session count. Year after year Hawaii's citizens plead with the State Legislature to seriously consider and act upon bills to restore the peace and tranquility of their homes constantly besieged by incessant weekend and weekday 74-decibel noise and air pollution of fossil-fuel powered weed whackers and leaf blowers. Residents of Hawaii live in homes that require cross ventilation, but are precluded from this natural comfort within their own homes by having to ensure that their windows are sealed shut or face the consequences of deafening extended noise impacts, stagnant exhaust fumes and layers of dirt settling on their furnishings and belongings.

Weed-whacking and leaf-blowing crews scour the landscape on weekends and weekdays, many with two or three of these machines blasting away at the same location. Their handlers appear to derive a sense of power and importance from wielding whackers and blowers that tumble debris around and erode the soil, creating clouds of dust and dirt as they permeate the shoreline air with toxic fuel emissions. Timing these actions and comparing them with traditional maintenance methods leads to conclusions that little time is saved by chopping, chasing and blowing leaves and dirt into piles to be scooped into bags.

Many homes are surrounded by several residential properties, all with their own yard crews of three-to-four maintenance workers with 2-to-3 whackers and blowers whining, grinding and blasting at once. This cumulatively amounts to 7 hours or more of direct noise and air pollution each week.

Given Hawaii's warm climate and open living environment, the State Legislature should be a frontrunner in banning this gas-powered equipment from residential areas. With this example yard crews will return to traditional, less expensive and friendlier maintenance techniques, and manufacturers taking heed will find ways to develop better, quieter and cleaner maintenance equipment in the interest of the greater public health and welfare.

**Please amend this Senate Bill 466 by banning this equipment and returning the right of peace and quiet to the neighborhoods of Hawaii's citizens.**

Sincerely,  
Michelle S. Matson

**LATE**

February 16, 2009

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT  
STATE CAPITOL, CONFERENCE ROOM 225  
415 South Beretania Street  
DATE: Tuesday, February 17, 2009  
TIME: 2:45 P.M.

To: Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator J. Kalani English, Committee Vice Chair  
Committee Members

**RE: Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 466: Leaf Blowers; Noise pollution;  
Emissions; Violations**

Dear Energy and Environment Committee:

My name is Patricia Obatake. I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 466: Leaf blower Control, because the noise and pollution from the leaf blowers is a constant source of disturbance and distraction at my residence at 3093 Pualei Circle.

My husband has his business office at home so it is very disturbing for him.

The hours in SB 466 are too long for the blower use. Limit the hours from 8:00 am HST to 5:00 pm HST. People want quiet when they are getting home from work.

I sincerely urge you to support this legislation. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,  
Patricia Obatake  
3093 Pualei Circle  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

LATE

February 16, 2009

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT  
STATE CAPITOL, CONFERENCE ROOM 225

415 South Beretania Street

DATE: Tuesday, February 17, 2009

TIME: 2:45 P.M.

To: Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator J. Kalani English, Committee Vice Chair  
Committee Members

**RE: Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 466: Leaf Blowers; Noise pollution; Emissions; Violations**

Dear Energy and Environment Committee:

I am...Carol Schaier, I reside in The Palms Condominium at 431 Nahua Street...the very center of Waikiki.

I am testifying in support of Senate Bill ~~179~~ <sup>+ SB 466</sup> Leaf blower Control, because...of the damage to our health, environment and economy...which greatly depends on Tourism...with its promise of peaceful quiet surroundings in a comfortable tropical setting.

Myself, and many friends have been affected by Leaf Blowers in numerous ways...not only by the annoying sound of Leaf Blowers starting up at 7am Sunday mornings at the Food Pantry parking lot...which goes on for what seems endlessly. The leaves and rubbish being blown into adjoining properties. Walina is always very windy...the name Walina was given, because it is Hawaiian for "always windy". Therefore, walking around for hours aimlessly without a plan and nothing to show for all that noise seems counterproductive and is harassing our neighborhood.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of February 2009 as I walked makai on Walina to the Food Pantry...The groundskeeper for the Hale Walina it's address being 424 Walina turned his industrial sized Leaf Blower on me...this equipment was extremely larger than anything seen in our area previously...the unit was strapped to the man's back and gasoline or some form of liquid appeared to be dripping from it. The pipe was approximately 4 or 5 feet long with it's opening being 4 or 5" in width. The jet of air being so strong it caused me to lose my balance as well as suffer physical damage from the forceful pressure. As a result...I have suffered damage to my inner ear, and have an upper respiratory tract infection. I have filed a police report for the assault.

I respectfully recommend all legislators such as you to consider this matter very carefully...for all people in residential areas in the state of Hawaii are affected.

I sincerely urge you to support this legislation. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Carol Schaier: The Palms Penthouse 2

Honolulu HI. 96815

808.923.54.59

leaf blower  
assault.

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT STATEMENT FORM Report No. 09-052586

Statement of: Carol / Karol SCHAIER		Classification: ASSAULT	
Address: 431 NAHUA ST PH2		Date of Occurrence: 10 Feb. 2009	
Age: 64	Date of Birth: 1.24.45	SSN: * * * * *	2767 Occupation: Prop. Mgr. / EXEC. ASSIST.
Res. Ph.: 808 923 5459	Bus. Ph.: (808) 923.5459	Employer: FRANZ SCHAIER	
Location of Interview: THE PALMS CONDOMINIUM			

Please give a detailed statement answering all of the following questions:

- |                                      |   |  |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| 1. What DATE and TIME did it happen? | 5. WHAT happened?                           | 9. DID YOU IDENTIFY any suspects? Explain. |
| 2. WHERE did it happen?              | 6. HOW did it happen?                       | 10. DID YOU IDENTIFY any weapons? Explain. |
| 3. WHO was involved?                 | 7. WHY did it happen (prior events/causes)? | 11. ... any property? Explain.             |
| 4. What WITNESSES do you know of?    | 8. ANY OTHER relevant information?          | 12. ... any vehicles? Explain.             |

The undersigned freely and voluntarily provides the following statement:

at approximately 2pm on 2. 10. 2009 walking makai to foodpantry on waling st. I encountered the grounds keeper of Hale Waling in the parking area near the garbage collection area. I told the grounds keeper his leafblower was making too much noise and exceeds the decibals allowed. (In the last year a # of residents at The Palms have complained about his noise being too loud for those living in the lower floors.) I asked could he stop using such a loud blower he said he was doing his job, Then he threatened he would "blow me away" I went toward the sidewalk stood and watched, He came towards me and aimed the blower at me while it was full blast at 5'.

I have read this statement prepared by \_\_\_\_\_ which consists of this typed/handwritten page and \_\_\_\_\_ continuation page(s), and have been given the opportunity to make corrections thereon. I attest that this statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, and that I gave this statement freely and voluntarily without coercion or promise of reward.

Carol Schaiier

Signature

Investigator's Signature

Date: 10. 13. 2009

Time: 3:35

Date:

Time:



Statement of: Carol SchaeferRpt. No.: 09-052586H-1111

away. The force of the air blast was strong enough to force my clothes, hair and skin discomfort and I felt some amount of pain and the pressure resulting from the air pressure affected the frontal portion of my body for ~~15~~ seconds, maybe 30 sec. he moved to blower aiming it in another direction as he walked away... I walked away at the same time. I came instead of to the Food Pantry to the The Palms office and reported the incident to the resident manager on duty, who gave me the name and address of the Property Manager for that building (Hale Valina). I called Bryn James at his cell number 271.3222 explained in detail what happened and that we residents had over the past year asked that the noise be reduced. Mr. James' conversation was interrupted by the officers arrival to take my report. I am willing to prosecute for the assault.

Carol Schaefer

Signature

Investigator's Signature

Date: 2-10-2009Time: 2:45 pm

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

**HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
801 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

*This card verifies that a written report has been filed with the Honolulu Police Department.*

Classification: HARASSMENT  
Report number: 09-052586  
Date initiated: 2-10-09

(← ASSAULT)

Lieutenant \_\_\_\_\_ will assign a detective to the investigation, who can be reached at \_\_\_\_\_. The initial officer who submitted the report is E. BLAS and is assigned to the MAIAD Police Station, telephone number 529-3801.

(OFFICERS  
BLAS  
WHARTON)

HPD-443 (R-7/07)

If a letter of verification is needed, you may:

- Bring this card to the address below and pay the \$1.25 processing fee (in U.S. funds):  
**Records and Identification Division, Honolulu Police Department**  
801 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
- Send a written request to the above address. Include the report number, \$1.25 processing fee (in U.S. funds), and a self-addressed, stamped envelope.  
**Checks and money orders should be made payable to the:**  
City and County of Honolulu

Certain restrictions may apply to the release of any report. Processing fees for motor vehicle collision reports are calculated per page, and the \$1.25 processing fee does not apply. If there are any questions, please call the Records and Identification Division at (808) 529-3271.