

Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

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Bill No. HB 2197

Support Y N

Date 1/29/10

Time 1444

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Type 1 2 WI

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

January 26, 2010, 8:00 A.M.

(Testimony is 1 page long)

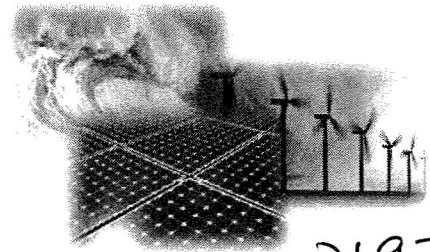
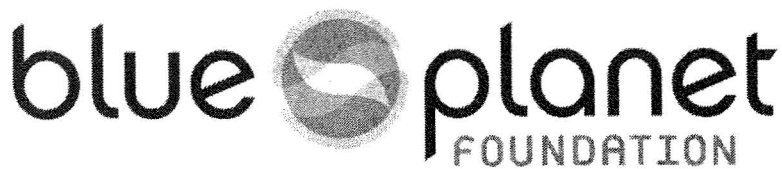
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF AN AMENDED VERSION OF HB 2197

Aloha Chair Morita and Committee Members -

The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, supports the general purpose of HB 2197, which allows the installation of clean energy systems in the common elements of condominiums.

We express mild concern that this bill could be wrongly construed to void other laws regulating the use of wind energy. Inappropriate siting of a wind system could cause harm to endangered birds or create noise concerns among residents. In order to ensure appropriate siting of wind energy systems, *we suggest amending the bill on page 4, line 3 and page 6, line 12 to state "notwithstanding any other law," instead of "any other provisions"*

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Bill No. 2197

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION Support Y N

January 26, 2010, 8:00 A.M.

Room 325

25 COPIES REQUESTED

Date 1/26

Time 27

(Testimony is 1 page long)

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2197

Type 1 2 WI

Chair Morita and members of the committee:

The Blue Planet Foundation supports House Bill 2197, a measure which extends to association boards of directors the right to install wind and solar energy devices on common elements of condominiums. This common sense measure will encourage further adoption of energy—and money—saving clean energy devices and move Hawai'i closer to energy independence.

Blue Planet believes Hawaii's clean energy future will be largely decentralized and diversified, meaning our power will be generated from a variety of sources across the islands. Putting our rooftop spaces to work collecting solar energy will likely be a significant source of tomorrow's energy. The most populated parts of the state receive between 450 and 500 calories of solar radiation per square centimeter every day¹. To put into perspective, an average rooftop space of 1100 square feet receives the energy equivalent of approximately 15 gallons of gasoline daily. Common areas of condominiums or other shared living structures are likely much larger and could produce substantial amounts of power—if they are put to work.

Enabling associations to install solar or wind devices or lease their common area space for such a purpose is smart clean energy policy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

¹ State of Hawai'i (2003). Hawaii Statewide GIS Program Solar Radiation Maps.