

SB2356

SD1

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
SB 2356 SD 1 NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING

DATE: Friday, February 19, 2010

TIME: 11:30 A.M.

Conference Room 016: State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi; Committee Chair, Senator Dwight Y. Takamine; Committee Vice Chair, and Committee Members of the Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee

RE: Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 2356 SD 1 AS WRITTEN in its entirety: Relating to Leaf Blowers

Dear Senator Taniguchi, Senator Takamine, and the Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee:

I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 2356 as written in its entirety. Many residents in Hawaii, including myself, need and deserve relief from leaf blower noise and emission pollutions. This proposed bill does not put undue hardship on business people or non-residential areas. I urge passage of SB 2356 SD 1 as written this year.

The main point of this Bill is to prohibit Gas leaf blowers. There is ample substantive documentation in SB 2356 SD 1 to justify a **Ban for Gas Leaf Blowers**. Residents deserve the right to live in a healthful environment, free from excessive noise. We seek your support and are counting on you to legislate so by Banning Gas powered Leaf Blowers in Hawai'iian residential areas.

The noise emitted by these gas leaf blowers are simply too loud. Gas Leaf Blowers need to be prohibited for the health of all Hawaii's residents. Gas Leaf Blowers measure 70-75 dB at 50 feet according to the EPA (EPA, Noise: A Health Problem, United States EPA, Office of Noise Abatement and Control, August, 1978). The noise produced from gas leaf blowers is a primary aspect for the ban.

Additionally, residents in our communities are subjected to dust containing rodent droppings; harmful CO₂, CO or carbon monoxide; NO_x or nitrogen oxides, and hydrocarbons, HC from the motors. In addition, fine PM_{2.5} particles, which are man-made are occurring: they evade the body's defense systems and increase the number and severity of asthma attacks, cause or aggravate bronchitis or other lung disease and reduce our ability to fight infections (Air Resources Board, Status Report: 1995-1996). We are receiving bacteria and street dust, including lead and arsenic. The California ARB has conducted tests showing that a leaf blower creates 2.6 pounds of PM₁₀ dust emissions per hour of use (California ARB, 1991).

My concern is that the health and safety of our citizens should be paramount in all that we do. Gas Leaf blowers compromise the quality of life within our communities. I ask for your support to pass this ban on gas leaf blowers this year. Many other states and cities have already passed gas leaf blower bans, and I believe the time has come for this legislature to pass this important bill.

I sincerely urge you to pass SB 2356 SD1 as written in it's entirety. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Tim Apicella
500 Lunalilo Home Road
Honolulu, HI 96825
apicella58@msn.com

From: Darla_Thomas/NIMITZ/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 11:07 AM
To: JGO Testimony
Subject: Senate Bill 2356 SD 1

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
SB 2356 SD 1 NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING

DATE: Friday, February 19, 2010

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TO: Senator Brian Taniguchi; Committee Chair, Senator Dwight Y. Takamine; Committee Vice Chair,
and Committee Members of the Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee

RE: Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 2356 SD 1 AS WRITTEN in its entirety; Relating to Leaf
Blowers

Dear Senator Taniguch, Senator Takamine, and the Judiciary and Governmental Operations
Committee:

My name is Darla Thomas and I am testifying as a private citizen in support of Senate Bill 2356 AS
WRITTEN IN ITS ENTIREITY. I have endured years of needless noise and pollution living in the
Pualei Circle area of Honolulu. My husband is elderly with numerous health problems and the noise
as well as the dust emissions hinder his recovery. It is so bad that we have resorted to wearing Bose
ear phones to protect us. This only lessons the noise, but does nothing for the fumes we are inhaling.
The harmful C02, CO, NOx and HC as well as rodent droppings cannot be healthy.

This bill or one similar has been introduced before, but nothing seems to be passed. I certainly do
not understand why private citizens must endure this noise/gas pollution at their homes!

This bill needs passed this year. It is long overdue. Thank you for your kind consideration as passing
SB 2356 SD1 as written in it's entirety.

Darla J. Thomas
3055 Pualei Circle #206
Honolulu, HI 96815
Darla_Thomas@notes.k12.hi.us

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Dwight Y. Takamine, Vice Chair
NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING

DATE: Friday, February 19, 2010

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To: Senator Brian Taniguchi; Committee Chair, Senator Dwight Y. Takamine; Committee Vice Chair, and Committee Members of the Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee

RE: Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 2356 SD 1 AS WRITTEN: Relating to Leaf Blowers

Dear Senator Taniguchi, Senator Takamine, and the Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee:

Every year Leaf Blower pollution control Bills are introduced. I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 2356 AS WRITTEN IN IT'S ENTIRITY because many residents in Hawaii including myself need and deserve relief from leaf blower noise and emission pollutions. Because this Bill is fair (not put undue hardship on business people or non-residential areas) please pass SB 2356 SD 1 as written this year as it is overdue, even in an election year!

The main trust of this Bill is to prohibit Gas leaf blowers. There is ample substantive documentation in SB 2356 SD 1 to justify a Ban for Gas Leaf Blowers. I count 33 municipalities in California with Gas Leaf Blower bans. I know Hawaii is not Calif., but we too deserve our right to a healthful environment and count on you to legislate so by Banning Gas powered Leaf Blowers in Hawai'ian residential areas. Since Leaf blowers measure 70-75 dB at 50 feet according to the EPA (EPA, Noise: A Health Problem, United States EPA, Office of Noise Abatement and Control, August, 1978) do not delete this documentation or other documentation such as:

- The sound of these gas leaf blowers are much too loud no matter what decibel level they are. Gas Leaf Blowers need to be prohibited for our health. Gas Leaf Blowers harm the residents and the user. A blower measuring 70-75 dB at 50 feet can reach 90-100 dB at the operator's ear (WHO, 1980). Please do not remove facts such as "the World Health Organization recommends general daytime outdoor levels of 55dBA or less as 45 dBA is needed to meet sleep criteria (World Health Organization, 1980, Environmental Health Criteria 12: Noise)." Thus, even a 65 decibel leaf blower would be 100 times too loud to allow healthful sleep (consider for night workers, elderly, retired, and preschoolers). According to the WHO, noise can impair sleep even when the sleeper is not awakened.

We are also subjected to dust containing rodent droppings; harmful C02, CO or carbon monoxide; NOx or nitrogen oxides, and hydrocarbons, HC from the motors. In addition, fine PM2.5 particles, which are man-made are occurring: they evade the body's defense systems and increase the number and severity of asthma attacks, cause or aggravate bronchitis or other lung disease and reduce our ability to fight infections (Air Resources Board, Status Report: 1995-1996). We are receiving bacteria and street dust, including lead and arsenic. The California ARB has conducted tests showing that a leaf blower creates 2.6 pounds of PM10 dust emissions per hour of use (California ARB, 1991).

My concern is that the health and safety of our citizens should be paramount in all that we do, and we need you to pass this ban on gas leaf blowers this year. Many other states and cities have already passed gas leaf blower bans.

I sincerely urge you to pass SB 2356 SD1 as written. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Name: Linda Wong
Address: 3071 Pualei Circle, Honolulu, HI 96815
Email address: leiahi@hawaiiirr.com

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
SB 2356 SD 1 NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING

DATE: Friday, February 19, 2010

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and Committee Members of the Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee

RE: Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 2356 SD 1 AS WRITTEN in its entirety: Relating to Leaf Blowers

Dear Senator Taniguchi, Senator Takamine, and the Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee:

Every year Leaf Blower pollution control Bills are introduced. I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 2356 AS WRITTEN IN Its ENTIRITY. Many residents in Hawaii including myself need and deserve relief from leaf blower noise and emission pollutions. Because this Bill is fair, (does not put undue hardship on business people or non-residential areas) please pass SB 2356 SD 1 as written this year as it is overdue.

The main trust of this Bill is to prohibit Gas leaf blowers. There is ample substantive documentation in SB 2356 SD 1 to justify a **Ban for Gas Leaf Blowers**. Residents deserve our right to a healthful environment in residential areas and count on you to legislate so by Banning Gas powered Leaf Blowers in Hawai`ian residential areas.

The sound of these gas leaf blowers are much too loud no matter what decibel level they are. Gas Leaf Blowers need to be prohibited for our health. Gas Leaf Blowers harm the residents and the user. Since Leaf blowers measure 70-75 dB at 50 feet according to the EPA (EPA, Noise: A Health Problem, United States EPA, Office of Noise Abatement and Control, August, 1978) please do not delete this documentation or other documentation and stipulations.

We are also subjected to dust containing rodent droppings; harmful C02, CO or carbon monoxide; NOx or nitrogen oxides, and hydrocarbons, HC from the motors. In addition, fine PM2.5 particles, which are man-made are occurring: they evade the body's defense systems and increase the number and severity of asthma attacks, cause or aggravate bronchitis or other lung disease and reduce our ability to fight infections (Air Resources Board, Status Report: 1995-1996). We are receiving bacteria and street dust, including lead and arsenic. The California ARB has conducted tests showing that a leaf blower creates 2.6 pounds of PM10 dust emissions per hour of use (California ARB, 1991).

My concern is that the health and safety of our citizens should be paramount in all that we do. We need you to pass this ban on gas leaf blowers this year. Many other states and cities have already passed gas leaf blower bans.

I sincerely urge you to pass SB 2356 SD1 as written in it's entirety. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Brian Roberts:
3055 Pualei Circle #206:
Honolulu, HI 96815
midhope@hawaii.rr.com:

From: Bob Kern [mickibob@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 5:59 AM
To: JGO Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Favor of SB 2356 SD1 re: Leaf Blowers

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

SB 2356 SD 1 NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING

DATE: Friday, February 19, 2010

TIME: 11:30 A.M.

Conference Room 016: State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

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and Committee Members of the Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee

RE: Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 2356 SD 1 AS WRITTEN in its entirety: Relating to Leaf Blowers

Dear Senator Taniguchi, Senator Takamine, and the Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee:

Every year Leaf Blower pollution control Bills are introduced. I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 2356 AS WRITTEN IN its ENTIRITY. Many residents in Hawaii including myself need and deserve relief from leaf blower noise and emission pollutions. Because this Bill is fair, (does not put undue hardship on business people or non-residential areas) please pass SB 2356 SD 1 as written this year as it is overdue.

The main thrust of this Bill is to prohibit Gas leaf blowers. There is ample substantive documentation in SB 2356 SD 1 to justify a **Ban for Gas Leaf Blowers**. Residents deserve our right to a healthful environment in residential areas and count on you to legislate so by Banning Gas powered Leaf Blowers in Hawai`ian residential areas.

The sound of these gas leaf blowers are much too loud no matter what decibel level they are. Gas leaf blowers are just one of many irritating noise sources. Removing any noise source from an already noisy environment, especially when it occurs in the early morning, late evening and on Sunday and holidays as gas leaf blowers often are, will help to quiet residential areas. Gas Leaf Blowers need to be prohibited for our health. Gas Leaf Blowers harm the residents and the user. Since Leaf blowers measure 70-75 dB at 50 feet according to the EPA (EPA, Noise: A Health Problem, United

States EPA, Office of Noise Abatement and Control, August, 1978) please do not delete this documentation or other documentation and stipulations.

We are also subjected to dust containing rodent droppings; harmful CO₂, CO or carbon monoxide; NO_x or nitrogen oxides, and hydrocarbons, HC from the motors. In addition, fine PM_{2.5} particles, which are man-made are occurring: they evade the body's defense systems and increase the number and severity of asthma attacks, cause or aggravate bronchitis or other lung disease and reduce our ability to fight infections (Air Resources Board, Status Report: 1995-1996). We are receiving bacteria and street dust, including lead and arsenic. The California ARB has conducted tests showing that a leaf blower creates 2.6 pounds of PM₁₀ dust emissions per hour of use (California ARB, 1991).

My concern is that the health and safety of our citizens should be paramount in all that we do. We need you to pass this ban on gas leaf blowers this year. Many other states and cities have already passed gas leaf blower bans.

I sincerely urge you to pass SB 2356 SD1 as written in it's entirety. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Bob Kern

1615 Wilder Avenue, #601

Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

mickibob@hawaiiantel.net

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2010 6:26 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Cc: mpeary1947@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2356 on 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for JGO 2/19/2010 11:00:00 AM SB2356

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: comments only
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Margaret Peary
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: mpeary1947@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/16/2010

Comments:

I wholeheartedly support most of this measure although I would ultimately prefer the use of rakes and brooms to sweep up leaves and lawn cuttings thereby eliminating the use of leaf blowers.

The Mililani Town Assoc. employs landscapers who come into my Mauka neighborhood once a month. The first time I heard them I thought we were being assaulted by some unkind people. I counted five cutters and five leaf blowers coming behind the cutters. The noise was like nothing I've ever encountered. I closed my front windows and retreated to the back of my home to try to escape the deafening noise.

I do not agree that government entities should be exempt from the electrical leaf blowers. Isn't it possible to use some of the federal funds to replace the gas devices with electric ones? Why should the public be needlessly exposed to the deafening decibels generated by a gas blower used by government workers? Perhaps that might be even more egregious since our tax dollars are paying for our own demise where our health is concerned. Please consider taking the government exemption out of the proposed legislation.

Mahalo,

Margaret Peary

Committee: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations
Measure: SB 2356, SD 1, Relating to Leaf Blowers.
Date: Friday, February 19, 2010
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 016
Comments of: Daniel D. Palmer, M.D.

Chair Taniguchi and Committee Members:

I am a retired physician. As a matter of public health, I strongly support the intent of this bill to reduce the use of leaf blowers.

It is easy to see that leaf blowers move leaves and twigs with great force. But leaf blowers move smaller particles with even greater vigor. The smallest particles may be nearly invisible, but the combined volume of small particles may approach the volume of larger material. In contrast, rakes barely disturb these smaller particles. Thus, before leaf blowers become prevalent, the smaller particles largely remained on the ground and were gradually absorbed or incorporated into the soil.

I first became aware of the fine particulate matter raised and distributed by leaf blowers while on an early morning walk down-wind of a leaf blower. The sun was at just the right angle to illuminate an astonishing amount of glittering fine dust. Since then, I hold my breath when passing leaf blowers—as everyone – especially those with heart or lung disease, should.

The small particles are composed of decaying organic matter, bacteria from the decomposition of decaying organic matter, fungi (molds from decomposition of organic matter), fungus spores and hyphae, pollen, fertilizer particles, herbicides and insecticides used on lawns, animal feces including cysts and eggs of various disease causing organisms, rubber particles from tires, metal particles from brake linings, cigarette butts in various stages of disintegration, organic chemicals from automobile emissions, fine carbon particles (Buckey balls, carbon nano-tubules, from diesel and gasoline combustion), coal dust, mineral materials (cadmium, feldspar, mercury, mica, silica, and others), and other materials.

All of the above are now present in the air we breathe in greater volume than they were before the introduction of leaf blowers. In the past, this particulate matter was allowed to percolate into the soil or become chemically or physically attached to it. It is now wafted into the air, again and again, before it can be assimilated. And because the windows of Hawaii homes are almost always open, the particulate matter floating in the air ends up inside our homes as dust.

It seems clear that all of this fine particulate material in the air must affect the lungs and the general health of all age groups, especially children. Recent publications have established an increase in the incidence of asthma over the past several years. It is probable that the inhalation of the increasing volumes of fine particulate material is one cause for the increase in the

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations
SB 2356, SD 1, Relating to Leaf Blowers.
Friday, February 19, 2010

incidence of asthma and other respiratory disease problems. Certainly, this aggravates such problems. Additionally, it has recently been found that the incidence of heart disease and strokes in women is correlated with breathing fine particles in polluted air.

The rise in the incidence of these disorders corresponds in time with the replacement of rakes and brooms by leaf blowers, and with the increase in both the number of leaf blowers used and their power.

Moreover, the noise produced by weed blowers used in residential areas is louder than noise that would be tolerated in an industrial area. The damage that this does to our hearing ability and collective well-being must be significant.

For these reasons, I urge the Committee to pass legislation to reduce the use of leaf-blowers.

From: Bishop's Landscaping [bishop@bishopslandscapemaintenance.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 2:52 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2356, SD1 - Relating to Leaf Blowers

Bishop's Landscaping Maintenance
P.O. Box 623
Kailua, Hawai'i 96734
Phone: 343-1080

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2356, SD1 - Relating to Leaf Blowers

February 18, 2010

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Takamine, and Judiciary & Government Operation Committee members,

I'm Bishop, the owner of Bishop's Landscaping Maintenance. I've used gas powered leaf blowers in my business for years.

I'm testifying in support of Senate Bill 2356 SD1. This is hard for me to say, given that this bill directly impacts my "bottom line."

Over the years, I've gotten some complaints from the neighbors of my clients. Usually, people have been most concerned about the noise pollution, and also the smells and fumes that our leaf blowers produce. It was when a neighbor of mine started using a leaf blower on a regular basis for extended periods of time that I started to understand better why some people complain. We had to schedule our home activities around when the leaf blower was going to be used and that just didn't seem right. So now I understand how gas leaf blowers can definitely affect the quality of life for people.

I think this bill provides a reasonable compromise by allowing electric leaf blowers to still be legal. Electric leaf blowers are not as loud and don't produce the same air pollution that gas ones do. Additionally, the bill gives us in the industry until July 2011 to phase out our old gas models.

Sincerely,

Bishop

Bishop's Landscaping Maintenance
P.O. Box 623
Kailua, Hawai'i 96734
Phone: 343-1080