

**SB 2356**

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO, M.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**Committee on Energy and Environment**

**SB2356, RELATING TO LEAF BLOWERS**

**Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.  
Director of Health**

**February 2, 2010**

**3:30 p.m.**

1 **Department's Position:** The department respectfully opposes this measure. Given current fiscal  
2 difficulties, it would not be prudent to enact the measure now.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** As yet unquantified resources would be needed to adopt and enforce rules.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** The bill proposes the following:

5 Amend Chapter 342F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to prohibit the operation of leaf blowers except  
6 between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on any day except Sunday or a federal holiday in or near a residential  
7 zone. The bill also prohibits the operation of leaf blowers in certain areas and restricts the operation and  
8 number of leaf blowers for a set duration at any given location. In addition, the bill specifies a  
9 maximum decibel level of 70 dba for leaf blowers.

10 Amend Chapter 342H, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to prohibit the operation of a leaf blower in such  
11 a manner as to blow debris beyond the parcel boundaries that is being cleaned.

12 Although we generally favor a quieter environment, enforcement against leaf blowers would be  
13 extremely difficult to implement due to their mobility, restricted days and times, and the lack of

1 adequate manpower and funding. As far as dust and litter from leaf blowing operations, existing laws  
2 and administrative rules exist to address suspected problems.

3 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

KAPOLEI HALE, 1000 ULUOHIA STREET, STE. 309 • KAPOLEI, HAWAII 96707  
Phone: (808) 768-3003 • FAX: (808) 768-3053 • Internet: www.honolulu.gov

MUFI HANNEMANN  
MAYOR



LESTER K. C. CHANG  
DIRECTOR

RICHARD HARU  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 1, 2010

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on  
Energy and Environment  
State Senate  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Gabbard and Members:

**Subject Senate Bill 2356 - Relating to Leaf Blowers**

The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) does not support Senate Bill 2356. This bill would prevent DPR from performing its duty in an efficient and cost effective manner. In the current economic climate, operational efficiency is critical.

The prohibition of gas powered leaf blowers would be costly, time consuming, and a less effective use of our labor and limited resources. Sweeping is currently limited to small work areas and projects. It is not practical to sweep a large area such as a park and its parking lots. Utilizing electric leaf blowers would not be a practical alternative to gas powered machines because of its limitations in regards to the availability of power.

In the course of the last ten years, the gas leaf blowers have made vast improvements in the reduction of noise pollution. Current machines on the market are available with operating levels as low as 65dB.

Our staff is trained in the use of all equipment that they operate. Equipment manufactures also provide manuals as to the proper use of their equipment. Our staff makes every effort to insure that the equipment being operated is being used in the correct fashion it was designed for. Providing further education on blower usage to our staff is far simpler than imposing a fine system that must be monitored and implemented by another governmental agency.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lester K. C. Chang".

Lester K. C. Chang, Director  
Department of Parks and Recreation

**gabbard1 - Carlton**

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**From:** Richard Kamis [kamii@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 31, 2010 11:14 AM  
**To:** ENETestimony  
**Subject:** SB 2346 - Leaf Blowers

February 2, 2010

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT; TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION, 2010  
STATE CAPITOL, 415 South Beretania Street, ROOM 225  
DATE: Tuesday, February 2, 2010  
TIME: 3:30 P.M.

To: Senator Mike Gabbard; Committee Chair, Senator J. Kalani English; Committee Vice Chair,  
and Committee Members of the Energy and Environment Committee

**Re: Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 2356: Relating to Leaf Blowers**

Dear Energy and Environment Committee:

We **fully support** Senate Bill 2356: Leaf Blower Control

We respectfully request your support.

Richard and Elizabeth Kamis  
2957 Kalakaua Avenue  
Honolulu

January 31, 2010

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIROMENT; TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION, 2010  
STATE CAPITOL, 415 South Beretania Street CONFERENCE ROOM 225

DATE: Tuesday, February 2, 2010

TIME: 3:30 P.M.

To: Senator Mike Gabbard; Committee Chair, Senator J. Kalani English; Committee Vice Chair,  
and Committee Members of the Energy an Environment Committee

**RE: Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 2356: Relating to Leaf Blowers**

Dear Energy and Environment Committee:

I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 2356: Leaf Blower Control. For many years my right to peaceful enjoyment has been violated. Day after day, often all hours of the day, the annoying sound of leaf blowers can be heard. I can't listen to my TV, take a nap, talk on the phone, or read because of the noise. Closing all my doors and windows does not diminish that horrible sound. Often times I get in my car and go somewhere to escape the noise, hoping the work will be finished when I return home. This is never the case. When one grounds crew finishes another begins.

Leaf blowers are more than just a noise nuisance. The dust and debris is blown into people's homes and on their cars. And on several occasions, I have witnessed groundskeepers blowing huge piles of leaves into the storm drains.

I respectfully recommend all legislators consider this matter very carefully...for all people in residential areas are affected.

I sincerely urge you to support SB 2356. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Judi Bowman,  
3017Pualei Circle  
Honolulu, Hawaii  
96815

January 31, 2010

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIROMENT; TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION, 2010  
STATE CAPITOL, 415 South Beretania Street CONFERENCE ROOM 225

DATE: Tuesday, February 2, 2010

TIME: 3:30 P.M.

To: Senator Mike Gabbard; Committee Chair, Senator J. Kalani English; Committee Vice Chair,  
and Committee Members of the Energy an Environment Committee

**RE: Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 2356: Relating to Leaf Blowers**

Dear Energy and Environment Committee:

I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 2356: Leaf Blower Control. This bill should definitely pass and be strictly enforced. Workers using leaf blowers across Pualei Circle from my condo, are so loud and long in their work, that I have to close all my windows and door to block the noise and the dust that their blowers direct into the street and towards my building. This reduces the breeze coming through my condo and diminishes comfort and peace.

Sincerely,  
Mollie Meade  
3017 Pualei Circle No. 318  
Honolulu, Hawaii  
96815

I sincerely urge you to support SB 2356. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**gabbard1 - Carlton**

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**From:** Doug Perrine [perrine@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 30, 2010 10:16 AM  
**To:** ENETestimony  
**Subject:** SB 2356 - in support

Re: SB 2356 hearing  
Feb. 2 at 3:30 pm  
Conference Room 225

Please pass SB 2356 and force gardeners to use common sense. My residential neighborhood is noisier than an industrial zone. The act, while discussing the health effects of the noise and dust of leaf blowers does not mention the detrimental effects on the environment of burning fossil fuels to accomplish something that is so easily done with a simple rake. Leaf blowers undercut our goal of achieving energy independence and sustainability for Hawaii.

Thank you.

Doug Perrine  
76-223 Haa St.  
Kailua-Kona HI 96740 U.S.A.  
+1 (808) 329-4523



February 2, 2010

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIROMENT; TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION, 2010  
STATE CAPITOL, 415 South Beretania Street CONFERENCE ROOM 225

DATE: Tuesday, February 2, 2010

TIME: 3:30 P.M.

To: Senator Mike Gabbard; Committee Chair, Senator J. Kalani English; Committee Vice Chair,  
and Committee Members of the Energy an Environment Committee

**RE: Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 2356: Relating to Leaf Blowers**

Dear Energy and Environment Committee:

I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 2356: Leaf Blower Control, because of the adverse impact these blowers present to the quality of life within our communities.

My family, many friends and I have been negatively affected by leaf blowers.

In summary: The operations of these antiqued gas leaf blowers adversely affect sleeping as the noise decibel level far exceed a reasonable level. Additionally, I have noted excessive amounts of dirt and dust blown into homeowners units by those gardeners attempting to gather small amounts of leaf foliage. The efficiently of using these loud polluting blowers is negligible, and they certainly compromise the quality of life within our community. I believe SB2356 will address the many negative issues that leaf blowers present to residents of Honolulu, and it will provide sensible regulation for their future use.

I respectfully recommend all legislators to consider this matter very carefully...for all people in residential areas are affected.

I sincerely urge you to support SB 2356. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Name: Tim Apicella

Address: 500 Lunalilo Home Road

Honolulu, HI 96825

**gabbard1 - Carlton**

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**From:** Bishop Landscaping [bishopslandscapingmaintenance@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 9:01 AM  
**To:** ENETestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of SB 2356  
**Attachments:** 020210 BishopTestimonyonSB2356.doc

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

**RE: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2356 - Relating to Leaf Blowers**

February 2, 2010

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair English, and Energy and Environment 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. 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**

## **gabbard1 - Carlton**

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**From:** dadamah@aim.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 31, 2010 4:31 PM  
**To:** ENETestimony  
**Subject:** Testimonial Submission for Leaf Blower Bills

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 spew 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.

Harvey Hakoda  
Ph. 348 3068  
1560 Kanunu St. PH 1  
Hon., HI 96814

February 2, 2010

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIROMENT: TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION, 2010  
STATE CAPITOL, 415 South Beretania Street CONFERENCE ROOM 225  
DATE: Tuesday, February 2, 2010  
TIME: 3:30 P.M.

To: Senator Mike Gabbard; Committee Chair, Senator J. Kalani English; Committee Vice Chair,  
and Committee Members of the Energy an Environment Committee

RE: Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 2356: Relating to Leaf Blowers

Dear Energy and Environment Committee:

I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 2356: Leaf Blower Control, because there are many in Hawaii that need relief from leaf blower noise and emission pollutions. This Bill is fair in that it will not put undue hardship on business people or non-residential areas.

Many residents leave home before 7:00 a.m., arrive home at or after 7:00 pm, after working long hours in often stressful employment, and are asking to enjoy peace and quiet in their homes and neighborhood. Surely, we deserve at least Sundays and Federal Holidays to rest from this kind of noise. The average blower measures 70-75 dB at 50 feet according to the EPA (EPA, Noise: A Health Problem, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Noise Abatement and Control, August, 1978).

The sound of these gas leaf blowers are much too loud no matter what decibel level they are. They should not be allowed. They harm the residents and the uscr. A blower measuring 70-75 dB at 50 feet can reach 90-100 dB at the operator's ear (WHO, 1980). While manufacturers claim that the average blower measures 70-75 dB at 50 feet, and claim this is the same noise level of a vacuum cleaner, how many of us would allow an uninvited vacuum cleaner into our homes for several hours per day? Also, the World Health Organization recommends general daytime outdoor levels of 55dBA or less but 45dBA 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 (which often takes place during daytime hours for night workers and others). According to the WHO, noise can impair sleep even when the sleeper is not awakened. Many residences include elderly, infants, and other employees who sleep during the day time hours and work evening shifts.

A lot more than noise is blowing into our residences. For example, we are subjected to dust containing rodent droppings; harmful CO2, 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). This dust contains all of the harmful substances.

My concern is that the health and safety of our citizens should be paramount in all that we do. We do not need to recreate the wheel. Other states and cities have already passed leaf blower laws.

I sincerely urge you to support SB 2356. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Name: GAIL SCHAFFER  
Address: 3121 PUALEI CIRCLE Unit 29  
Email address: GRSANELA@AOL.COM

Please, do away w/ these awful machines

**gabbard1 - Carlton**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 4:50 PM  
**To:** ENETestimony  
**Cc:** leiahi@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB2356 on 2/2/2010 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for ENE 2/2/2010 3:30:00 PM SB2356

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Linda Wong  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 3071 Pualei Circle #203 Hon. HI  
Phone: 808-923-7484  
E-mail: [leiahi@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:leiahi@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/1/2010

**Comments:**

This testimony may be LATE. If so please submit it anyway as I will be there to Testify in person.

Sorry, I lost my file.

Mahalo!

Linda Wong

DH Neighborhood Board #5

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection (EEP)

February 2, 2010, 3:30 p.m., 225

by

Valere McFarland, Ph.D.  
3055 Pualei Circle, Honolulu, Hawaii  
valeremcfarland@gmail.com

**SB 2356: Relating to Leaf Blowers**

Chair Gabbord, Vice Chair English, and Members of the Committee

Thank you for hearing this important bill today. My name is Valere McFarland and I reside at Pualei Circle, in a condominium complex at the Diamond Head end of Waikiki. I am testifying as a private citizen. I support the intent SB 2356 and appreciate very much that you have taken the initiative to address this very important issue. While the bill has included ramifications for potential violators, I have some specific comments and suggested amendments in the following sections:

**On page 1, Section 1 line 11:** Recommend that you add the words: “but they also recommend 45dBA to meet sleep criteria” following “decibels or less.” While the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends general daytime outdoor noise levels of fifty-five decibels or less, they also recommend 45dBA to meet sleep criteria (World Health Organization, 1980, Environmental Health Criteria 12: Noise). According to the WHO, noise can impair sleep even when the sleeper is not awakened. Our complex includes elderly and infants who sleep during the day time hours. My condo floor alone has six units – half of these are airline employees who work evening shifts or fly all night.

**On page 2, Section 1 line 15:** Recommend that you add the words: “Still more quiet, less expensive to operate and having less impact on the environment are the recently marketed battery powered leaf blowers.” Federal law does not mandate that manufacturers of these machines label the dBA (decibals), but employees at the sales outlet for a brand of these types of weed blowers, Waipahu Lawn Equipment Sales, located at 97-150 LeoLeo Street, Waipahu, Hawaii reported that they are “quiet like a hair dryer.” They are powerful enough to clean off sidewalks, patios and do all of the kinds of weed blowing activities normally done in close proximity to residences, including condominium projects. While these machines are not built to withstand use in an eight or ten hour work-day, they are optimal for residences and condo projects, who can supply them for landscapers to use once or twice per week for an hour.

**On page 3, Section 1, (3) line 5:** Recommend the words ‘Hawai’i state’ be inserted following ‘federal.’ The state of Hawaii observes fourteen state holidays, which include several federal holidays. Hawaii is unique among the states in the large number of ‘state’ holidays, because it observes days with meaning only to Hawaii. These days should be honored with the same kind of noise reduction that we intend for Sunday and the federal holidays. Thus, to avoid possible confusion, recommend the word ‘state’ be added.

**On page 4, Section 2, (4) (c) line 15:** Recommend 'Hawai'i state holidays' be included in restricted use days.

**On page 3, Section 2 (a) (1) line 21:** Recommend the distance be increased from 'ten feet' to 'fifty feet.' The average blower measures 70-75 dB at 50 feet according to the EPA (EPA, Noise: A Health Problem, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Noise Abatement and Control, August, 1978). I suggest the distance of ten feet be expanded to no more than 50 feet. A lot more than noise is blowing into our units. For example, we are subjected to dust containing rodent droppings (yes); harmful CO<sub>2</sub>, CO or carbon monoxide; NO<sub>x</sub> or nitrogen oxides, and hydrocarbons, HC from the motors. In addition, fine PM<sub>2.5</sub> particles, which are man-made are occurring: these do not occur in nature, 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. And all of this is coming from distances exceeding ten feet. If you were to visit Pualei Circle, you would find intolerable noise, dust, other debris and toxic fumes from distances of more than 50 feet.

We have had two and three leaf blowers operating simultaneously in the parking area and at the swimming pool area. The sound of three of these operating expands exponentially. This harms the residents and the user. Deafness is a social problem because it causes isolation. But in the case of Hawaii, it is also a civil rights issue because the individuals taking these low-paying jobs are most often those with the least education and the least ability to confront their employer should they have concerns. They are likely to be immigrants with limited English written or spoken abilities and lack the ability to read English language newspapers (the most common source of notice of harmful impacts or legislative initiatives).

**On page 4, Section 2 (4), line 9:** Recommend this be changed to "The maximum decibel level of 65 dba shall not be exceeded." A review of decibel levels for the five top rated electric weed blowers indicates they operated between 58 and 65 dBA. While this is much higher than the noise produced by a 'hair dryer' (as mentioned above with regard to the battery operated machine), it is doable and exponentially less than the 70 dBA in the current version of the bill. A blower measuring 70-75 dBA at 50 feet can reach 90-100 dB at the operator's ear (WHO, 1980). While manufacturers claim that the average blower measures 70-75 dB at 50 feet, and claim this is the same noise level of a vacuum cleaner, how many of us would allow an uninvited vacuum cleaner into our homes for several hours per day? According to the WHO, Regarding 342H, page 2: Leaf blower debris. (a). The California ARB has conducted tests showing that a leaf blower creates 2.6 pounds of PM<sub>10</sub> dust emissions per hour of use (California ARB, 1991). This dust contains all of the harmful substances listed above. Who is going to enforce or monitor this section when the trade winds blow every afternoon?

Our concern for the health and welfare of our citizens, including those who cannot speak for themselves, should be paramount in all that we do. We do not need to recreate the wheel. Other states and cities have already done this for us.

In conclusion, I would like to compliment the committee on the hard work and thought that went into writing this bill. While I am for a total ban of leaf blowers and support using rakes and brooms to clean leaves and debris from sidewalks, I recognize that the work of becoming a more humane society begins with bills like this one.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**gabbard1 - Carlton**

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**From:** Linda Wong [leiahi@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2010 5:22 PM  
**To:** ENETestimony  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY for SB 2356: Feb. 2, 2010 TIME: 3:30 p.m.  
**Attachments:** SB 2356 Testimony Wong B .doc; ATT00001.htm  
  
**Importance:** High

TESTIMONY FOR SB 2356

DATE: Tuesday, February 2, 2010, TIME: 3:30 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 225 State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

THE SENATE THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2010

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

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

February 2, 2010

To: Senator Gabbard, Senator English, and member of the Energy an Environment Committee

I am in full support of SB 2356. My name is Linda Wong, member of Diamond Head, Kapahulu, and St. Louis Heights. The reasons I support SB 2356 follow:

Noise interferes with communication, sleep, and work. The U.S. EPA says noise degrades quality of life by impairing communication and social interaction; reducing the accuracy of work, particularly complex tasks; and creating stressful levels of frustration and aggravation that last even when the noise has ceased. Sacramento, CA's City code states, "Every person in the city is entitled to live in an environment free from excessive, unnecessary or offensive noise levels". The average blower measures 70-75 dB at 50 feet according to a manufacturer's lobbyist, thus louder at any closer distance. Leaf blowers are routinely used less than 50 feet from unconsenting pedestrians and neighboring homes that may be occupied by retirees, day sleepers, children, the ill or disabled. The World Health Organization recommends general daytime outdoor noise levels of 55 dBA or less, but 45 dBA to meet sleep criteria. (<http://www.nonoise.org/quietnet/cqs/leafblow.htm> 3/24/2009). Thus, even a 65-decibel leaf blower would be 100 times too loud to allow healthful sleep (which often takes place during daytime hours for night workers and others). Noise can impair sleep even when the sleeper is not awakened.

In 1975, Carmel, CA banned the blower; in 1976, Beverly Hills, CA banned blowers, saying they are nuisance. In 1987, Belvedere, CA banned gas-powered blowers. In 1989 Indian Wells, CA banned leaf blowers and in 1990, Piedmont, CA banned gas-powered blowers. Claremont, CA stopped using leaf blowers in the



maintenance of city property, found no net increase in labor hours, and banned gas blowers before 1994. Sacramento passed noise and time restrictions by 1991. In 1991, Berkeley, CA banned gas blowers. Los Altos, CA banned gas blowers by popular vote. In 1993, Laguna Beach, CA banned all leaf blowers. Mill Valley, CA banned gas blowers. Los Angeles banned gas-powered blowers. Lawndale, CA banned gas blowers. Santa Barbara, CA banned on their November ballot. Palo Alto, Portola Valley, Sacramento, Menlo Park, and Sunnyvale banned blowers. Santa Barbara banned gas leaf blowers. Santa Monica CA banned all Leaf Blowers in Nov 8, 2006.

In summary, we are not trying to take leaf blowers away from large commercial areas, just residential areas where people deserve the quiet enjoyment of their homes and the outdated gas leaf blowers have no place. Please pass SB 2356. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Name: Linda Wong

Address: 3071 Pualei Circle #203

Honolulu, HI 96815

Email address: [leiahi@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:leiahi@hawaii.rr.com)

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection (EEP)

February 2, 2010, 3:30 p.m., 225

by

James Beck  
3055 Pualei Circle, Honolulu, Hawaii  
Email address: jimjamesbeck@gmail.com

**SB 2356: Relating to Leaf Blowers**

Chair Gabbord, Vice Chair English, and Members of the Committee

Thank you for hearing this important bill today. My name is James Beck. I am an owner of, and frequent visitor to my condominium unit at 3055 Pualei Circle. I am testifying as a private citizen. I support the intent of SB 2356. I have some specific comments and suggested amendments on the following sections:

**On page 1, Section 1 line 11:** I recommend that you add information that considers the needs of day-sleepers, such as medical professionals and airline employees who work night shifts. We are in a working class neighborhood, and our neighborhood includes these working folks, as well as elderly and infants who sleep during the day time hours.

**On page 2, Section 1 line 15:** Recommend that you include 'battery powered leaf blowers' as these are very quiet, putting forth dBA's in the range of a hair dryer. They are powerful enough to clean off sidewalks, patios and do all of the kinds of weed blowing activities normally done in close proximity to residences, including condominium projects. While these machines are not built to withstand use in an eight or ten hour work-day, they are optimal for residences and condo projects, who can supply them for landscapers to use once or twice per week for an hour.

**On page 3, Section 1, (3) line 5:** Recommend the words 'Hawai'i state' be inserted following 'federal.' The state of Hawaii observes fourteen state holidays, which include several federal holidays. Hawaii is unique among the states in the large number of 'state' holidays observed, because it observes days with meaning only to Hawaii. These days should be honored with the same kind of noise reduction that we intend for Sunday and the federal holidays. Thus, to avoid possible confusion, recommend the words 'Hawai'i state' be added.

**On page 4, Section 2, (4) (c) line 15:** Recommend 'Hawai'i state holidays' be included in restricted use days.

**On page 3, Section 2 (a) (1) line 21:** Recommend the distance be increased from 'ten feet' to 'fifty feet.' The average blower measures 70-75 dBA at 50 feet according to the EPA (EPA, Noise: A Health Problem, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Noise Abatement and Control, August, 1978). I suggest the distance of ten feet be expanded to not less than 50 feet. A lot more than noise is blowing into our units. For example, we are subjected to dust containing rodent droppings; harmful CO2, or

carbon monoxide; NOx or nitrogen oxides, and hydrocarbons, and HC from the motors. The sound of three of these operating expands exponentially. This harms the residents and the user. Deafness is a social problem because it causes isolation. But in the case of Hawaii, it is also a civil rights issue because the individuals taking these low-paying jobs are most often those with the least education and the least ability to confront their employer should they have concerns. They are likely to be immigrants with limited English written or spoken abilities and lack the ability to read English language newspapers (the most common source of notice of harmful impacts or legislative initiatives).

**On page 4, Section 2 (4), line 9:** Recommend this be changed to “The maximum decibel level of 65 dba shall not be exceeded.” A review of decibel levels for the five top rated electric weed blowers indicates they operated between 58 and 65 dBA.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

February 2, 2010

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT  
STATE CAPITOL, 415 South Beretania Street CONFERENCE ROOM 225  
DATE: Tuesday, February 2, 2010  
TIME: 3:30 P.M.

To: Senator Mike Gabbard, Committee Chair  
Senator J. Kalani English, Committee Vice-Chair  
Members of the Energy and Environment Committee

RE: **Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 2356: Relating to Leaf Blowers**

Dear Energy and Environment Committee:

I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 2356: Leaf Blower Control, because my family and I and our many friends have been affected by leaf blowers in a negative way.

Every other Saturday I have to close every window and door in my house to avoid the fumes and obnoxious noise from our neighbors' gardeners' leaf blower. This goes on for over an hour. Every other Monday the same thing happens next door and across the street. The noise pollution often begins at 7:30 in the morning. We can not use our yard during this time unless we want to get gassed out by the fumes and yell at the top of our lungs to be heard.

I sincerely urge you to support SB 2356. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Jeannie Bishop  
269 N. Kalaheo Ave.  
Kailua, HI 96734  
261-8815

**From:** Brian and Darla [midhope@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 02, 2010 5:59 AM  
**To:** ENETestimony  
**Subject:** Tetimony Leaf blower

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection (EEP)  
February 2, 2010, 3:30 p.m. 225

by

Brian Roberts  
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Honolulu, HI 96815  
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**SB 2356: Relating to Leaf Blowers**

Chair Gabbord, Vice Chair English, and Members of the Committee

Thank you for hearing this important bill today. My name is Brian Roberts and I reside at 3055 Pualei Circle #206 Honolulu, HI 96815. I am testifying as a private citizen. I support the intent SB 2356. I have some specific comments and suggested amendments in the following sections:

**On page 1, Section 1 line 11:** I recommend that you add information considers the needs of day-sleepers, such as medical professionals and airline employees who work night shifts. We are in a working class neighborhood and our ohana includes these working folks, as well as elderly and infants who sleep during the day time hours.

**On page 2, Section 1 line 15:** Recommend that you include "battery powered leaf blowers" as these are very quiet, putting forth dBA's in the range of a hair dryer. They are powerful enough to clean off sidewalks, patios and do all of the kinds of weed blowing activities normally done in close proximity to residences, including condominium projects. While these machines are not built to withstand use in an eight or ten hour work day, they are optimal for residences and condo projects, who can supply them for landscapers to use once or twice per week for an hour.

**On page 3, Section 1, (3) line 5:** Recommend the words "Hawaii State" be inserted following "federal". The state of Hawaii observes fourteen state holidays which include several federal holidays. Hawaii is unique among the states in the large number of "state" holidays, because it observes days with meaning only Hawaii. These days should be honored with the same kind of noise reduction that we intend for Sunday and the federal holidays. Thus, to avoid possible confusion, recommend the word "state" be added.

**On page 4, Section 2 (4) (c) line 15:** Recommend "Hawaii State Holidays" be included in restricted use days.

**On page 3, Section 2 (a) (1) line 21.** Recommend the distance be increased from "ten feet" to "fifty feet". The average blower measures 70-75 dB at 50 feet according to the EPA (**EPA,Noise: A Health Problem**, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Noise Abatement and Control, August, 1978). I suggest the distance of ten feet be expanded to no more than 50 feet. A lot more than noise is blowing into our units. For example, we are subjected to dust containing rodent dropping (yes), harmful CO<sub>2</sub>, CO or carbon monoxide; NO<sub>x</sub> or nitrogen oxides, and hydrocarbons, HC from the motors. The sound of three of these operating expands exponentially. This harms the residents and the user. Deafness is a social problem because it causes isolation. But in the case of Hawaii, it is also a civil rights issue because the individuals taking these low paying jobs are most often those with the least education and the least ability to confront their employer should they have concerns. They are likely to be immigrants with limited English written or spoken abilities and lack the ability to read English language newspapers (the most common source of notice of harmful impacts or legislative initiatives).

**On page 4, Section 2 (4) line 9. Recommend this be changed to "The maximum decibel level of 65 dba shall not be exceeded". A review of decibel levels for the five top rated electric weed blowers indicates they operated between 58 and 65 dBA.**

**Thank you for this opportunity to testify.**

**gabbard1 - Carlton**

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**From:** Darla\_Thomas/NIMITZ/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 02, 2010 10:15 AM  
**To:** ENETestimony  
**Subject:** Relating to Leaf Blowers

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Feb. 2, 2010 3:30 Room 225

From: Darla J. Thomas

To: Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair English, and Members of the Committee

Thank you for taking this testimony. My name is Darla J. Thomas and I reside at Pualei Circle, Honolulu. I am testifying as a private citizen. I totally support the intent of SB 2356. On many days I am forced to wear headsets (noise eliminators) from Bose due to the extremely loud leaf blowers on our circle. I also am suffering from headaches often due to the fumes and noise.

I am concerned that it be reduced/eliminated at all hours due to our area consisting of night workers who may be sleeping during the day, as well as elderly (such as my husband) who is suffering from heart problems.

Perhaps battery powered leaf blowers would be quieter. The dBA's are so loud that we cannot live a normal life at certain hours (often Sat.) due to the high level of noise.

I would also like Hawaii State Holidays covered by this bill, not just Federal Holidays. I work full time and it seems that every "holiday" for me means days of loud and disturbing noise causing a stressful day instead of an enjoyable one!

I would also like the distance be increased from 10 ft. to 50 ft. We are suffering on our circle due to dust, rodent droppings, harmful CO<sub>2</sub>, CO (carbon monoxide); NO<sub>x</sub> (nitrogen oxides, and hydrocarbons, HC from the motors.

Finally, please consider the max of decibel level of 65 dba shall not be exceeded.

Thank you for any consideration to inact this bill. It is long overdue! My phone number is 808-779-6706 if you would want to contact me.