



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

No. SB2817

Date 3/10

Time 1555

March 11, 2010
10:05AM

House
**COMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

Mark Duda **AF AS AX (B)**
President
Type 1 **(2)** WI

AND

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

SB 2817 SD1

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Morita, Chair Cabanilla and Members of the Committees:

As solar systems have become increasingly popular, HSEA has received an increase in the number of complaints by Hawaii families that are being prevented from installing systems due to rules promulgated by the homeowners associations. While it would seem that these efforts run afoul of the existing "Right to Solar" laws passed by this body several years ago, some associations nonetheless try.

HSEA now believes that the current law is not tightly crafted enough to unambiguously prevent associations from attempting to limit the ability of homeowners to site solar systems, either directly or indirectly through measures designed to increase the cost or amplify the homeowner's risks. This measure is designed to clarify the limits of association powers to restrict owners' ability to site solar systems. In doing so, it manages an emerging problem and helps eliminate it before the number of homeowners affected becomes too large.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

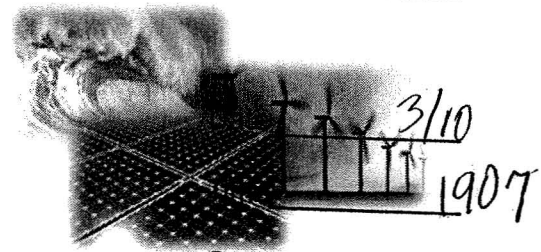
Mark Duda
President, Hawaii Solar Energy Association

About Hawaii Solar Energy Association

Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) is comprised of installers, distributors, manufacturers and financers of solar energy systems, both hot water and PV, most of which are Hawaii based, owned and operated. Our primary goals are: (1) to further solar energy and related arts, sciences and technologies with concern for the ecologic, social and economic fabric of the area; (2) to encourage the widespread utilization of solar equipment as a means of lowering the cost of energy to the American public, to help stabilize our economy, to develop independence from fossil fuel and thereby reduce carbon emissions that contribute to climate change; (3) to establish, foster and advance the usefulness of the members, and their various products and services related to the economic applications of the conversion of solar energy for various useful purposes; and (4) to cooperate in, and contribute toward, the enhancement of widespread understanding of the various applications of solar energy conversion in order to increase their usefulness to society.



Bill No. SB 2817



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Type 1 2 WI

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

March 11, 2010, 10:05 A.M.

Room 325

(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2817 SD1

Chairs Morita and Cabanilla and members of the committees:

The Blue Planet Foundation supports Senate Bill 2817 SD1, a measure which clarifies and strengthens the law ensuring that homeowners can install solar energy devices on their home or common area of a townhouse. This common sense measure will encourage further adoption of energy—and money—saving clean energy devices by removing barriers to investment, such as restrictive covenants or difficult regulations. This bill also protects homeowner associations or condominium owners by requiring that the person who installs the solar energy device be responsible for any damages.

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.

Further removing barriers to private clean energy investment will help move Hawaii closer to energy independence.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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

10:05am for Decision Making

SB2817 SD1	RELATING TO SOLAR ENERGY DEVICES.	Solar Energy Device; Homeowners Associations
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10:30am for Decision Making

SB2559 SD1	RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.	Environmental Protection; Plastic Bags, Prohibited
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11:00am for Decision Making

SB2526 SD1	RELATING TO WIND ENERGY FACILITIES.	Wind Energy Facilities; Setback
SB2957 SD1	RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.	Environmental Assessments; Exemptions

11:05am

SB2818 SD1	RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.	Environmental Protection
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