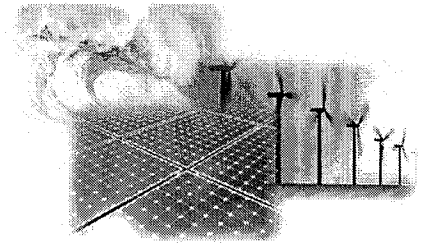




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SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

February 24, 2010, 10:00 A.M.

Room 229

(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2817 SD1

Chair Baker and members of the Committee:

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 Hawai'i closer to energy independence.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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