

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2010

DATE: Thursday, February 11, 2010
TIME: 2:00 P.M.
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
STATE CAPITOL, CONFERENCE ROOM 325
415 South Beretania Street

To: Rep. Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair
Rep. Ken Ito, Vice Chair
Committee Members

RE: Testimony re Senate Bill 466 SD2 HD1: Relating to Pollution.

Dear Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for hearing this Bill. I am testifying re SB 466 SD2 HD 1: Relating to Pollution, because I support this Bill in it's intent however I do have some comments and suggested changes to it's current form.

I recommend the following changes to SB 466 SD2 HD 1:

1. Recommend the Prohibition of Gas Leaf Blowers in 2011 for the better health of people living in residential neighborhoods.
2. Recommend that you **insert: "No leaf blower shall be operated within a horizontal distance of fifty feet of any operable window, door, or mechanical air intake opening or duct of a building.** This is included in most Leaf Blower Laws and would help insure that environmental and noise pollution does not reach our neighbors and compromise their health and safety.
3. Recommend the Prohibition of the use of Leaf Blowers on Sunday, State, and Federal Holidays, as a respite for residents is needed for their health and stress levels. For this reason and others I also recommend you change the hours of allowed use to 8:00 am and 6:00 pm for daily workers.
4. Documents to support the above reasoning can be provided upon request, as many Bills through out our Country have been passed with ample scientific supported documentation.

I respectfully urge you to consider changing this Bill as recommended.
Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,
Gail Schaffer
3121 Pualei Circle Apt. 29
Phone: 923-7087

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: Scott Ushijima [scott@landscapehi.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2010 11:23 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: SB466 & SB2356

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Rep. Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair
Rep. Ken Ito, vice Chair

I am writing in opposition of the intent of SB466 SD2 HD 1, SB2356 and HB 2047 which will restrict the use of Gas Powered Leaf Blowers.

By far, the utilization of Gas Powered Leaf Blowers are the most efficient and cost effective means to consolidate debris within the landscape. Our internal studies indicate that the production rate is four to seven times greater depending on the surface.

Should the Gas Powered Blowers be outlawed, the escalating labor costs will have to be passed on to our clients in order for our company remain viable. The clients that do not accept this "passed on" contract increases will inevitably discontinue their service agreements with our company. This will lead to employee lay-offs which will add to our unemployment crisis and struggling economy.

I ask that you please consider the preceding.

Mahalo,

Scott S. Ushijima
Landscape Hawaii, Inc.
Vice President & C.O.O.
Contractor's License No. C-18328

TO: Rep. Karamatsu, Chair
Rep Ito, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Judiciary

DATE: Saturday, February 11, 2010

FROM: Natalie Iwasa
1331 Lunalilo Home Road
Honolulu, HI 96825
808-395-3233

HEARING: 2 p.m., February 11, 2010

SUBJECT: SB 466, SD2, HD1 Relating to Pollution – **Support with Amendment**

Aloha Representatives,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify regarding SB 466, SD2, HD1 which would regulate the use of leaf blowers. Leaf blowers are extremely noisy machines. I therefore support this bill with the following changes:

- Change the distance from 10 feet to 50 feet in line 12;
- Prohibit the use of leaf blowers on Sundays and holidays; and
- Change the effective date to July 1, 2010.

Please consider changing this bill as noted above.

nishimoto1-Lauren

From: Bob Kern [mickibob@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2010 6:08 AM
To: nishimoto1-Lauren
Subject: Testimony SB 466 SD2 HD1

Testimony regarding SB 466 SD2 HD1

Hi Candace - Thanks for getting this where it needs to go.

Bob

I wish to add my support to the passage of SB 466 SD1 HD1 banning the use of gas powered leaf blowers.

The removal of any noise source from the community is essential to the health and well being of citizens. Taken in the context of every day life, leaf blowers are just one of many noise sources that citizens are exposed to early in the morning, late at night including weekends and holidays. Noise from trash trucks, back up beepers, boom car radios, car alarms, motorcycles and scooters reverberate through condominium neighborhoods and are heard at all hours. Leaf blowers add not only to the decibel level, but to the total amount of time during a day citizens are exposed to noise, especially when they used for extended periods of time in large areas.

To protect the citizens of Hawaii, I recommend the following changes in SB 466 SD2 HD1.

1. Gas powered leaf blowers be prohibited in Hawaii
2. Prohibit use of leaf blowers Sunday, State and Federal Holidays

3. Limit use of leaf blowers to 8:00 am – 6:00 pm during the week and Saturday
4. Prohibit use of leaf blowers within 50 feet of residential building

Prohibiting the use of gas powered leaf blowers is essential for citizens to have a quieter environment. Limiting the use of leaf blowers to certain days and times and distances from residences will provide a quieter and healthier environment for citizens.

Thank you for accepting my testimony

Bob Kern
1615 Wilder Avenue, #601
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
943 9241

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STATE CAPITOL, CONFERENCE ROOM 325
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To: Rep. Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair
Rep. Ken Ito, Vice Chair
Committee Members:
Rep. Della Au Belatti Rep. Hermina M. Morita
Rep. Rida Cabanilla Rep. Blake K. Oshiro
Rep. Mele Carroll Rep. Joseph M. Souki
Rep. Robert N. Herkes Rep. Clift Tsuji
Rep. Sylvia Luke Rep. Glenn Wakai
Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey Rep. Barbara C. Marumoto
Rep. John M. Mizuno Rep. Cynthia Thielen

RE: Testimony re Senate Bill 466 SD1 HD1: Relating to Pollution.

Dear Judiciary Committee:

My name is Douglas McCormick.

I am testifying re SB 466 SD1 HD 1: Relating to Pollution, because I support this Bill in its intent however there are problems I see in its current form.

I recommend the following changes to this proposed Bill:

- Prohibit the use of Gas Leaf Blowers in 2011.
- Change the language on line 12 **from 10 feet to 50 feet** as 10 feet is not healthy and 50 feet is the language in most other Leaf Blower Laws. "No leaf blower shall be operated within a horizontal (line 11) distance of **ten feet** of any operable window, door, or (line 12) mechanical air intake opening or duct of a building.
- Prohibit the use of Leaf Blowers on Sunday, State and Federal Holidays.

I respectfully urge all legislators such as you to consider changing this Bill as noted.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,
Douglas McCormick
(808)922-3065
3017 Pualei Cir Apt 216
Honolulu, HI
96815