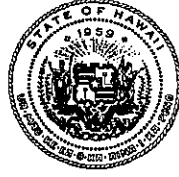


SB 132

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
ACTING 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

SB 132, RELATING TO LEAF BLOWERS

**Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Acting Director of Health**

February 24, 2011

3:00 p.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The department respectfully opposes this measure.

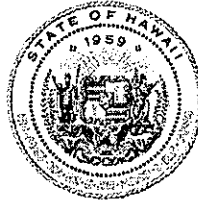
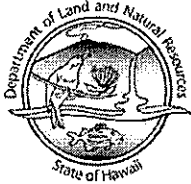
2 **Fiscal Implications:** As yet, un-quantified resources would be needed to adopt and enforce rules.

3 **Purpose and Justification:** The bill proposes to amend Chapter 342F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to
4 limit the duration of leaf blower activities.

5 We appreciate that some people dislike noisy leaf blowers. Noise can be a nuisance and disturb
6 sleep, even if it does not reach the levels that cause hearing damage. However, the intent of Chapter
7 342F, Hawaii Revised statutes was to regulate stationary equipment, construction, agricultural and
8 industrial activities. These types of sources are either fairly constant in nature, stationary or restricted to
9 a certain location, and can be enforced more easily. Enforcement against leaf blowers would be
10 extremely difficult due to their mobility and duration of use.

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

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Thursday, February 24, 2011
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 132
RELATING TO LEAF BLOWERS**

Senate Bill 132 limits the use of leaf blowers to an unspecified number of minutes per day per parcel. The measure further defines a parcel to be contiguous parcels owned by the same individual or entity. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) does not support this measure as it would adversely impact our ability to maintain public grounds and facilities. The Department uses leaf blowers to assist with the maintenance and appearance of parks. Use of these labor-saving tools is increasingly important, especially with the loss of funding and park maintenance positions.

It would be unfeasible to work within the "per parcel" limitation as defined in this measure. For example, Kokee State Park, Waimea Canyon State Park, Haena State Park, and the Na Pali Coast State Wilderness Park would be considered one parcel.

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

GUY H. KAULUKUKUI
FIRST DEPUTY

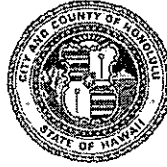
WILLIAM M. TAM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

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

PETER B. CARLISLE
MAYOR



GARY B. CABATO
DIRECTOR

ALBERT TUFONO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 23, 2011

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

Dear Chair Gabbard and Committee Members:

Subject: Senate Bill 132 – Relating to Leaf Blowers

The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), City and County of Honolulu, opposes Senate Bill 132. This bill will prevent DPR from performing its duty in an efficient and cost effective manner. In the current economic climate, operational efficiency is critical.

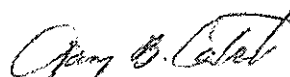
The restriction on the use of leaf blowers will be costly, time consuming and a less effective use of our labor and limited resources. Sweeping is currently limited to small work areas and projects. It is not practical to sweep a large area such as a park and its parking lots.

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.

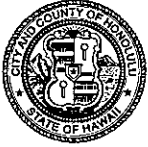
Our staff is trained in the use of all equipment they operate. Equipment manufacturers also provide manuals as to the proper use of their equipment. Our staff makes every effort to insure that the equipment being operated is being used in the correct fashion it was designed for.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,


GARY B. CABATO
Director

GBC:jr



DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 13

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 400 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813
PHONE (808) 527-5749 • FAX (808) 527-5760 • INTERNET: <http://www.honolulu.gov>

LATE TESTIMONY

**Testimony of
Thomas Smyth, Vice Chair**

**Before the
Committee on Energy and Environment**

**Thursday February 24, 2011
3:00 pm, Conference Room 225**

**On
SCR15/SR5
Relating to Leaf Blowers**

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

The Downtown Neighborhood Board strongly supports SB 132 which places additional time restrictions on the non-governmental use of leaf blowers. year was.

Our Downtown/Chinatown neighborhood is very densely populated. We do understand that it is necessary to keep the area clean of debris, leaves and other trash that gathers so often in such neighborhoods. But there may be alternatives to the use of leaf blowers that are far quieter, relatively inexpensive and actually less hazardous to operators and passersby.

We do not have a specific recommendation as to the length of time, per day, that leaf blowers should be operated. Certainly that metric is a combination of the type of terrain, the amount of debris, such as after a windstorm, and other parcel specific factors. We will leave it to the operators of this equipment to offer suggestions on this provision of the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.





LANDSCAPE INDUSTRY COUNCIL OF HAWAI'I

February 22, 2011

TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL 132

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Landscape Industry Council of Hawai'i (LICH) supports Senate Bill 132 with amendments

LICH acknowledges the public's concerns regarding the use of gasoline-powered leaf blowers generating noise, dust, and air emissions. Most professionals use leaf blowers responsibly, however a few culprits use old technology or improperly use their equipment. This is mainly a lack of knowledge that can be remedied by means other than indiscriminate bans.

Just ten years ago, leaf blowers averaged about 78 decibels, equivalent to a motorcycle. Most leaf blowers now produce less than 65 decibels. For every six decibels reduction, sound intensity is actually reduced by 50 percent. That means many of today's leaf blowers are four times quieter than ten years ago. Leaf blower manufacturers will continue to make improvements making them even quieter.

While leaf blowers occasionally stir up dust, so does sweeping with a broom. We often see the alternative to sweeping or leaf blowing which is using our precious drinking water in substantial amounts to wash away cuttings and debris into our storm drains ultimately ending up on ocean reefs. Leaf blowers are clearly more sustainable.

Most green industry experts agree that it takes at least five times as long to clean a landscape site with a broom and rake as it does with a leaf blower. It is estimated that landscape costs and therefore charges to the consumer would increase from 20 to 40 percent if operators must perform the same functions without a leaf blower. LICH believes many clients will not be able to afford or will not pay for the additional costs of performing lawn and landscape maintenance without leaf blowers and resort to less than desirable methods like drinking water. Leaf blowers are clearly an extremely valuable tool, saving an enormous amount of time and money.

Establishing a maximum allowed leaf blower time by property is difficult due the variety of sizes of residential and commercial properties on the different islands. LICH recommends any time limit be restricted to residential properties and consider the variety of residential properties on the different islands.

LICH believes that many alternatives currently exist that would alleviate the public's concern about leaf blowers without depriving the green industry of this extremely efficient, sustainable and safe tool. We wish to help find a solution to this issue that is fair and equitable to both the public and contractors who use leaf blowers. LICH would like to propose practical and comprehensive measures to address these concerns once and for all.

The Landscape Industry Council of Hawai'i supports the leaf blower best management practices for commercial operators based on national industry standards from Professional Land Care Network (PLANET):

Landscape Industry Council of Hawai'i
Leaf Blower Best Management Practices

- Leaf blowers should not be used in residential areas at unreasonable hours.
- Leaf blowers shall not be modified.
- Debris shall never be blown onto adjacent property, the street, vehicles, people, or pets.

- Where space allows, leaf blowers should not be used within 10 feet of doors or windows.
- Rakes or brooms should be used to loosen heavier debris.
- The full nozzle extension should be used according to manufacturer's recommendations.
- The muffler, air intakes, and air filters shall be routinely checked to make sure they are working properly.
- Leaf blowers should not be used to move large debris piles from one spot to another.
- All commercial operators shall employ one LICH Leaf Blower Best Management Practices certified professional.

We propose the following amendments:

Adding after "provided that"

(l) All commercial operators after 1/1/2013 shall employ one LICH Leaf Blower Best Management Practices certified professional.

LICH believes these are practical and comprehensive measures that will address the public's concerns while manufacturers continue to make leaf blowers even quieter. We are ready to work with the legislature for meaningful change. If you would like to discuss this further, feel free to contact me.

Chris Dacus
President
Landscape Industry Council of Hawai'i
P. O. Box 22938
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96823-2938
Website: www.landscapenhawaii.org
Mobile: 927-3503
Email: chris.dacus@gmail.com

Landscape Industry Council of Hawai'i

As a professional association, the Landscape Industry Council of Hawai'i has a proud history of providing information to policy makers on matters concerning the science and profession of the landscape industry.

Hawai'i's landscape industry is one of the fastest growing and largest segments of the green industry with an economic impact of over \$520 million annually and full time employment of over 11,000 landscape professionals.

Celebrating 25 years, LICH was formed in June 1986, the Landscape Industry Council of Hawai'i is a state wide alliance representing Hawaii's landscape trade associations: Aloha Arborist Association, American Society of Landscape Architects Hawaii Chapter, Hawaii Association of Nurserymen, Hawaii Island Landscape Association, Hawaii Landscape and Irrigation Contractors, Hawaii Society of Urban Forestry Professionals, Kauai Landscape Industry Council, Maui Association of Landscape Professionals, Professional Grounds Management Society, Big Island Association of Nurserymen, and the Hawaii Professional Gardeners Association.



P.O. Box 893953
Mililani, Hawaii 96789-0953
(808) 381-1342 Fax (808) 625-4287

February 23, 2011

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Subject: Testimony on SB 132

The Aloha Arborist Association (AAA) opposes SB 132 relating to banning the use of leaf blowers. We are an organization of 80 individuals and companies who work in the tree care industry.

Please refer to the Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii's (LICH's) testimony on SB 132 for further information as to why we oppose this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Connolly
President

Testimony for ENE 2/24/2011 3:00:00 PM SB132

Conference room: 225

Testifier position: oppose

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Wayne Hu

Organization: Aloha arborist member and president of eager beavers llc

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: Eagerbeavers808@yahoo.com

Submitted on: 2/20/2011

Comments:

I am for the regulations and restrictions which were discuss in a previous hearing and I also was present to give testimony. Although I feel banning blowers copleately is absurd and will be detrimental to our industry , it will also directly affect consumer cost and company productivity. Blowers are a critical part of our industry and trade . Example, a painter has the choice to use a brush, roller, or sprayer. Carpenters have the choice to use a hammer, or a nail gun. Sprayers, (given the application may be very effective, on a different note may be detremental creating overspray. Nail guns used by carpenters, roofers etc. Clearly helps productivity , but given the area may cause too much noise. I firmly believe proper TRAINNING, and use of COMMON SENSE JUDGEMENT is needed I oppose the new house bill SB132!!!!!!

EAGER BEAVERS LLC,

President. Wayne Hu

gabbard1 - Carlton

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2011 11:15 AM
To: ENETestimony
Cc: nowohana@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB132 on 2/24/2011 3:00:00 PM

Testimony for ENE 2/24/2011 3:00:00 PM SB132

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Norman Wilhoite
Organization: Ohana Lawn Service
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: nowohana@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/22/2011

Comments:

I believe this matter was handled satisfactorily when it was previously entered into law. The operational hours are reasonable and an acceptable compromise. The continued restriction of blowers is punitive and severely damages numerous small businesses financially. To support this small vocal group while still allowing government to use these tools is a travesty. To hamper our industry to this extent, especially in these economic times is irresponsible at best. To continue to waste the time of our legislative representatives over this issue demonstrates how out of touch our legislators are with addressing real economic problems in Hawaii.

PERFORMANCE LANDSCAPES



C - 24145

To: **Senate Conferees:**

From: Matt Lyum, CLP
Owner/Performance Landscapes
State Chair – Certified Landscape Technician Program

Re: **In Opposition of SB132**

While Performance Landscapes is in favor of restrictions to control blowers, we would oppose further legislation for the following reasons:

- The limitations on blowers may increase costs to some of our clients dramatically.
- Some clients will ask us not to remove debris and will cause it to blow naturally off property, causing pollution.
- Some clients will turn to “cash” yardmen who will not comply with the law.
- Professional landscapers are trained to use blowers; within certain hours, safely, minimizing debris and noise, based on site and weather conditions.
- There are lower decibel blowers on the market with mufflers that mitigate issues.
- The Dept. of Health already has noise rules regulating noise of “industrial, construction, and ag. Equipment”. Landscape Equipment should/can be added to existing law rather than creating a new one.
- Mowers, weed-whackers, hedge-trimmers, chainsaws, and many other power tools are not covered by this ban.
- It should be the consumer’s choice to weigh the benefits of paying more for service, not the state’s.

I personally would not like to hear blowers, or any other loud noises waking me up early Sunday mornings. I am willing to work on legislation with any interested party that will modify this bill without the adverse economic and environmental effects I believe a further legislation may cause.

*P.O. Box 10459
Honolulu, HI 96816
(808) 282-5496 / Fax (808) 734-8826
Email: PerformanceLS@hotmail.com*

Testimony for ENE 2/24/2011 3:00:00 PM SB132

Conference room: 225

Testifier position: oppose

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Steve Newman

Organization: Da Kine Trim

Submitted on: 2/23/2011

Comments:

I think it unnecessary and burdensome to restrict the use of tools we need to do our job any further than the time-of-day and decibel restrictions that are already in place. To even spend time on this issue, when there are so many more pressing matters, shows how out of touch you are with what is important for your constituents and how individuals with special interests and access are monopolizing the system.

Bishop's Landscaping Maintenance
P.O. Box 623
Kailua Hi 96734
Phone # 343-1080

Re: SB 132

Dear: Committee members,

I am Bishop, the owner of Bishop's landscaping maintenance. I Have used gas powered leaf blowers in my business for years.

I am testifying in support for SB 132, knowing full well that it is a hard decision , due to the direct implications of it affecting my work. I have gotten complaints over the years about the noise, and pollution the use of the leaf blowers cause. The noise leaf blowers make are very inconvenient for all who use them , or those who are force to hear them ,I know that any thing over 90 to 95 decibels may result in hearing loss 90-95db,and anything after that as low as 82 decibels will cause damage to the ear. I measured the sound of these with a decibel meter reader and from 15 feet away the blower is at 92 decibels. So not only is the leaf blower causing harm to the operator, it is also harming those who hear the loud noise of the leaf blower. I believe that to curtailing the use of leaf blowers to 15 min. is a great step in the right direction.

Thank you Committee members.

Sincerely Bishop

Testimony for ENE 2/24/2011 3:00:00 PM SB132

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: NORMAN ALLEN
Organization: LICH
Submitted on: 2/21/2011

Comments:

my name is norman allen ,ive been in the landscape industry for 16 years. I know how disruptive leaf blowers can be,as a worker,you want to provide the best quality you can to make the customer happy. We as professional certified landscapers,contractors and so forth,understand best management practice for leaf blowers,mowers, lawn equipment . In my opinion we should require EVERYONE in the industry(landscaping)to be trained properly and get certified.this will eliminate the non professionalism by these (backyard)maintenance,landscapers in our resident communities, that is giving the true professinals a bad name.. i SUPPORT the leaf blower best practices.

Testimony for ENE 2/24/2011 3:00:00 PM SB132

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Valere McFarland
Organization: Individual
Submitted on: 2/20/2011

Comments:

I support the intent of SB132 with the following recommendation: In Section 1, line 12, "...no leaf blower shall be operated for more than fifteen minutes per day per parcel." Respectfully, Valere McFarland

Testimony for ENE 2/24/2011 3:00:00 PM SB132

Conference room: 225

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: Yes

Submitted by: Linda Wong

Organization: Individual

Submitted on: 2/22/2011

Comments:

I support the intent of SB132 with the following recommendation: In Section 1, line 12, "...no leaf blower shall be operated for more than fifteen minutes per day per parcel."

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

SB132 RELATING TO LEAF BLOWERS.

Description: Prohibits the use of leaf blowers for more than a specified number of minutes per day per parcel of property.

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair English and committee members,

I am in strong support of this measure which in my opinion doesn't go far enough. I think they should be restricted 10 am to 6pm Monday through Saturday and not allowed at all on weekends.

I live in a high-density condominium with over 20 acres of woodland. The noise from the leaf blowers has at times driven me out of my apartment. Since those in the industry will not use the types that make less noise, citing cost considerations, I think they should be willing to make this small concession which will only put a dent in the noise pollution that they cause.

Ann S. Freed
Mililani, HI 96789
808-623-5676

Testimony for ENE 2/24/2011 3:00:00 PM SB132

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: gail schaffer
Organization: Individual
Submitted on: 2/22/2011

Comments:
NO MORE THAN 15 MINUTES OF NOISE FROM BLOWERS.

Testimony for ENE 2/24/2011 3:00:00 PM SB132

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Marcie
Organization: Individual
Submitted on: 2/22/2011

Comments:
NO MORE THAN 15 MINUTES

Testimony for ENE 2/24/2011 3:00:00 PM SB132

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michael Clare
Organization: Individual
Submitted on: 2/22/2011

Comments:
No more that 15 minutes.

Testimony for ENE 2/24/2011 3:00:00 PM SB132

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cory Blumerick
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: coryperformancel@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/22/2011

Testimony for ENE 2/24/2011 3:00:00 PM SB132

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Darla Thomas
Organization: Individual
Submitted on: 2/23/2011

Comments:

The leaf blowers in my area are too loud and cause me health problems with breathing. They should definitely be outlawed or limited to 15 minutes.

Testimony for ENE 2/24/2011 3:00:00 PM SB132

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dianne Lee
Organization: Individual
Submitted on: 2/23/2011

Comments:

I am opposed to gas leaf blowers. They are noisy, intrude in your conversations or sleep, and are used at all times.

Testimony for ENE 2/24/2011 3:00:00 PM SB132

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: James F. Merritt
Organization: Individual
Submitted on: 2/23/2011

Comments:

No more than fifteen minutes of operating time!

Testimony for ENE 2/24/2011 3:00:00 PM SB132

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bob Kern
Organization: Individual
Submitted on: 2/23/2011

Comments:

Please Limit Leaf Blower Use to no More Than 15 Minutes.

Testimony for ENE 2/24/2011 3:00:00 PM SB132

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: karen lucas
Organization: Individual
Submitted on: 2/22/2011

Comments:
No more than 15 minuts.

Testimony for ENE 2/24/2011 3:00:00 PM SB132

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mark Dougherty
Organization: Individual
Submitted on: 2/22/2011

Comments:
On this weed-eater bill, I strongly support the provision that the operation time of these machines shall be NO MORE THAN 15 MINUTES
Thank you, Mark Dougherty

Testimony for ENE 2/24/2011 3:00:00 PM SB132

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Raymond Madigan
Organization: Individual
Submitted on: 2/22/2011

Comments:
NO MORE THAN 15 MINUTES

Testimony for ENE 2/24/2011 3:00:00 PM SB132

Conference room: 225

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Henry Lau

Organization: Individual

Submitted on: 2/23/2011

Comments:

Honolulu needs to stop noise pollution. Citieslike Los Angeles and 400 others have enacted laws curbing leaf blowers. We need to protect our health and keep our city quiet. The leaf blower is a detriment to ones health and does nothing but pushes the rubbish from one place to another.

Testimony for ENE 2/24/2011 3:00:00 PM SB132

Conference room: 225

Testifier position: oppose

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Lee McIntosh

Organization: Individual

Submitted on: 2/23/2011

Comments:

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environment:

Aloha, my name is Lee McIntosh. I operate a landscaping business called GopherLee in Kau on the Big Island. I am not in favor of SB 132, which limits the use of leaf blowers. I rarely use a leaf blower in my business, but when I do, I do not want to have to try and remember which days and what times I can legally use a leaf blower. The time during the day that a leaf blower can be used should be the same everyday, even holidays. A state holiday is a good time for those that work to clean up their yard, but this bill would prevent them from using a leaf blower. Also, I am concerned that if strict laws are passed for leaf blowers, then lawn mowers and weed eaters will be next. Please do not pass restrictive, burdensome rules that will make it difficult for me to operate my landscaping business. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 132.

I oppose Senate Bill 132

Aloha Senate Committee on ENE,

I oppose Senate Bill 132 for a few reasons.

Even though our Hotels will not be affected by this bill, I think the legislature is spending too much time on matters such as these to zero in on 1 piece of equipment within a large industry which widely supports our economy.

I also feel that just last year; we have passed a fair, thoughtful, and responsible bill in SB 466. To continue to add to this bill, will only be the start of a slow creep towards the total ban of leaf blowers.

Furthermore, the use of blowers in our hotels is a good example of how blowers used with thoughtfulness and respect can be beneficial to a company's efficiency and bottom line costs, without causing a disturbance with our many in house guests who come to our resorts for peace and relaxation. The use of these blowers in the end benefits us all as we are able to keep costly labor down by using effective machinery in a responsible way.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Randy Liu
Grounds Manager, Starwood Hotels and Resorts, Waikiki
Sheraton Waikiki
Royal Hawaiian Hotel, A Luxury Collection
Moana Surfrider, A Westin Resort and Spa
Sheraton Princess Ka'iulani Hotel

282-5328

Randy.liu@starwoodhotels.com

Aloha

My name is Ruben Perez. I am in support of Bill SB132. Leaf blowers cause unnecessary noise that interferes with our quality of life. I am a father of two toddlers who nap during the day.

I do security work during the night so I sleep during the day. We have neighbors on all sides of our house who pay landscapers to do their yards. The leaf blowers they use are constantly waking us up and interfering with our daily life. Many times we have to revolve our family events around our neighbors' landscapers. The idea that leaf blowers save time - which is the one and only argument for using them - is outrageous, since it implies that the time stolen from the rest of us is worthless. Gasoline leaf blowers have been banned in many of California's counties, including Los Angeles and hundreds of counties across the U.S. and Canada, and none of the horrors that were predicted by landscapers - untidy lawns, escalating costs, declining property values - has ever come to pass. The World Health Organization, 1980, Environmental Health Criteria 12: Noise, recommends an outdoor level of 55 decibels and a level of 45 decibels to meet sleep criteria. Here I have the recording of what your typical gas blower sounds like. It has a decibel level of 92db from 15 feet.

I sincerely urge you to support bill SB 132. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,
Ruben Perez
338E Kalama St
Kailua, HI 96734
384-9575

I Support SB 132

RELATING TO LEAF BLOWERS.

Prohibits the use of leaf blowers for more than a specified number of minutes per day per parcel of property.

Dear Honorable Senators,

I'd like to see a ban on gas leaf blowers, but in lieu of that - please limit them to no more than 10-15 min. a day, per property.

Since I never know when someone's going to do the leaf blowing on the properties around me, I never know when to have company over or even make a simple phone call. The loud droning noise makes it impossible to hold a conversation - either in person or on the phone. I live in an old single-wall constructed apartment, so there's no where to go when the noise level gets bad, and I shouldn't have to wear earplugs in my own house!

If this bill is passed & the leaf blowers are time-limited, it'll be one step closer to relative peace & quiet that I'm sure everyone would appreciate.

Respectfully yours,

Jan Mitchell
Kailua, HI
520-1472

Testimony for ENE 2/24/2011 3:00:00 PM SB132

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Narottam Bishop
Organization: Individual
Submitted on: 2/23/2011

Comments:
NO MORE THAN 15 MIN.

Testimony for ENE 2/24/2011 3:00:00 PM SB132

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Elizabeth Kamis
Organization: Individual
Submitted on: 2/23/2011

Comments:

NO MORE THAN 15 MINUTES

Testimony for ENE 2/24/2011 3:00:00 PM SB132

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Richard Kamis
Organization: Individual
Submitted on: 2/23/2011

Comments:

NO MORE THAN 15 MINUTES