

LATE TESTIMONY

February 13, 2012

The Honorable Representative Denny Coffman
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony opposing HB2611 relating to Environmental Impact Statements

Chair Coffman and Committee members:

The Outdoor Circle (TOC) opposes this legislation.

We believe that Chapter 343 currently provides the mechanisms for exempting minor actions. Existing law already gives agencies the authority to quickly exempt any project or action that is expected to have no or negligible environmental impacts. However, sometimes these projects aren't as innocuous as they appear and they cannot qualify for an exemption under Ch. 343. That's the beauty of the law. It has flexibility.

HB2611 throws a one-size-fits-all blanket over all minor projects. This type of policy making removes the safety net now provided in Ch. 343 that snares those few projects that will end up creating more impacts than originally met the eye.

Please hold this legislation.

Respectfully,

Bob Loy
Director of Environmental Programs