

February 29, 2015

The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
State Capitol, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: S.B. 646, S.D.1, Relating to Energy

HEARING: Monday, February 29, 2015, at 2:05 p.m.

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Woodson, and Members of the Committee:

I am Myoung Oh, Government Affairs Director, here to testify on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR"), the voice of real estate in Hawai'i, and its 8,900 members.

HAR **opposes** S.B. 646, S.D.2 which permits the installation of clotheslines in any residential dwelling, including condominiums and apartments. This measure also specifies certain reasonable restrictions on the placement and use of clotheslines that is necessary to protect public health and safety, buildings from damage, historic or aesthetic values, and shorelines under certain circumstances.

Homeowners buy into a specific condominium or planned community association for a variety of purposes from aesthetics, house-rules or design that are decided by the owner-residents of the association.

HAR believes that should a condominium or planned community association wish to allow clotheslines, they should continue to have the ability to make an informed decision with an opportunity for input from all its resident owners rather than through legislation.

The reasonable restrictions provided in this measure are limited to several elements and does not allow for exceptions. For example, we believe it is reasonable to ask that clothes be limited to one's home or yard, and not publically viewable from the street or neighboring properties. Under S.B. 646, S.D.1, this reasonable condition would be prohibited.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

February 29, 2016, 2:05 P.M.

Room 325

(Testimony is 2 pages long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 646 SD2

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Woodson, and Committee members,

The Blue Planet Foundation supports SB 646 SD2, a measure which permits the installation of clotheslines at any residential dwelling, apartment, condominium, or townhouse, subject to reasonable restrictions. This measure clarifies what qualifies as a reasonable restriction.

This measure will help ensure that Hawai'i homeowners have the choice to save money and save energy by using a clothesline to dry their clothes. Electric clothes dryers can consume upwards of 10% of a household's energy demand. Reducing the use of clothes dryers could substantially decrease the amount of fossil fuel electricity that Hawaii's households require.

Unfortunately, many homeowner associations continue to have unreasonable restrictions on use of using the sun to dry clothes—clotheslines—and some simply make it very difficult to use a clothesline. For example, a sample Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions for the Ewa by Gentry development¹ state that *“No outside clothesline or other outside clothes drying or airing facilities shall be permitted except that which is located within a fenced yard and not visible from the street or neighboring properties.”* While such an aesthetic condition might have been acceptable 20 years ago, it makes no sense today to restrict smart energy-saving behavior given high energy prices and the effect our fossil fuel use is having on the climate.

While legislative measures involving clotheslines may seem ridiculous to some, the value is very serious: to provide residents the option of reducing their energy use if they chose. Given the cost of electricity and urgent need to move toward energy independence, Hawai'i homeowners should have the choice to save money and save energy by using the hot sun and trade winds to dry their clothes. This may sound frivolous, but when you consider that the average family produces over one ton of greenhouse gas annually from typical electric clothes dryer usage, any

¹ Ewa by Gentry Community Association. “Design Committee Rules & Regulations.” 04/24/08

restriction on clothesline use seems inappropriate. Yet this measure doesn't prevent any homeowner association rules on clothesline usage, only those that are unreasonable. Clotheslines also save money. Families switching to a clothesline can expect to save hundreds annually on their electricity bill.

If this measure enables 1000 households to replace typical clothes dryer usage (~3 hours per week) with drying in the sun, those households would save over \$260,000 annually while preventing 700 tons of greenhouse gas pollution.

This measure is a logical extension to the “Right to Dry” law passed into law in 2011 prohibiting restrictions that prevent individuals from installing clotheslines on houses or townhomes that they own.

While we are searching for ways to reduce our dependency on fossil fuel, save residents' money, and decrease global warming pollution, let's not forget about the basic—and decidedly low-tech—approaches to energy conservation. This bill removes yet another barrier to local residents doing the right thing for the environment and the economy.

Let's give everyone the Right to Dry. To paraphrase Benjamin Franklin, “we must all hang together, or we will all hang separately.”

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

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HAR believes reasonable restrictions provided in this measure are limited to several elements and does not allow for exceptions. For example, we believe it is reasonable to ask that clothes be limited to one's home or yard, and not publically viewable from the street or neighboring properties. Under S.B. 646, S.D.2, this reasonable condition would be prohibited.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2016 10:16 PM
To: CPCtestimony
Cc: amybrinker@mac.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB646 on Feb 29, 2016 14:05PM*

SB646

Submitted on: 2/27/2016

Testimony for CPC on Feb 29, 2016 14:05PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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