



**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

March 17, 2015, 8:30 A.M.

Room 325

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 646**

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Lowen and Members of the Committee:

The Blue Planet Foundation supports SB 646, a measure that 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, the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions for the Ewa by Gentry development<sup>1</sup> 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

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Saturday, March 14, 2015 2:54 PM  
To: EEPtestimony  
Cc: kalelekai002@hawaii.rr.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB646 on Mar 17, 2015 08:30AM

**SB646**

Submitted on: 3/14/2015

Testimony for EEP on Mar 17, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alan Takumi	CAI, LAC	Oppose	No

Comments: I represent the Community Association Institute, Hawaii Chapter Legislative Action Committee and we oppose this bill as written. Allowing clotheslines in high-rise buildings will present a safety hazard when clothes break free in windy conditions, especially for those high-rises located next to the freeway, highways and heavily used roadways. There is a severe difficulty in enforcing any rules to ensure clothes are retrieved on a timely basis since the only way to see if clothes is dry is to access the units to check the clothes and that is very intrusive. The end result could be clothing being left on clotheslines permanently.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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lowen2-Thomas

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2015 1:09 PM  
To: EEPtestimony  
Cc: amybrinker@mac.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for SB646 on Mar 17, 2015 08:30AM\*

**SB646**

Submitted on: 3/15/2015

Testimony for EEP on Mar 17, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2015 4:50 PM  
To: EEPtestimony  
Cc: domem14@outlook.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB646 on Mar 17, 2015 08:30AM

**SB646**

Submitted on: 3/13/2015

Testimony for EEP on Mar 17, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Eric Matsumoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: This bill is opposed since it effectively removes all reasonable ability for PCAs, as well as AOAOs (condos and townhouses) from being able to maintain the aesthetics and property values they bought into from as far back as the 60's. Further, it is shortsighted and a piecemeal effort as seen in bills introduced over the past number of years, and given the discussions of 100% renewable energy in the future. Request this bill be deferred.

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