

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



TESTIMONY BY:

EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 21, 2023

9:30 A.M.

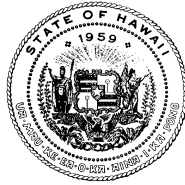
State Capitol, Conference Room 325 via Videoconference

S.B. 54 SD 1
RELATING TO GASOLINE-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS

House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

The Department of Transportation **supports** this bill that prohibits the operation of gasoline-powered leaf blowers in any urban land use district and removes the exemption for government agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

In reply, please refer to:
File:

**Testimony COMMENTING on SB54 SD1
RELATING TO GASOLINE-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS**

REPRESENTATIVE NICOLE E. LOWEN, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Hearing Date: 3/21/2023 Room Number: 325

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure may impact the priorities identified in the Governor's
2 Executive Budget Request for the Department of Health's (Department) appropriations and
3 personnel priorities. Proposed requirements will require additional staff time and effort.

4 **Department Testimony:**

5 The Department respectfully comments on this measure that proposes to ban the use of gasoline-
6 powered leaf blowers.

7 The Department comments that this measure may conflict with federal law. Further, it
8 will defer to the Department of the Attorney General regarding the legality of this measure.

9 We appreciate the intent of the bill in addressing the exhaust and sound emissions from
10 gasoline-powered leaf blowers and favor a quieter environment. Any new mandate will require
11 additional resources for the amendment of rules and serious enforcement. The intent of 342F,
12 Hawaii Revised Statutes was to regulate noise sources that are either fairly constant in nature,
13 stationary, or restricted to a certain location, and can feasibly be enforced. Enforcement against
14 gasoline-powered leaf blowers would be extremely difficult due to their mobility and duration of
15 use.

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

17

18 **Offered Amendments:** None



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 03/21/2023
Time: 09:30 AM
Location: 325 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Committee: House Energy &
Environmental Protection

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 0054, SD1 RELATING TO GASOLINE-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS.

Purpose of Bill: Prohibits the operation of gasoline-powered leaf blowers in any urban land use districts. Increases the amounts of fines for offenses of leaf blower restrictions and provides for the forfeiture of gasoline-powered leaf blowers upon a third violation. Removes the exemption on leaf blower restrictions for government agencies. Takes effect 7/1/2050. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 54, SD1, but respectfully provides the following comments.

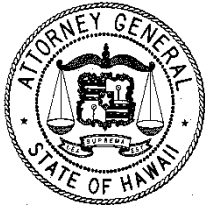
The Department recognizes that gasoline-powered leaf blowers can have a harmful impact on health and the environment. As such, the Department engages in direct efforts to battle climate change and reduce pollution via procedures, operations, and education.

The Department's concern is the cost of replacing the leaf blower inventory for 258 schools statewide. On average, there may be four leaf blowers per school. A suitable battery-powered leaf blower plus a backup battery will cost about \$560. As such, the Department would have to provide funding for and procure approximately \$580,000 of new equipment.

The Department is also concerned about inefficiency since the current battery-operated

handheld equipment technology does not have the power needed for large areas such as schools and other government entities. The batteries also need to be recharged often and have short life spans.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 54, S.D. 1, RELATING TO GASOLINE-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

DATE: Tuesday, March 21, 2023

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Lyle T. Leonard, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Lowen and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) respectfully opposes this bill because it is subject to challenge for violating the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

The purpose of this bill is to prohibit the operation of gasoline-powered leaf blowers in any urban land use district.

As we have discussed previously, this prohibition may be subject to challenge as violating the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution as a federally preempted emission standard under the Clean Air Act (CAA) because the prohibition is grounded in the emission characteristics of the engine.

The CAA provides that:

No State or any political subdivision thereof shall adopt or attempt to enforce any standard or other requirement relating to the control of emissions from either of the following new nonroad engines or nonroad vehicles

42 U.S.C. § 7543(e)(1).

The scope of this preemption is defined in 40 CFR § 1074.10(b), which states in part that "[s]tates and localities are preempted from enforcing any standards or other requirements relating to control of emissions from nonroad engines or vehicles" Nonroad engines are defined in part as an internal combustion engine that "is (or will

be) used in or on a piece of equipment that is intended to be propelled while performing its function (such as lawnmowers and string trimmers)." 40 CFR § 1068.30.

In this context, emissions "standards" are any requirement that:

[R]elate to the emission characteristics of a vehicle or engine. To meet them the vehicle or engine must not emit more than a certain amount of a given pollutant, must be equipped with a certain type of pollution-control device, or must have some other design feature related to the control of emissions. This interpretation is consistent with the use of 'standards' throughout Title II of the CAA.

Engine Mfrs. Ass'n v. S. Coast Air Quality Mgmt. Dist., 541 U.S. 246, 253 (2004).

A restriction banning all gasoline powered engines in favor of electric may be subject to challenge as an emissions "standard" under the CAA. See Ass'n of Int'l Auto. Mfrs., Inc. v. Comm'r, Mass. Dep't. of Env'tl. Prot., 208 F.3d 1, 6-7 (1st Cir. 2000) (a mandate requiring a specified percentage of manufacturers in-state sales to be of "zero-emission vehicles" was found to be a preempted "standard" under CAA § 209).

The Department opposes the passage of this bill for the preemption concern stated above and respectfully requests that this bill be held. The Department is happy to assist the Legislature in crafting a new bill that will accomplish the intent of this bill for next session.

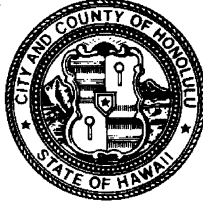
DEPARTMENT OF FACILITY MAINTENANCE
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

1000 Ulu'ohia Street, Suite 215, Kapolei, Hawaii 96707
Phone: (808) 768-3343 • Fax: (808) 768-3381
Website: www.honolulu.gov

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR

DAWN B. SZEWCZYK, P.E.
DIRECTOR AND CHIEF ENGINEER

WARREN K. MAMIZUKA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR



IN REPLY REFER TO:

March 15, 2023

TESTIMONY OF DAWN B. SZEWCZYK, P.E.
DIRECTOR OF FACILITY MAINTENANCE, and
LAURA H. THIELEN
DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

March 21, 2023, 9:30 AM, Conference Room 325 and Via Videoconference

TO: Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Chair, and Members of the Committee on
Energy & Environmental Protection

RE: COMMENTS ON SENATE BILL 54, SD1 RELATING TO GASOLINE-POWERED
LEAF BLOWERS

The Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM) and the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) of the City and County of Honolulu (City), offers the following comments on Senate Bill 54, SD1 relating to gasoline-powered leaf blowers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **OPPOSITION** of SB 54, SD1. We are **OPPOSED** to SB 54, SD1 in its entirety.

While we support the implementation of protective measures for environment and reduction in noise pollution and carbon emissions, as operational City departments, we own and operate numerous gas-powered leaf blowers which are critical for proper maintenance of City-owned properties throughout the island of O'ahu (i.e. streams, parks, road medians, etc.). Passage of SB 54, SD1 would have significant detrimental impacts to the maintenance activities and services we provide for O'ahu's communities.

Battery-powered leaf blowers currently offered on the market do not perform equally to gas-powered leaf blowers, and are found to be insufficient in meeting our

The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen
March 15, 2023
Page 2

operational requirements. Battery-powered leaf blower operability usually lasts 20-40 minutes on a full charge, which would drastically hamper our operations, and impede our ability to effectively and efficiently provide services and perform maintenance actions.

We humbly request for deference of SB 54, SD1, to allow for technologies in maintenance equipment to advance further in meeting our operational needs.

Mahalo nui for your commitment to environmental protection and consideration of our testimony in OPPOSITION of SB 54, SD1.

Sincerely,

Dawn B. Szewczyk, P.E.
Director and Chief Engineer
Department of Facility Maintenance

Laura H. Thielen
Director
Department of Parks and Recreation

February 6, 2023

Transmitted via electronic submission

Re: OPEI Comments on HI SB 54 / HB 575 – Relating to Ban of Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (“OPEI”) opposes HI SB 54 / HB 575 which would prohibit the sale and operation of gas-powered leaf blowers. HI SB 54 / HB 575 will negatively impact OPEI members and hardworking professionals throughout Hawaii.

The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (“OPEI”) is an international trade association representing more than 100 manufacturers and their suppliers of outdoor power equipment. OPEI member products are ubiquitous in American households and businesses. Outdoor power equipment such as lawnmowers, trimmers, chain saws, snow throwers, generators, water pumps, pressure washers, and utility vehicles are the lifeblood of millions of hardworking landscape and construction professions, many of whom are sole proprietors, and emergency responders. See Annex A – Outdoor Power Equipment Facts.

The outdoor power equipment industry is a leader in the deployment of “zero-emission” equipment (ZEE), with electric products dating back more than 70 years. Recent advancements in battery technology have accelerated ZEE growth for many product categories. In fact, the majority of “handheld” products shipped *are already ZEE.* Electric “handheld” leaf blowers and electric hedge trimmers represented approximately 80% of all handheld leaf blower and hedge trimmers shipments in 2022. Residential electric walk-behind mower shipments ballooned from just 5% of total walk-behind lawnmowers in 2014 to over 40% in 2022. These trends will continue without legislative action. HI SB 54 / HB 575 are unnecessary.

However, due to the wide range of powered equipment types and use cases, *there is currently no one-size-fits-all power-source approach.* Codes and bills that propose gas-powered equipment bans and dictate equipment purchase choices ignore technical feasibility challenges, particularly for landscape and construction professionals. Supply chain, electrical grid infrastructure, and product transportation also present significant concerns.

Zero Emissions Equipment Technology Feasibility Challenges

Today’s battery technology is not without limitations. In its recent Small Off-Road Engine rulemaking the California Air Resources Board (CARB) compared on-line (marketing) performance of a gas-powered and electric-powered blower. However, in real-world testing, OPEI member testing shows that the battery-powered unit’s

performance¹ dropped more than 40% as the battery discharged. In “turbo” mode the battery lasted 18 minutes (“run time”). On the other hand, the gas-powered equipment maintained full performance for over an hour, until the unit ran out of gas. More than 3 batteries would be needed for the referenced electric unit to match the continuous run time of the referenced gas-powered unit.

Zero Emissions Equipment Cost Challenges

The number and cost of batteries needed for high-use applications are additional concerns. CARB’s survey and modeling data estimates that landscaper professionals that own walk-behind mowers, string trimmers, leaf blowers and chain saws require on average 13170 W of power *per day*. The average landscape professional would require *dozens* of high-power batteries *every day to achieve the modeled power demand*. OPEI estimates that upfront costs of transitioning a typical small landscapers trailer from gas to electric powered units could exceed \$10,000 in new battery costs alone. Additionally, based on CARB performance modeling, batteries would need to be replaced approximately every 3 years, resulting in thousands of dollars in on-going battery “maintenance” costs.

Additionally, many businesses would also incur upfront costs to safely charge and transport the number of high-powered batteries required to operate daily. In fact, some landscape and construction professionals don’t even have access to power to safely and securely recharge equipment each evening in storage yards where equipment is kept.

Small businesses, many of which are low income and minority owned, would be hit hardest by the unaccounted for and/or unanticipated costs of HI SB 54 / HB 575.

Emissions Are Already Federally Regulated

Emissions are a common discussion point surrounding OPE. “Facts” comparing outdoor power equipment emissions to automobiles are not rooted in sound data and are misleading or outright false.

Many believe outdoor power equipment are unregulated, high-emitting sources of exhaust gas emissions. This is not true. The OPE industry has a long history of working cooperatively with the U.S. EPA to develop a regulatory framework which has driven low and zero-emissions technology solutions in outdoor power equipment for over three decades. *Today, the EPA is on its third phase of pollutant controls for small engine-powered equipment, resulting in up to 90% reductions in exhaust gas and evaporative emissions from previously unregulated machines.* Fuel system emission regulations have further reduced smog forming emissions compared to outdoor power equipment a decade ago.

Industry is committed to advancing emission reduction technologies. In fact, many popular lawnmower and leaf blower options are certified *well* below federal standards – and *well* below “fact sheet” comparisons. As a result of federal small spark-ignited

¹ Measured as blower force in Newtons in accordance to ANSI/OPEI B175.2 standard.

engine regulations EPA estimated the US “lawn and garden equipment” fleet smog forming emissions would be reduced by 20 to 30 percent from 2011 to 2018 – And agencies have yet to accurately account for recent and projected ZEE market growth when estimating sector emissions. ZEE growth will continue to drive additional reductions well beyond today’s agency estimates.

The U.S. EPA Has Sole Jurisdiction for Small Engine Emission Regulations

Manufacturers of outdoor power equipment cannot build, and dealers and retailers cannot stock and sell specialized, niche products for each individual city or state. Consequently, Federal law requires that states comply with one set of emission standards. In doing so, the federal Clean Air Act (CAA) Section 209(e) (42 U.S.C. Section 7401), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA’s) implementing regulations, and 40 C.F.R. Part 1074, prohibit states or any political subdivisions from adopting or attempting to enforce any standard or other requirement applicable to spark ignition engines smaller than 50 horsepower – Including adoption of California small off-road engine emission regulations for which EPA has authorized a waiver of preemption. In short, EPA could not approve the waiver of preemption required under Section 209(e) to allow Hawaii to set unique or separate emission standards or requirements for small-engine outdoor powered equipment.

A Robust Enforcement Program is Necessary

Robust enforcement programs for HI SB 54 / HB 575 will be necessary to ensure fairness to compliant manufacturers, retailers, and end-users. Resources will be needed at state and local levels to assure compliance with and to enforce the bans that may result from HI SB 54 / HB 575. Amid a patchwork quilt of state and municipal regulations, such an enforcement and compliance program will undoubtedly be cost and resource intensive, and in OPEI’s opinion unworkable.

For these reasons, OPEI opposes HI SB 54 / HB 575.

Please do not hesitate to contact us directly if you have questions or require additional information regarding these concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Knott
Vice President, Standards and Regulatory Affairs
Outdoor Power Equipment Institute
Phone: (703) 549-7600
gknott@opei.org
www.opei.org

ANNEX A – Outdoor Power Equipment Facts

The Outdoor Power Equipment Industry is a Leader in Power Technology and Innovation:

- The outdoor power equipment (OPE) industry has been manufacturing electric “zero-emissions” equipment (ZEE) for more than 70 years.
- ZEE is the number one driver of OPE demand and future industry growth.
- In 2022 shipped products were predominantly ZEE. Approximately:
 - 60% of lawn and garden OPE shipped was ZEE;
 - 65% of handheld products shipped were ZEE;
 - 43% of walk-behind mowers shipped were ZEE – Up from 5% in 2014.
- OPEI members are focused on growing the ZEE market through innovation, especially for landscape, construction and emergency respondent needs.
- However, there is currently no “one-size-fits-all” option for the wide portfolio of OPE products and uses.
 - There is wide range OPE products – Electric power source options do not exist for all categories of equipment.
 - ZEE is widely accepted for residential lawn and garden applications, however, further advancements are necessary for ZEE to deliver the performance needed and a cost competitive with gas-powered equipment in many commercial applications.

OPEI and Industry Overview:

- OPEI represents 110 industry manufacturers – Most original equipment manufacturers produce *both* gas and electric-powered equipment.
- OPEI members and their suppliers contribute \$16B to the U.S. GDP annually.
- OPE manufacturers employ 150,000 U.S. workers.
- The industry provides tools for a national network of nearly 8M landscape and construction professionals, many of which are sole proprietors.
- OPE is ubiquitous in American households and businesses, with an estimated 40M products sold annually and a total in-service fleet exceeding 250 million.
- OPEI members have a long history of consumer safety and environmental protection through standards development and government engagement.

OPE Industry Principles on ZEE Policymaking

- A patchwork quilt approach by state / municipality is unworkable for original equipment manufacturers and will result in market disruptions.
- The U.S. EPA retains sole jurisdiction over OPE emission regulations.
- Government should rely on sound, real-world data and science for ZEE policy, with particular focus on:
 - The wide range of outdoor power equipment in the market
 - Various user types and respective performance needs
 - Product and infrastructure (both government and business) related costs
 - Supply chain challenges
 - Manufacturing, disposal and waste impacts of different technologies



**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI
PRESIDENT
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII
March 21, 2023**

Re: SB 54 SD1 RELATING TO GASOLINE-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS

Good morning, Chair Lowen and members of the House Committee on Judiciary. I am Tina Yamaki, President of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii and I appreciate this opportunity to testify.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii was founded in 1901 and is a statewide, not for profit trade organization committed to supporting the growth and development of the retail industry in Hawaii. Our membership includes small mom & pop stores, large box stores, resellers, luxury retail, department stores, shopping malls, on-line sellers, local, national, and international retailers, chains, and everyone in between.

We continue to have concerns regarding SB 54 SD1 Relating to Gasoline-Powered Leaf Blowers. This measure prohibits the operation of gasoline-powered leaf blowers in any urban land use districts; increases the amounts of fines for offenses of leaf blower restrictions and provides for the forfeiture of gasoline-powered leaf blowers upon a third violation; removes the exemption on leaf blower restrictions for government agencies; and takes effect 7/1/2050.

This measure is a BAN on gasoline powered leaf blowers in urban areas like Honolulu, Waikiki, Hilo, Kahului, Makiki, Manoa, Mililani, Kailua, Laie, Lihue, Waikoloa, Waimea, Kihei, and Lahaina to name a few. Retailers would still no longer be able to sell gasoline leaf blowers.

While there are choices for electric leaf blowers on the market for residential use, **there are very limited choices heavy duty commercial leaf blowers on the market. These items are extremely expensive – almost double the price. This maybe cost prohibitive for many landscape companies as well as those who take care of their own lawn.**

Retailers listen to what their customers want. There has not been a large calling for non-gasoline powered leaf blowers. We also want to point out that **the technology still needs to be worked on as the equipment has performance issues. The batteries need constant charging, and some leaf blowers are not as powerful to truly be useful.**

Retailers like many businesses are struggling to survive. It will take many of them years to recover their losses incurred through no fault of their own, but because of this pandemic. Measures like this would especially hurt our small local businesses even more especially if the effective date is too soon. **Not all stores are able to send their gasoline powered leaf blowers to a sister store on the mainland who can sell them. This would mean that local businesses would either have to sell these types of gasoline powered blowers at a loss or trash them.**

Our local retailers are one of the hardest hit industries due to the pandemic and this type of ban would hurt our retailers during a time when many are still struggling to remain open. Stores had to endure astronomical increases in shipping costs and in the price of goods from manufacturers and wholesalers. And last year with the unexpected increase in employee wages at the end of the year when the minimum wage was raised. Many retailers are still struggling to pay back the debt incurred during the pandemic. **Businesses cannot afford any more hardship as we are seeing more and more retailers closing their doors forever.**

We respectfully ask that you hold this measure. Mahalo again for this opportunity to testify.

SB-54-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 4:13:03 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/21/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

These leafblowers are a blight on the environment. They are a source of noise pollution as well as air pollution and should be outlawed. They go on at all hours. After blowing the leaves and anything else around, the operators then try to corral the items using a broom.

Whatever happened to the old fashioned way, rakes?

Please pass this bill.

SB-54-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 4:25:15 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/21/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris Abe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

With electric options nowadays, a ban on noisy, polluting gas blowers is appropriate and sensible and improving the future of our community. any opposition by retail interests is just stubborn, conservative, profit-motivated refusal to change and adapt to new technology and rules that will make our lives better.

SB-54-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 5:18:07 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/21/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mahealani Cypher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and committee members,

I strongly support Senate Bill 54. I have been concerned about the aggravation and nuisance created by the use of gas-powered leaf-blowers for many years for a couple of reasons:

1st) the use of gas-powered equipment is contrary to our state's efforts to reduce reliance on fossil fuels in our community - using rakes are much more effective in gathering leaves and ground debris, whereas leaf blowers tend to blow trash in circles and often down public drains which cause clogging and potential flooding.

2nd) the sound of gas-powered leaf blowers is disturbing to human ears, especially when they are used over long periods of time and in neighborhoods where people have varying work schedules and often need to sleep during the day for night shifts.

I strongly urge your committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo nui.

SB-54-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 6:15:48 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/21/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Between the noise and air pollution these machines should be banned altogether. Please support this bill. Mahalo.

SB-54-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 6:48:14 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/21/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cathy Goeggel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill. The noise of Honolulu and the air pollution has made life here almost untenable !

Mahalo

SB-54-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 8:24:56 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/21/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

All public officials should be removed from the State for pushing this Bill !!!!!

SB-54-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 7:25:28 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/21/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this Bill.

SB-54-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 9:01:27 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/21/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teo Mocnik	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please ban gas-powered leaf blowers as soon as possible. The 90dB noise they produce does not justify their use in urban districts, especially since the quieter options are available. I see landscapers chasing imaginary debris on government parking lots every working day at 6:30am with these noise makers, right next to a condominium building. This nonsense must stop, the sooner the better!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify

SB-54-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 7:56:53 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/21/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of SD1. Thank you.

SB-54-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 10:19:48 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/21/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Fukuzawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Senators and Representatives,

I am in opposition of bill SB54 SD1. With so many companies and individual citizens who use gas blowers, this piece of legislation would place a great strain on those individuals to make changes. I think the state should attempt to make media announcements to entice citizens and business owners to make changes prior to making a law banning their use. Besides, who would enforce this law state wide. Do we really think our law enforcement officials have the time to hand out citations for violations. Again, this was a law created out of haste instead of creating it out of common sense. Please kill this bill and rethink what it is you are trying to do. Home owner associations can create their own rules if they dislike blowers. Please ask folks to make changes first before we go and try put more legislation in the books that only cause the constituents to distrust the government even more.

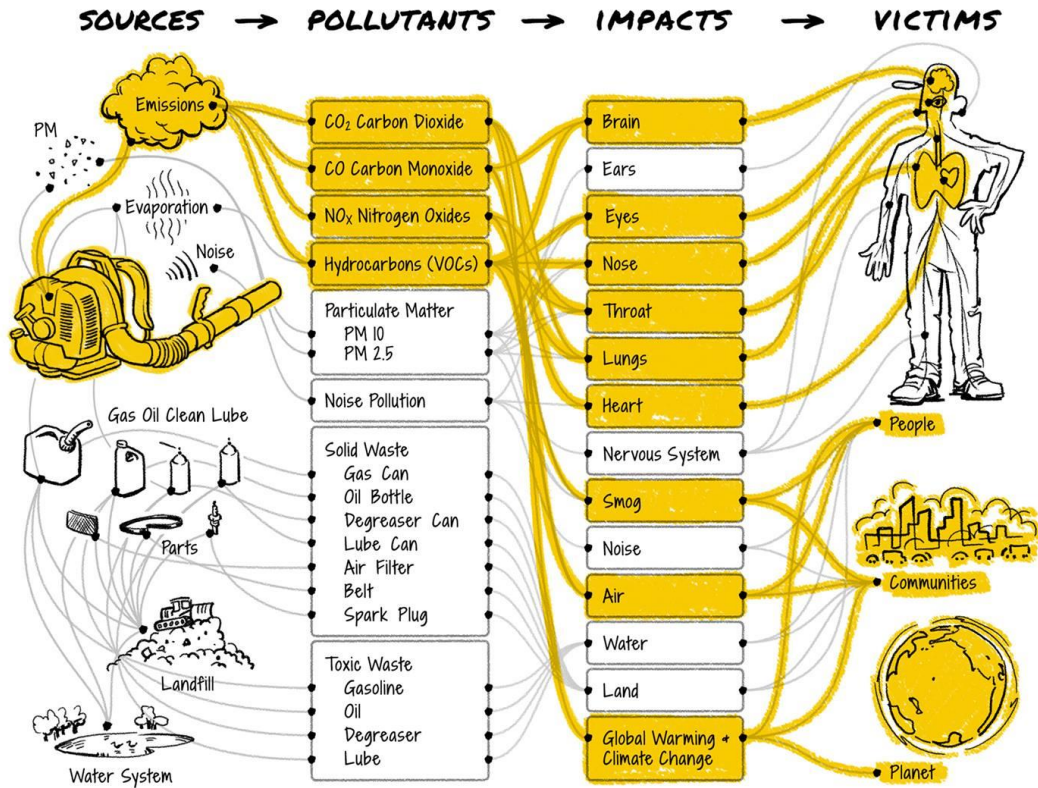
Sincerely,

David J Fukuzawa

Susan Gorman-Chang, individual SB 54: In FAVOR March 18, 2023

I am in **support of SB 54**, the banning of gas-powered leaf blowers. In addition to the noise pollution, they are harmful to the health of the hard working folks who use them. See information below.

Q: WHAT'S SO BAD ABOUT GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS?



A: JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING! (BUT WHAT'S THE ALTERNATIVE ?)

LOW-NOISE ZERO-EMISSION BATTERY-ELECTRIC TOOLS & SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS

Transitioning your grounds maintenance equipment from dirty gas to clean electric will instantly eliminate or radically reduce almost every hazardous source and pollutant that impacts you, your community and the planet. Electric motors create zero smog, zero carcinogenic VOCs, zero toxic particulates, and zero greenhouse gasses. Electric tools are 40%-70% quieter, solving the biggest complaint about gas.

Electric motors don't need gas or oil, spark plugs, filters, solvents or stabilizers, so they save money while also eliminating those waste streams from entering landfills, soil, and water. In fact since electric operations require almost no maintenance at all they quickly achieve ROI and are increasingly profitable thereafter. So what's the best way for cities, schools, and homeowners to evolve to clean electric? AGZA trains and accredits AGZA Service Providers to establish and optimize low-impact electric operations. And they create, verify, and certify properties maintained with low-noise and zero-emissions as AGZA Green Zones®. Discover all the benefits of electric at AGZA.net.

©2018 AGZA. Data sourced from the Environmental Protection Agency, the World Health Organization, the American Lung Association, and QuietCommunities.com.



Q: WHAT'S SO BAD ABOUT GAS LAWN TOOLS?

<p>EMISSIONS</p> <p>Toxic gasses, GHGs, carcinogenic PM</p>	<p>HEALTH RISKS</p> <p>Asthma, heart disease, hypertension, cancer</p>	<p>NOISE</p> <p>Tinnitus, hearing loss, headaches, stress</p>	<p>VIBRATION</p> <p>Tingling, numbness, vibration syndrome</p>	<p>GAS & OIL</p> <p>1.2 B gal burned, 17M gal spilled every year</p>
<p>TOXIC WASTE</p> <p>Oil, cleaners, solvents, degreasers, stabilizers</p>	<p>SOLID WASTE</p> <p>Air + fuel filters, spark plugs, hoses, belts</p>	<p>INEFFICIENT</p> <p>High friction + heat, only 20% - 40% efficient</p>	<p>MAINTENANCE</p> <p>Frequent maintenance, parts replacement</p>	<p>EXPENSE</p> <p>High operational cost of fuel, oil and repairs</p>

Q: WHY ARE ELECTRIC MORE SUSTAINABLE?

<p>CLEAN</p> <p>Zero-emissions during operations + cleanup</p>	<p>HEALTHY</p> <p>No toxic gasses, VOCs, HCs, carcinogenic PM</p>	<p>QUIET</p> <p>40% - 70% quieter, peace + sanity restored</p>	<p>SMOOTH</p> <p>Symmetric, magnetic, almost zero vibrations</p>	<p>ELECTRIC</p> <p>Zero gas + oil, electric gets cleaner w/ the grid</p>
<p>SUSTAINABLE</p> <p>No pollution in soil, water, air + atmosphere</p>	<p>RECHARGEABLE</p> <p>No bottles, cans, trash, spills, evaporation</p>	<p>EFFICIENT</p> <p>Super low friction, low heat, 90% efficient</p>	<p>SIMPLE</p> <p>Far fewer parts, far less maintenance</p>	<p>PROFITABLE</p> <p>Very low cost operation means a healthy ROI</p>

SB-54-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2023 12:56:24 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/21/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tony frascarelli	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Let's get rid of these menaces to our hearing health.

A why an implementation date of 7/2050. Must be done legislatures idea of a joke. At 73 years young I'd like to see gasoline powered leaf blowers banned before I'm dead.

To: The Honorable Chair Nicole Lowen, the Honorable Vice Chair Elle Cochran, and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection.

From: Ted Bohlen

Re: Hearing **SB54 SD1 RELATING TO GASOLINE-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS**

Hearing: Tuesday, March 21, 2023, 9:30 a.m.

Aloha Chair Lowen , Vice Chair Cochran, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection:

Thank you for hearing this important bill relating to noisy gasoline-powered leaf blowers. I **strongly support** the bill's intent to regulate noisy leaf blowers, but **recommend that the bill be amended consistent with its intent to reduce noise pollution.**

Noise interferes with communication, sleep and work. The U.S. EPA says that noise degrades quality of life by impairing communication and social interaction; reducing the accuracy of work, particularly complex tasks; and creating stressful levels of frustration and aggravation that last even when the noise has ceased.

Although the title of the bill refers to gasoline-powered leaf blowers, the bill as amended does not regulate gasoline use or air-pollution. There would be a legal concern if the bill instead attempted to regulate based on air pollution because Hawaii is not exempt from preemption under the federal Clean Air Act section 177.

Instead, the bill appropriately is a regulation **to restrict noisy two-stroke engine leaf blowers in the urban land use district** where the noise pollution impact is greatest. The bill defines "Gasoline-powered leaf blower" as any leaf blower that is powered by a two-stroke internal combustion engine. The bill does not ban the **sale** of gasoline leaf blowers or the **operation** of leaf blowers **except in the urban land use district.**

To further clarify the bill's intent to restrict noise pollution, the definition of gasoline-powered leaf blowers should be amended to explicitly reflect reasonable noise limits as follows:

"Gasoline-powered leaf blower" means any leaf blower that is powered by a two-stroke internal combustion engine that is rated for noise emissions of greater than 65 decibels at a distance of 50 feet.

Please pass this bill with that amendment!

Thank you for considering this amendment and for the opportunity to testify.

Ted Bohlen

SB-54-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 2:50:27 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/21/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Schiltz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

As an individual citizen on Maui, I am troubled daily by the use of gasoline-powered leaf blowers. I live in a beautiful community in Kihei where I can keep my windows open all the time and listen to the beautiful sounds of Maui and feel the fresh air throughout the house. However, about every morning a nearby neighbor has a landscaping company use these incredibly loud and smelly leaf blowers. Our house stinks of gasoline every morning from these horrible machines.

There is a great deal of valid scientific research that proves the use of these leaf blowers negatively affect the atmosphere and can generate much more carbon dioxide than gas powered vehicles generate. Additionally, there is proven science showing the linkage of these leaf blowers to health issues such as cancer, asthma, heart disease and hearing loss. California will be phasing out gas-powered leaf blowers after it discovered that gas leaf blowers and related lawn care equipment emit more ozone pollution than all of California's tens of millions of cars, *combined*.

There are other options for landscaping companies. Please consider voting for this bill.

Mahalo,

Jennifer Schiltz

SB-54-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 5:55:25 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/21/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenny Kaulupali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We are subjected to so much noise, whether at home, work or just out and about. Let's force the industry to come up with better solutions. There is no reason these tools should not be improved. It will improve the quality of all our lives. Who would be against that?

Thank you

SB-54-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 9:01:56 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/21/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Molly Patrick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill.

Gas powered leaf blowers are noisy, ineffective and bad for the environment. Maui is better than this. My neighbor has their yard done once a week and the leaf blowers literally blow the leaves from one side of the street to the other. I work from home and the noise is such a headache. Plus, it produces unnecessary emissions. Please, let's gas gas-powered leaf blowers and follow the way most of the world deals with this, with brooms.

SB-54-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 10:12:48 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/21/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fred Spanjaard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

PLEASE vote to pass this bill