

SB 54



SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

February 3rd, 2008, 2:45 P.M.

Room 225

(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 54

Chair Gabbard and members of the committee:

The Blue Planet Foundation supports Senate Bill 54, giving boards of directors authority to install or allow the installation of solar energy or wind energy devices on the common elements of condominiums. This common sense measure will encourage further adoption of energy- and money-saving clean energy devices and move Hawai'i closer to energy independence.

Blue Planet believes Hawaii's clean energy future will be largely decentralized and diversified, meaning our power will be generated from a variety of sources across the islands. Putting our rooftop spaces to work collecting solar energy will likely be a significant source of tomorrow's energy. The most populated parts of the state receive between 450 and 500 calories of solar radiation per square centimeter every day¹. To put into perspective, an average rooftop space of 1100 square feet receives the energy equivalent of approximately 15 gallons of gasoline daily. Common areas of condominiums or other shared living structures are likely much larger and could produce substantial amounts of power—if they are put to work.

Enabling associations to install solar or wind devices or lease their common area space for such a purpose is smart clean energy policy.

It appears that SB 54 is very similar to SB 606. Blue Planet does not have a preference as to which is forwarded.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

¹ State of Hawai'i (2003). Hawaii Statewide GIS Program Solar Radiation Maps.



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SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

February 3, 2009, 2:45 P.M.

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 54

Chair Gabbard and members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, with 5500 dues paying members statewide, supports SB 54, which ensures that condominium board of directors have the choice to save money and energy by installing solar and wind devices on common elements.

This measure is a logical extension to the bill passed into law in 2005 prohibiting restrictions that prevented individuals from installing solar energy devices on houses or townhomes that they own. Large common areas, such as laundry or exercise facilities, could help decentralize our energy system and allow condominium boards to fulfill their fiduciary duties by saving on electrical expenses. In short, SB 54 removes yet another barrier to local residents doing the right thing for the environment and the economy.

It appears that SB 54 is similar to SB 606. The Sierra Club does not have a preference as to which bill is forwarded.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.