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**SENATE COMMITTEES ON TRANSPORTATION & ENERGY
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION & HEALTH**

February 11, 2016, 2:48 P.M.

Room 229

(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2950

Aloha Chairs Inouye and Baker, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Kidani and members of the Committees:

Blue Planet Foundation supports SB 2950, which authorizes the public benefits fee to be used to install and upgrade electric power infrastructure to facilitate the use of electric vehicles in multi-family units.

Blue Planet Foundation as part of the Hawaii EV Partnership participated in the DBEDT working group convened during the latter half of the 2015 under direction by the legislature to examine issues and challenges related to the installation of electric vehicle charging facilities, or EVSE, in multi-unit dwellings.

During the working group meetings, it was generally agreed that due to the large variability of costs and challenges between different apartments and condominiums, it was not desirable to pursue any kind of mandates for installing EVSE. Instead, it was agreed that the state should pursue financial incentives to make it easier and less expensive for buildings to install EV charging. The working group identified the public benefits fee (PBF) as an appropriate existing source of funding that could serve this purpose.

As we bring an increasing amount of wind and solar onto the grid, it is expected that the demand for energy storage is going to substantially increase. EVs will be able to serve as a tremendous source of energy storage to capture the excess solar energy that is expected during daytime hours. The large-scale deployment of EVs needs to be a key priority for the electricity sector and therefore, it is appropriate to use the PBF to help facilitate the expansion of EVs and EVSE.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.