

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

FRIDAY, March 30, 2007
3:00 P.M.
Conference Room 308
Copies: 45

SB 1718 HD1 RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS FOR ELECTRICAL GENERATION ON THE ISLAND OF MAUI.

Aloha Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee,

I am absolutely against spending public funds, my money, to assist a company that cannot prove it will be able to operate sustainably in our state at any point in the near future. Until Blue Earth can demonstrate the capacity to produce energy from **local** sources/crops, without draining our water supplies, I see no reason to give them a hand out. Setting up a facility that will run on imported palm oil is a losing proposition all around. This will use MORE energy and would produce MORE greenhouse gases on the whole.

And what would Honolulu's favorite couple, Rusti and Violet, the Honolulu Zoo's orangutans say about Blue Earth's plans? They'd be the first to demand an end to using imported palm oil because the rampant growth of these palm oil plantations is the **single greatest threat** to their rainforest habitat. Many more orangutans like Rusti and Violet will die or be left to languish in cages for years if their home continues to be destroyed. You can read about this on the sign right there at the zoo. People are also being displaced from these forests.

Do you want to tell your grandchildren you sent their allowance money to Blue Earth so that they can ship in palm oil from decimated orangutan forests?

There is no reason to rush support to unproven ventures when we have so many superior alternatives that could be developed. We should be supporting stronger conservation measures, and energy sources such a solar, wind, wave, ocean thermal, and even other biofuel technologies that we already have in abundance and operating locally.

Please stop this bill until Blue Earth is better prepared with a viable plan.

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