



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

Hawaii Chapter, Maui Group
P.O. Box 791180, Paia, HI 96779



To: Senate Sergeant-at-Arms, Fax 1-800-586-6659 Please provide 30 copies.

NOT IN SUPPORT OF HB1912

**Re: HB 1912, Scheduled to be heard for decision-making Tuesday, March 20, 2:45 p.m.,
Conference Room 414**

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY and ENVIRONMENT Senator Menor, Chair, Senator Hooser, Vice Chair

**HB 1912 RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS FOR
ELECTRICAL GENERATION ON THE ISLAND OF MAUI.**

**Authorizes special purpose revenue bonds to BlueEarth Maui Biodiesel, LLC, for construction
of a biodiesel refinery on Maui.**

**To: Senators Ron Menor, Gary L. Hooser, Les Ihara, Jr., Russell S. Kokubun and Gordon
Trimble and members.**

I am the Chair of the Hawaii Chapter of The Sierra Club, Maui Group and Chapter Conservation Chair. **I urge you not to support HB1912.** The proposal is not sustainable and will rely on at minimum 40 million gallons (up to 120 million) of oils from sources (Tropical Palm Oil and South American soybean oils) which are responsible for the destruction of the worlds last great rain forests, often called the lungs of the planet. The destruction of these forests thru slash, burn and wetland draining methods are the worlds third largest producer (8%) of CO2 gases and thus global warming. Not to mention the dissastourous consequences to the incredible biotic and ecological diversity that these areas represent.

The size of the proposal is simply not sustainable and would actually harm, rather than encourage local biofuel production by 1) creating a monopoly for one entity rather than encourage local based industries using local labor, 2) encourage the importation of vegetable oils from countries using cheap foreign labor with no labor laws, 3) put in jeopardy the ability of Hawaii agricultural lands to provide for sustainable food production and food security and 4) because of the huge quantity of demand for oils to the blue earth processing plant, this continues Hawaii's reliance upon energy imports rather than sustainable local production.

It is more important at this time for the State Legislature to promote and fund the development of research into the viability of oil seed energy crops that can be locally grown. Money spent at this time on research into demonstration crops and biodiesel for transportation solutions is money better spent.

Lance Holter, tele 808-579-9442