

Honolulu, Hawaii

Feb 10, 2006

RE: H.B. No. 2819

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2006
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred H.B. No. 2819
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DECABROMODIPHENYLETHER,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to protect the public health by
banning the manufacture, sale, and distribution of a chemical
flame retardant, known as decabromodiphenylether.

Specifically, the bill would prohibit the manufacture, sale,
and distribution of televisions, computers, upholstered indoor
furniture, mattresses, and mattress pads containing commercial
decabromodiphenylether. It also authorizes the Department of
Health to grant certain product exemptions if the Department finds
that a safer, technically feasible alternative to commercial
decabromodiphenylether is not available. Finally, the bill
requires the Department of Health to submit its findings and
recommendations to the 2007 Regular Session of the Legislature on
the availability of safer alternatives for the products prohibited
from sale by this bill, including any additional evidence of
potential harm posed by commercial decabromodiphenylether.

The Department of Health supported the bill, with amendments.
The Bromine Science and Environmental Forum testified in
opposition.

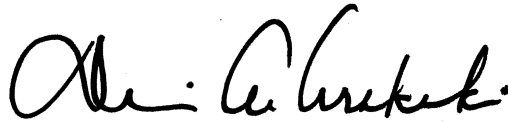
Your Committee finds that decabromodiphenylether is a
chemical flame retardant that is harmful to our environment and



can cause serious health problems, especially for fetuses and young children. Recognizing the dangers posed by the accumulation of polybrominated diphenyl ethers in the environment, the Legislature, in 2004, prohibited the manufacture, processing, and distribution of two of these chemicals because of their potential to cause public health problems. As the only remaining polybrominated diphenyl ether that continues to be used as a flame retardant in products sold to consumers, your Committee finds that banning decabromodiphenylether would benefit public health and protect our environment.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2819 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Health,



DENNIS A. ARAKAKI, Chair



