

Harry Kim
Mayor



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February 6, 2008

The Honorable Hermina Morita
Chair, Committee on Energy
and Environmental Protection
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Morita and Committee Members:

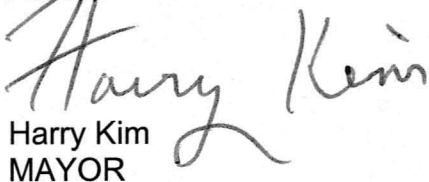
Re: HB 2711

I would like to join my fellow Mayors in asking your support for HB 2711 which proposes to take excess revenues from the beverage container deposit special fund and distribute it among the counties.

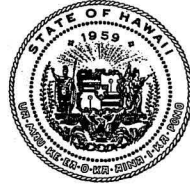
In Hawai'i County, it is our Department of Environmental Management that runs our landfills and transfer stations, and has a most direct interest in promoting recycling. With additional revenue, Environmental Management could expand its recycling program and look for innovative ways to meet the same goals for which the beverage container deposit legislation was passed. HB 2711 would seem to be an excellent way in which the counties can partner with the state to achieve a common goal.

I hope for your favorable action on HB 2711.

Aloha,



Harry Kim
MAYOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

H.B. 2711,

**Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health**

**February 7, 2008
8:30 AM**

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health respectfully opposes this measure.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** Unquantified

3 **Purpose and Justification:** This bill would authorize the Department of Health (DOH) to distribute
4 excess monies in the deposit beverage container (DBC) special fund, as determined by the Legislative
5 Auditor, to the counties to support the establishment and maintenance of county-run recycling programs.

6 As we have the fiduciary responsibility for the fund, DOH should determine how much is needed
7 for operations and reserves, instead of the Legislative Auditor. We also recommend that the
8 administration of the fund remain in a single agency, instead of being shared by both DOH and the
9 auditor, for clarity of responsibility and simplicity of operations. We are accountable; our fund's books
10 remain available to the auditor, as they have been in the past, and we report annually to the legislature.

11 Our annual report is online. <http://gen.doh.hawaii.gov/sites/LegRpt/2008/default.aspx>.

12 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

13

Betty Kamida
1461 Ala Mahamoe Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Ph: 839-5336

Hermína Morita, Chair
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Conference Room 312
Thursday, February 7, 2008 at 8:30 a.m.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2711

Honorable Chair Morita and Committee Members:

As a private citizen who is concerned about the environment, I have been advocating for recycling containers in public places. I attended a City Council meeting yesterday afternoon in which City Council Bill 83 was discussed concerning that same issue. City Recycling Coordinator Suzanne Jones and Dept. of Environmental Services Director Eric Takamura opposed the bill, although they supported the intent of it. They felt it was too “rigid” as written, and cited a list of things they needed to do to implement recycling in our City parks, including obtaining appropriate containers. Jones mentioned possibly needing an inter-governmental agreement with the State to obtain HI-5 funds to purchase those containers. Obviously, this is just more red tape keeping us from getting up to speed with the rest of the country in efforts towards sustainability. It’s hard to believe that in 2008, we still don’t offer recycling in public places such as our heavily-used parks.

If HB 2711 will help our counties implement more recycling programs and do it efficiently, it is something we need to pass without delay. Thank you for your consideration of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Betty Kamida