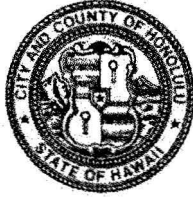


DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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MUFI HANNEMANN
MAYOR



February 6, 2008

ERIC S. TAKAMURA, Ph.D., P.E.
DIRECTOR

KENNETH A. SHIMIZU
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

ROSS S. TANIMOTO, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

IN REPLY REFER TO:
RA 08-012

The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Committee on Economic Development and Business Concerns
State Representative
State Capitol, Room 402
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: H.B. NO. 2784, RELATING TO SHOPPING CARTS

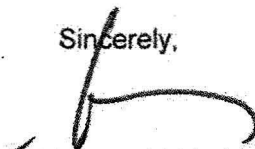
Dear Representative Yamashita:

Although the City and County of Honolulu, Department of Environmental Services, supports the intent behind H.B. No. 2784, which is to address the problem of abandoned shopping carts, we oppose the method of addressing that problem which is set forth in the bill.

The bill would allow the City and County Refuse Division to confiscate abandoned shopping carts and impose fees for pick-up or recycling. The collection, storage, notification, billing, collection and all other related duties that would be imposed on us by such a program would require considerable resources and not be cost effective even if fees were imposed. We are willing to pick up abandoned shopping carts that are at curbside within the public right of way, as part of our bulky item service. However, we would not pick up carts that appear to be in use by the homeless.

In lieu of the program proposed in the bill, we recommend that cart owners be encouraged to establish programs to prevent their carts from being removed from their immediate area of operations, similar to what is presently being accomplished at the Pali Longs/Safeway Shopping Center and other places of business.

Sincerely,


Eric S. Takamura, Ph.D., P.E.
Director

TESTIMONY – BY WRITTEN COMMENTS ONLY

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 2784, Relating To Shopping Carts

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS CONCERNS

DATE: Thursday, February 7, 2008
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
LOCATION: Hawaii State Capitol Room 325
TESTIFIER: Bellit Santa-Elena de Gracia, MA
POSITION: Support with amendments

Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

The purpose of this measure is to facilitate the removal of abandoned shopping carts from Hawaii communities by allowing the refuse division of any county with a population greater than 500,000 persons to confiscate abandoned shopping carts and authorizing the county to impose a \$50 pick-up fee or a \$100 recycling fee.

I support the intent of this measure as shopping carts often appear in residential areas such as Royal Kunia and remain for extended periods of time on the road or overturned on the ground, projecting a ghetto-like image to an otherwise clean and orderly community. As the wife of a retired United States Air Force colonel, I have lived in numerous states and communities all around the Continental United States and I have never experienced a problem such as that which confronts the people of Oahu regarding abandoned shopping carts. I am offended by the lack of social responsibility and the reckless disregard for community beauty demonstrated by those who steal shopping carts and leave them left to rot all over the island. Government must take action in this matter in the absence of public responsibility and decorum.

I do take issue, however, with the bill's current language which stipulates that a shopping cart owner will be penalized \$100 if they do not recover their carts from recycling centers within forty-five days, and would like to suggest that be removed from the draft.

I thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Testimony of Rev. Daniel Paul de Gracia, II, MA
Concerned Citizen

In Support Of:

H.B. NO. 2784, RELATING TO SHOPPING CARTS
House Committee On Economic Development and Business Concerns
Thursday, February 7, 2008, 9:00 AM
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 325

Mr. Chairman:

The purpose of this measure is to allow abandoned shopping carts to be confiscated by the refuse division of any county with a population greater than 500,000 and to allow the county to impose a \$50 pick-up fee or a \$100 recycling fee upon the shopping cart owners.

I strongly support H.B. 2784 and urge the members of the committee to pass this bill.
Thank you for this opportunity to testify.