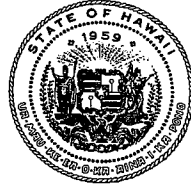


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LATE
CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

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

3:30 p.m.

1 **Department's Position:** We support the intent of reducing pollution but have reservations and
2 respectfully oppose the bill.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** \$750,000 initial year funding from the Environmental Response Revolving Fund
4 (ERRF).

5 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this bill is to prohibit the use of disposable food service
6 ware that contains polystyrene foam by commercial, non-profit, and government entities.

7 The Department of Health supports the reduction of harmful chemicals in the outdoor and indoor
8 environment and foods. We share concerns about styrene. We note that the science on styrene is still
9 developing, as page 2 of the bill acknowledges. The actual health risk to food has uncertainties. Some
10 foods have styrene already. Some studies show that heating foods in styrofoam causes greater leaching
11 from container to food. As to air pollution, while incinerating and otherwise disposing of polystyrene
12 may result in the creation of byproduct chemical compounds, all municipal waste landfills, and the H-
13 Power incinerator are department permitted facilities. As such, they employ either emission control or

1 monitoring programs, and in many cases, both. We do not have data on styrene emissions from
2 permitted facilities, however.

3 As a general matter, we also favor moving away from disposables to the prevention of waste and
4 recycling. This is also State policy in HRS §342G-2. As a general matter, we agree that nothing that
5 can be reused or recycled should be disposed of in landfills. We know that this poses special challenges
6 for the fast food industry, and so the practical impact of this bill on the food industry, and ultimately
7 consumers needs close examination. We want alternatives to be available and better than what they
8 replace. The manufacturing and grocery industries should be engaged in the process of developing more
9 environmentally friendly containers.

10 The bill calls for a large appropriation from the ERRF, which we oppose. The ERRF already
11 supports important activities. Any appropriations should not adversely affect the priorities in the
12 executive supplemental budget request.

13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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