



**To: Senator Russell S. Kokubun, Chair
Senator David Y. Ige, Vice Chair
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Affordable Housing**

**Fr: Terry G. Telfer, President
Reynolds Recycling**

Date: Friday, February 8, 2008, Room 229, 9:00 AM

Re: Testimony against SB 2627, Relating to Copper Purchases

Reynolds Recycling is opposed to SB 2627, Relating to Copper Purchases in its current form.

Aloha. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Reynolds Recycling operates the largest network of redemption and scrap metal recycling centers in Hawaii. We believe that Reynolds, and other reputable recycling center operators have continued to insure that all purchases of copper follow the law. The implementation of HB 1246 last year mandated notarized proofs of ownership. The new law is working. Reynolds has helped law enforcement officials catch several thieves over the past year.

Most of our customers are residential recyclers, bringing in small amounts of copper from home remodel projects. Most have still not heard of the new law regarding copper sale, and when they do, they decide that getting a notarized form to prove ownership is odious and not worth their while.

While the current copper law has made an impact on copper sales, much of that burden has been born by the recycler. Recently, Reynolds helped local law enforcement to catch a copper thief. He was released the same day. The next day he came to another Reynolds Recycling location, our buyer there called the police and he was apprehended before he left our premise. Three days later, he was caught again at one of our competitor locations! In a weeks time he was *arrested three times* and *released 3 times*. Clearly, putting the thieves away is the only solution that will keep the thieves off the street, not new laws.

Additionally, Reynolds has no problem with issuing checks for all copper purchases. Currently, many of our copper sales are by check. However, holding checks for 21 days is inappropriate and would cause an unnecessary burden on all of our customers and employees. Having to retain, track and monitor mailing times, addressing, stop payments for lost checks, sending people daily to the post office, dramatically adds to the cost of doing business. We strongly oppose this portion of SB2627.

As a leader in Hawaii's recycling industry, Reynolds Recycling remains committed to protecting Hawaii's future by recycling today, and supports measures that increase public safety and confidence in the recycling system.

We oppose SB 2627 in its current form. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 487-2802, if you have any questions or concerns.

Terry G. Telfer, President
Reynolds Recycling, Inc.