

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
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MAYOR



BOISSE P. CORREA
CHIEF

PAUL D. PUTZULU
MICHAEL O. TUCKER
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE KK-MK

March 10, 2008

The Honorable Robert N. Herkes, Chair
and Members
Committee on Consumer Protection
and Commerce
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Herkes and Members:

Subject: Senate Bill No. 2627, S.D. 1, Relating to Copper Purchases

I am Major Kurt Kendro of District 5 (Kalihi) of the Honolulu Police Department, City and County of Honolulu.

The Honolulu Police Department does not support Senate Bill No. 2627, S.D. 1, Relating to Copper Purchases. This bill would require that scrap dealers pay sellers of copper by check which may be mailed or picked up by the individual selling the copper.

Many copper thieves are looking for instant payment. Not having a waiting period for the payment provides instant gratification to the seller as the scrap dealer may pay the individually at the time of purchase. Removing the waiting period for the issuance of the check to the seller that was in the earlier versions of this bill provides no deterrent effect to the copper thief.


House Bill 2589, H.D. 2, has a five-day waiting period attached to the requirement of scrap metal dealers paying the sellers of copper by check which must be mailed to the seller. The Honolulu Police Department believes that this is the more appropriate way to provide deterrence to potential copper thieves.

We urge you not to pass Senate Bill No. 2627, S.D.1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,


KURT KENDRO, Major
District 5

APPROVED:


For BOISSE P. CORREA
Chief of Police

Serving and Protecting With Aloha

00117

mckelvey3

From: Bruce Iverson [biverson@reynoldsrecycling.com]
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2008 5:13 PM
To: CPCtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of SB2627 SD1
Attachments: image001.png



To: Rep. Robert N. Herkes, Chair
Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair
Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Fr: Terry G. Telfer, President
Reynolds Recycling

Date: Monday, March 10, 2008, Room 325, 2:00 pm

Re: Testimony in favor of SB 2627 SD1, Relating to Copper Purchases

Reynolds Recycling supports SB 2627 SD1, 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.

Reynolds has no problem with issuing checks for all copper purchases. Currently, many of our copper sales are already by check.

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 support SB 2627 SD1.

Terry G. Telfer, President
Reynolds Recycling, Inc.

00118

3/10/2008

March 07, 2008

Robert A. Okuda, MGR
Okuda Metal, Inc.
1804 Kahai Street
Honolulu, HI 96819
(808)845-6856

House of Representatives
Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Testimony in support of SB2627 SD1

To the honorable members of the CPC committee:

I am very grateful for the opportunity to testify on this bill. Since the passing of HB 1246 and putting Act 197 into effect in 2007, we have not experienced a decline in the theft of copper and other **non-ferrous** metals with value. **Non-ferrous means no iron or steel content** and include copper, brass, aluminum, stainless steel alloys and zinc. For example, there were highways that had underground insulated copper wire stolen in large quantities on two separate occasions in the last six to seven months. Schools, churches, businesses and homes continue to suffer property damage and financial grief from this type of theft. Cemeteries have had many bronze (not copper) vases stolen from their plots. Just this past February, a bronze sculpture of a nesting sea turtle was stolen in Kihei Maui. We also helped HPD in a stainless steel theft about 20 months ago. It is our understanding that this type of theft is very difficult to prosecute.

The underlying reason why thieves steal copper is the access to "fast cash". Cash payments have been the norm in the scrap metal recycling business. There are only six recyclers who buy copper on Oahu and we compete with each other for business. Competition forces us to pay with cash. Most of our transactions are done with people and businesses involved with construction and demolition. "Cash" has always been our way of business and we only pay by check when it is requested by the customer. Thieves gravitate to "fast cash".

Please help us transform our industry into a more respectable and safer one by making it unlawful to pay for **non-ferrous metal** in cash. Issuing checks will slow the payment process and also create an audit trail that could help law enforcement in their investigations. The current amendment calls for check payments for copper only. If this new requirement is limited to copper only, thieves would look to other non-ferrous metals to obtain cash.

Please amend this bill to have this check payment requirement to apply to purchases of **all non-ferrous metals** and not only for copper. Again, non-ferrous means **no iron or steel content**. Non-ferrous includes but are not limited to copper, brass, aluminum, stainless steel, alloys and zinc. All non-ferrous metal prices have risen along with copper.

Payments by check will be an effective addition to the current requirements in HRS 445-233.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Sincerely


Robert A. Okuda

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