

testimony

From: Bruce Iverson [biverson@reynoldsrecycling.com]
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2008 6:46 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in favor of SB 2627 SD1

To: **Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair**
Senator Clayton Hee, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

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

Date: **Monday, February 25, 2008, Room 016, 10:00 AM**

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

Reynolds Recycling supports SB 2627 SD1, Relating to Copper Purchases.

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.

testimony

From: Robert Okuda [robokuda002@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Sunday, February 24, 2008 6:44 PM
To: testimony
Subject: SB2627 SD1 Testimony

February 24, 2008

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

The Senate
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing on Monday, February 25, 2008 @ 10am in Conference Room 016 Testimony in support of
SB 2627 SD1

To the honorable members of the JDL 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 metal means no iron or steel which includes copper, brass, aluminum, stainless steel and other alloys. For example, there were highways that had underground insulated copper wire stolen in large quantities on two separate occasions in the last five to six months. Schools, churches, businesses and homes continue to suffer property damage and financial grief from this type of theft. It is our understanding that this type of theft is very difficult to prosecute against.

The underlying reason why thieves steal copper is the access to cash. "Fast cash" payments are 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 come from 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 the opportunity to get "fast cash".

Please help us transform this industry into a more respectable one by making it unlawful to pay for all non-ferrous metal in cash. Payment by checks will slow the payment process and also create more audit trails that could help law enforcement in their investigations.

It would be very befitting to mandate payments by check for all non-ferrous metal and not only limited to copper. Brass is a metal that is stolen from cemeteries in the form of vases. There are many reported and unreported cases. We have often turned away people with such items.

There was also a case in which someone stole a large piece of stainless steel in which we successfully help prosecute only because a serial number was present.

Again, the underlying reason why people steal these items is the access to "fast cash".

Please include all non-ferrous metals in your amendments to HRS 445-233.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Sincerely,
Robert A. Okuda