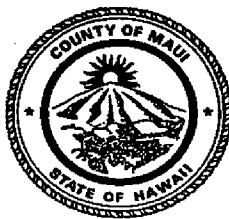


CHARMAINE TAVARES
Mayor

CHERYL K. OKUMA, Esq.
Director

GREGG KRESGE
Deputy Director



DAVID TAYLOR, P.E.
Wastewater Reclamation Division

TRACY N. TAKAMINE, P.E.
Solid Waste Division

LATE

**COUNTY OF MAUI
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT**

2200 MAIN STREET, SUITE 175
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793

February 11, 2008

The Honorable Ron Menor, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy
and Environment

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Tourism
and Government Operations
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: SB 2711-RELATING TO INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE
MANAGEMENT;Hearing: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 at 2:45 p.m.**

Dear Chair Menor, Chair Nishihara, and Members:

I am Cheryl K. Okuma, Director of the Department of Environmental Management, County of Maui, and am submitting testimony in support of SB 2711. This legislation would allow the State Department of Health to distribute excess money from the deposit beverage container special fund to the counties for the purpose of establishing and maintaining the counties' recycling programs.

Supporting our recycling efforts in this manner would divert waste from our waste stream and extend the capacity of our landfills. SB 2711 will support our efforts to promote, maintain and expand our recycling programs within our County. For example, the return of excess deposit beverage container funds would allow the County of Maui to expand the capacity of our recycling/redemption centers, lease or purchase land in order to increase the number recycling/redemption centers and make them more available to the community, and purchase recycling containers for distribution within the County. These funds could also be used to implement educational programs that would promote recycling efforts in our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments and your favorable consideration of SB 2711.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cheryl K. Okuma".

Cheryl K. Okuma
Director, Department of Environmental Management