

SCR 219

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LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU
State of Hawaii
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COMMENTS ON SCR 219

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO EXAMINE THE EXISTING WASTE TO ENERGY PROGRAM ON OAHU AS IT RELATES TO THE COLLECTION OF A DEDICATED RECYCLING STREAM OF PLASTICS FOR CONVERSION TO ENERGY

Testimony by the Legislative Reference Bureau
Ken H. Takayama, Acting Director
or Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi, Assistant Director for Research

Presented to the Senate Committees on Energy and Environment
and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Monday, March 24, 2008, 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 229

Chairs Menor and Inouye and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on S.C.R. No. 219. The Bureau takes no position for or against this measure but offers the following comments.

The resolution directs the Bureau to examine the existing waste to energy program on Oahu as it relates to the collection of a dedicated recycling stream of plastics for conversion to energy.

As presently drafted, the scope of the study requested in this measure appears to be manageable.

Accordingly, if this measure is to pass, we request that it not be modified in any way, as attempts to "clarify" a measure may have the unintended effect of broadening the scope of a requested study in a way that makes it unmanageable.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify.



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March 24, 2008

To: Senate Committee on Energy & Environmental
Senator Ron Menor, Chair / Senator Gary L. Hooser, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair / Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

By: Richard C. Botti, Pres. Or Lauren Zirbel, Gov't Relations

Re: SCR 219 & SR 130 Requesting LRB to examine Waste To Energy Programs as they related to the Collection of a Dedicated Recycling Stream of Plastics to Energy

Chairs & Committee Members:

We support these resolutions as being a positive step towards utilizing a resource that is becoming more valuable each day.

Please consider that a ton of plastic would be equal to approximately 6 barrels of oil. This is based on the formula that oil is 8 pounds per gallon, as is PE resin that is used to make plastic bags.

Plastic bags, polystyrene and shrink wrap generated by commercial establishments and warehouses can easily be separated and collected for use as an energy supply. All that is needed is marketing plan and a small inducement.

Commercial establishments now pay \$80 a ton tipping fee to dispose of waste plastics. Some larger firms bail the plastic, containerize it and backhaul it to the Mainland where it can be recycled. With oil at \$110 per barrel, every 336 pounds of plastic is worth it's weight in oil. Plastic has a higher BTU than coal, further adding to the benefit of plastic as a fuel.

The sooner we start utilizing this unclaimed resource, the closer we will come to solving our energy dependence issues.