

SR68

Measure Title:

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO INVESTIGATE THE RISKS INVOLVED IN THE USE OF BISPHENOL-A AND PHTHALATES IN CONSUMER PRODUCTS, INCLUDING CHILDREN'S TOYS AND CHILDCARE PRODUCTS.

Report Title:

Toxic Consumer Products; Phthalates; Bisphenol-A; Child Safety

Companion:

SCR132

Introducer(s):

CHUN OAKLAND, BAKER, IGE, KIM, NISHIHARA

Current Referral:

HTH/HSP

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND ON HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC
HOUSING**

**SR 68, Requesting the Department of Health to Convene a Task Force to Investigate
the Risks Involved in the Use of Bisphenol-A, and phthalates in Consumer Products,
Including Children's Toys and Childcare Products**

**Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health**

**March 28, 2008
1:30 P.M.**

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health respectfully opposes the measure on the basis that it
2 is unnecessary and premature.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department estimates that it would require at least one additional full time
4 staff member to complete the task. The Department or any other agency assigned to study the issues,
5 such as the Legislative Reference Bureau, will need supplemental financial support to implement the
6 resolution. We ask that the Legislature instead support the priorities contained in the executive
7 supplemental budget proposal.

8 **Purpose and Justification:** The resolution requests that the department convene a task force to
9 investigate the risks associated with the use of phthalates and bisphenol-A in consumer products
10 including children's toys and childcare products.

11 The resolution is in part unnecessary and in part premature. For the two compounds, bisphenol-
12 A and phthalates, it is premature to convene a task force to evaluate the health risks. Bisphenol-A and
13 phthalates currently lack sufficient toxicology information to determine whether health effects could

1 possibly occur in people who are exposed to them. For both bisphenol-A and phthalates, the Center for
2 Disease Control and Prevention has concluded that more research is needed to assess the human health
3 effects of these compounds. Again, we do not see that a Hawaii task force would have the expertise or
4 resources to conduct research or analyses that would lead to different conclusions. We see no value for
5 the Department of Health to commit a staff member to convene a task force and prepare a report on
6 these chemicals' possible health risk, when it is known in advance that the body of evidence is
7 insufficient. We will continue to monitor the emerging science on these compounds and talk with other
8 state and federal agencies interested in legislating the use of these chemicals in consumer products.

9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



Memorandum – March 27, 2008

To: The Honorable David Ige, Chair
 Senate Health Committee

 The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
 Senate Human Services and Public Housing Committee

From: Tim Shestek
 Director, State Affairs & Grassroots

Re: **SR 68**

On behalf of the member companies of the American Chemistry Council (ACC), thank you for the opportunity to provide the following comments regarding SR 68.

While ACC appreciates the intent of this resolution, we believe that undertaking a review of chemical products, their use, and any assessment of potential health risks requires a rigorous, science-based, transparent process that includes the participation of qualified scientific experts.

In order to strengthen the scientific underpinnings of any assessment of chemical products, ACC believes the language contained in HCR 153 is a better basis for the creation of any scientific risk assessment of phthalates, bisphenol-A or, any other chemical compound. HCR 153 contains language that would, among other things:

- Provide a more suitable timeframe of December 31, 2010 for the scientific assessment to be completed;
- Require a review of the scientific reviews and risk assessments conducted by the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission, the European Union, and other independent scientific panels or bodies; and
- Create a Scientific Review Panel of qualified experts in the fields of toxicology and epidemiology among others; and
- Establish an opportunity for public input through workshops and a public comment period.

ACC appreciates the opportunity to submit these comments and looks forward to working with you on this important public policy issue. Should you have any questions or comments please contact our in-state representatives Red Morris and John Radcliffe at 808-531-4551 or you may contact me at 916-448-2581.