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GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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In reply, please refer to:
File:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

HCR 187/HR 153, REQUESTING A STUDY ON CONTROL MEASURES FOR VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUND EMISSIONS FROM PAINT SPRAY BOOTHS USED BY AUTO BODY REFINISHERS

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

March 27, 2009
10:00 a.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports this measure.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

3 **Purpose and Justification:** This resolution asks the Department of Health to study possible ways to
4 regulate and control volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions that come from paint spray booths
5 used by auto body refinishers. The study should include how other states are regulating the VOC
6 emissions from auto body refinishers and also how to best utilize the permitting requirements of the
7 Honolulu Fire Department and the City Department of Planning and Permitting to resolve conflicts.

8 The Department of Health recognizes the problems that can sometime arise in mixed-use areas
9 that contain light industrial activities, commercial businesses, and residential dwellings. The staff does
10 receive and respond to such complaints, some of which involve paint over-sprays and odors from the
11 paint spraying operations of the auto body refinishers. Although the paint over-sprays can be captured
12 by the exhaust filters of the paint spray booth, filters are not effective at controlling the VOC emissions
13 and the source of odors. Finding no reasonable controls for capturing the VOC emissions, other states

1 have regulated VOC emissions through the required use of low VOC paints, alternative equipment, and
2 applicable spraying techniques.

3 The study would help identify the available control measures and practices being employed
4 today to minimize the VOC emissions from the auto body refinishers. The information would be useful
5 in reaching out to and educating the many small business in the field and hopefully minimize any
6 potential neighborhood conflicts.

7 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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