



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

Written Testimony of
Linda L. Smith
Senior Policy Advisor to the Governor

Before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Thursday, February 11, 2010, 10:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 325

H.B. 2556 HD1 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE PRODUCTS

Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman, and members of the Committee:

The Administration supports House Bill 2556 HD1. This bill requires the Department of Education (DOE) to give a procurement preference to environmentally sensitive or "green" cleaning products approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Act 13, First Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2009, required the DOE to give first preference to cleaning products used in public schools that were certified to be environmentally sensitive by the nonprofit organization called Green Seal. This bill amends that law to designate the EPA as the designating authority on "green" cleaning products, rather than Green Seal.

The Administration believes that the State should utilize scientific data and processes from federal agencies when creating procurement preferences for state agencies in order to ensure accuracy and consistency. The EPA has over 30 years of experience and expertise in understanding the impacts of chemicals on people and the environment, and would therefore serve as an appropriate source of information regarding what products are safe for use in schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

Date: 02/11/2010

Committee: House Energy &
Environmental Protection

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn Matayoshi, Interim Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 2556,HD1(HSCR140) RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE PRODUCTS.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the Department of Education to give first preference to environmentally-sensitive cleaning and maintenance products that carry the Design for the Environment label designated by the Design for the Environment Program of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, for use in public schools. (HB2556 HD1)

Department's Position: This bill changes the identifier of environmentally sensitive products from the Green Seal program to the Design for the Environment program of the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The Department of Education has no objection to the HD 1 version of this bill.