

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY GEORGINA K. KAWAMURA  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
STATE OF HAWAII  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 2688

February 22, 2010

**LATE TESTIMONY**

RELATING TO HEALTH

House Bill No. 2688 changes the name of the Environmental Health Education Fund to the Sanitation and Environmental Health Fund and allows the fund to be used for sanitation program activities. This bill also increases the threshold for deposit of excess funds into the general fund.

We oppose this bill. The proposed amendment will limit the flexibility of the Executive Branch to review program funding requirements and allocate funding to programs based on statewide priorities within available resources. The proposed amendment also would not provide any flexibility to account for any adverse fiscal conditions.

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:

**H.B. 2688 S.C.R. 225-10, RELATING TO HEALTH**

**LATE**

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

1 **Department's Position:** Support with amendments.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** The Environmental Health Education Fund, to be renamed, would retain about  
3 \$300,000 to \$450,000 per year that has gone to the general fund.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** The bill raises the current cap on the funds the environmental health special  
5 fund may retain from \$300,000 to \$2,445,000, and broadens the allowable uses of the fund to cover  
6 program activities besides the mandated food education program and administration, activities such as  
7 permit issuance, inspections, and enforcement.

8 DOH supports the improvement of food safety and environmental health services programs in  
9 Hawaii. The Sanitation Branch is responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the statutes,  
10 administrative rules, and polices relating to environmental sanitation. The branch regulates food service  
11 establishments, public swimming pools, milk, tattoo establishments, barber and beauty establishments,  
12 massage establishments, hotels, mortuaries, cemeteries and embalmers. The branch provides educational  
13 services for the food industry and the public. Food sanitation is of special concern as we are finding a  
14 high number of major violations at food establishments during routine inspections. The Sanitation  
15 Branch is and has proven to be a critical component in any rapid response to environmental emergencies  
16 and all hazards disaster relief and assistance.

1           This bill will allow the department to: 1) Fund better staffing levels to provide meaningful and  
2   lasting compliance with food safety and sanitation rules; 2) Move to an electronic, web-based inspection  
3   and permitting process; 3) to introduce new food safety systems, with industry support, such as a  
4   placarding system to notify diners of the recent status of food inspections in all of Hawaii's food  
5   establishments; or a food safety training requirement for food establishment managers, or both, and 4)  
6   increase the number of food handlers who receive food safety education.

7           Because most fees paid into this fund come from food establishment permits, the fund should  
8   support food establishment programs, such as in the Sanitation Branch. This bill clarifies the connection  
9   between the benefits sought and charges made on the users and beneficiaries of the fund.

10          We do recommend the following changes:

11          1. Clarify the expansion of activities covered by the fund. On page 6, lines 1-2, the addition  
12   should read: “(5) Conduct the program activities and functions of the Sanitation Branch, including  
13   permit issuance, inspections, and enforcement.”

14          2. Allow for the acquisition of an adequate, modern computer system by deleting: “,and the  
15   purchase of office and electronic equipment.” On page 6, line 6 and 7. The currently stated cost limit of  
16   \$90,000 is too low for such systems plus support personnel.

17          3. The amount at which special funds pour over into the general fund should be discussed  
18   further. The bill currently raises the amount from \$300,000 to \$2,445,000.

19          4. The effective date for the increase in the pour over dollar amount should also be discussed  
20   further.

21          Thank you for the opportunity to testify.