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In reply, please refer to:
File:

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

HR 165 / HCR 235, Supporting the Phase Out of Production and Importation of Decabromodiphenyl Ether (DECABDE) and All Other Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDEs) in the United States

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

March 18, 2010
10:30 A.M.

**LATE
Testimony**

1 **Department's Position:** Support

2 **Fiscal Implications:** None

3 **Purpose and Justification:** The resolution supports the phase out of production and importation of
4 decabromodiphenyl ether (deca-BDE) and other polybrominated diphenyl ethers and encourages the
5 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to work with minor importers of deca-BDE to end their
6 importation of this product into the United States. On December 17, 2009, the EPA reached an
7 agreement with the two U.S. producers and the largest importer to phase out deca-BDE in the U.S.
8 Hawaii previously enacted legislation to ban the manufacture, processing or distribution of products that
9 contain penta-BDE or octa-BDE and they are no longer produced in the United States.

10 The Department agrees with the need to keep these persistent and potentially toxic compounds
11 out of the environment. In 2008, the Department prepared a report to the Twenty-Fifth Legislature on
12 deca-BDE
13 (<http://oeqc.doh.hawaii.gov/sites/LegRpt/20091/DECA%20Leg%20Report%20Nov%2020%202008%20FINAL.pdf>). The Department noted that based on animal studies, deca-BDE exposure can result in

1 potential health effects and that safer cost effective alternatives to deca-BDE are now available. The
2 Department supports efforts at the federal level to phase out production and importation of deca-BDE in
3 the United States.

4 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.