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STATE OF HAWAII
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In reply, please refer to:
File:

HCR 314
Bill No. HR 152

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

H.C.R. 314/H.R. 152, URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO
DEVELOP A VOUCHER SYSTEM FOR THE COLLECTION OF USED TIRES
TO ADDRESS ILLEGAL DUMPING

Date 3/22
Time 1416

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

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March 23, 2010
10:00 a.m.

Type 1 2 WI

- 1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health respectfully opposes this resolution as written.
- 2 **Fiscal Implications:** Undetermined, but additional staff and resources will be required to develop and
- 3 implement the voucher program.
- 4 **Purpose and Justification:** This bill urges the Department of Health to develop a voucher system for
- 5 used tire collection to address illegal dumping. The resolution also mentions that some tire collection
- 6 services are illegally dumping used tires instead of sending the used tires to recycling facilities.
- 7 DOH generally supports recycling and appreciates the intent of this measure to curb illegal
- 8 dumping of tires. We note that existing law allows for customers who purchase new tires to take back
- 9 their used tires to tire retailers, who are required to accept used tires from customers at the point of sale
- 10 in a quantity at least equal to the number of new tires purchased. State law also allows tire retailers to
- 11 add a disposal fee for the used tire to the final price of a new tire purchased. This fee is typically
- 12 charged. To address the illegal dumping of tires, we encourage tire retailers and wholesalers to work
- 13 with and require tire collectors to submit receipts showing that the used tires went to recycling facilities.

1 State law also does not limit the amount of the tire disposal fee so retailers and wholesalers may adjust
2 them according to local conditions like the price of fuel and transportation costs.

3 A voucher system will require a statutory change. The used tire disposal fees are currently
4 collected not by the Department but by tire retailers. To administer the proposed voucher system, the
5 Department needs authority to collect these disposal fees from retailers, and to pay tire collectors who
6 send tires to recycling facilities. This requires changes to State law.

7 We have practical concerns. The proposed voucher system adds review and enforcement by the
8 Department in an otherwise private business arrangement. This requires more resources for the
9 Department and results in greater delays in payment to tire collectors.

10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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