

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:

## 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.