

SB 715

Regarding SB 715
in Room 225 at 1445 on Thursday, 3 February 2011
Senate Committee on Energy & Environment and Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer
Protection

Chairs Gabbard and Baker and Respected Members of the Committees;

My name is Reg White. I am a recreational boater as well as vice president, retired, of Royal Star Hawaii Transit. Royal Star Hawaii Transit operates a number of limousines and up scale passenger sedans in addition to it's fleet of about 40 diesel powered buses. In being forced to use diluted gasoline these past few years our maintenance costs have increased and our miles per gallon has decreased. The loss in mileage efficiency is the most troubling to us as the fuel costs the same but due to the alcohol dilution it does not have the same energy content per gallon as the undiluted fuel. In all that we can read about the subject we see that the production of the alcohol to dilute the energy of our fuel also causes the price of food to increase in many areas where the land has been given over to alcohol production and taken away from food production, and there seems to be very little savings in oil consumption due to the lower miles per gallon realized from the diluted fuel.

In the recreational boating areas we find the danger is that the fuel in our tanks gets diluted by water that is attracted from the air by the alcohol content in the fuel. The diluted fuel has a very short tank life as a result. This can be very dangerous to a vessel that has water problems in its fuel while offshore. It also requires quite a bit more gallons of fuel to go fishing for the day due to the lower BTU content per gallon of the diluted fuel because boats can never coast, they are going up hill all the time that they are underway. I'm sure this same water problem faces those who leave their vehicle in storage for a time while they go traveling or for those who are part time Hawaii residents.

We have made the experiment and it is not working well for us and there seems to be no true reward for having made the effort to conserve on our oil dependence by diluting our fuel with alcohol.

Respectfully,

Reg White
1540 S. King St
Honolulu, HI 96826-1919
808-222-9794
RawcoHI@cs.com