

HB 786,

HD2



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

H.B. 786, H.D. 2 , RELATING TO SOLID WASTE

**Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Acting Director of Health**

**March 22, 2011
2:45 P.M.**

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health strongly supports this bill.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** Increase solid waste program funding from approximately \$500,000 annually to
3 approximately \$1,000,000 annually.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this bill is to increase the solid waste management
5 surcharge from 35 cents per ton to 70 cents per ton.

6 The department supports the changes proposed by this bill because they will help us address a
7 severe revenue shortfall affecting our solid waste regulatory program as well as adapt to the changing
8 waste management field.

9 Increasing the solid waste management surcharge

10 The solid waste management surcharge is the main funding source for the department's solid
11 waste regulatory program. The current surcharge is 35 cents per ton and is applied to landfills and
12 incinerators, including H-Power. It was instituted in 1993 at a rate of 25 cents per ton and increased to
13 35 cents per ton in 1997. Current revenue is approximately \$525,000 annually based on 1.5 million tons
14 of landfilled and incinerated waste. Current program expenses exceed \$600,000 and are expected to
15 increase in the future. Over the years the program has been able to maintain operations through savings

1 from vacant positions. However, recent reductions in force have reduced positions by 25% and have
2 forced the “borrowing” of personnel from other programs to maintain service levels. Increasing the
3 surcharge to 70 cents per ton will increase revenue to approximately \$1 million annually. This amount
4 would fully fund current program operations and provide longer term program stability.

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

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Testimony for ENE 3/22/2011 2:45:00 PM HB786

Conference room: 225

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Gene Parola

Organization: Unitarian Church

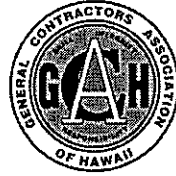
Submitted on: 3/21/2011

Comments:

Solid waste is not a problem that can be solved by the historical methods employed. New efforts must be made to deal with the problem at the same time that we preserve the aina.

Unitarian Church Social Justice Council/

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GCA of Hawaii

GENERAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

Quality People. Quality Projects.

March 22, 2011

TO: THE HONORABLE SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR AND MEMBERS
OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

SUBJECT: H.B.786, HD2 RELATING TO SOLID WASTE.

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Tuesday, March 22, 2011
TIME: 2:45 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 225

Dear Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

The General Contractors Association (GCA), an organization comprised of over five hundred and eighty (580) general contractors, subcontractors, and construction related firms, **opposes** the passage of H.B. 786, HD2 Relating to Solid Waste.

This bill "increases the solid waste management surcharge" from 35 cents to 70 cents per ton of solid waste. (HB 786 would increase the surcharge to 55 cents; HD 1 would increase the surcharge to 65 cents; HD 2 would increase the surcharge to 70 cents.)

We are strongly opposed to any increase in the solid waste management surcharge. This increased surcharge would be passed on to contractors and owners, and raise the cost of all construction projects, such as rail, transit-oriented development, shipyard maintenance, as well as commercial and residential building and renovation. In today's economic situation, increasing construction costs will adversely affect economic recovery.

We are also very concerned about the sudden implementation of this increased cost for construction. Many of our members have existing contracts in place for which Contractors had based their costs on the known disposal costs at the time of the bidding process. Any sudden increase in disposal costs after award of the contract will lead to unanticipated cost increases to the contractors which may not be recovered from the owner.

We recommend that H.B.786, HD2 be held.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

GOODSILL ANDERSON QUINN & STIFEL

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP LLP

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TO: Senator Mike Gabbard
Chair, Committee on Energy and Environment
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 201
Via Email: ENETestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

FROM: Gary M. Slovin

DATE: March 20, 2011

RE: H.B. 786, HD2 – Relating to Solid Waste
Hearing: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 at 2:45 p.m.
Room 225

Dear Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environment:

I am Gary Slovin, testifying on behalf of PVT Land Company, the owner and operator of the PVT Construction and Demolition Landfill (“PVT”) in Nanakuli. PVT owns and operates Oahu’s only landfill for the disposal of construction and demolition debris.

PVT **opposes** H.B. 786, HD 2, Relating to solid waste. This bill increases the solid waste management surcharge from 35 cents to 70 cents per ton of solid waste.

PVT is strongly opposed to any increase in the solid waste management surcharge. PVT operates Oahu’s construction and demolition landfill. If the surcharge is increased, it will have to be passed on to contractors, which will raise the cost of all construction projects.

The increase in the surcharge will increase the cost of disposal at every legal landfill in the State. Any increase in the cost of disposing waste at legal landfills encourages disposing of waste at illegal landfills, already a significant issue even at present rates.

The State’s long-term waste and energy goals can not be achieved unless there is a consistent government effort to support them. Increasing the surcharge undermines the achievement of these goals.

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As implemented by the Department of Health, the surcharge is simply a tax on legal landfills. For these reasons, PVT opposes this bill.

Testimony for ENE 3/22/2011 2:45:00 PM HB786

Conference room: 225

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Michael Gach

Organization: Individual

Submitted on: 3/20/2011

Comments:

I suggest that the plastic bag bans in Maui and Kauai Counties remain intact and are not overridden by the fee.

HB 786 increases the solid waste management surcharge and extends the surcharge to solid waste shipped for ultimate disposal outside the State.

Testimony for ENE 3/22/2011 2:45:00 PM HB786

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: anthony aalto
Organization: Individual
Submitted on: 3/21/2011

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard

Thank you for this opportunity to testify Our landfills are rapidly expiring, the cost of disposing of our opala is rapidly rising. The effect of raising the costs of disposal will be to encourage consumers to reduce the amount of opala that they produce.

I urge you to support this bill
mahalo
anthony aalto

Testimony for ENE 3/22/2011 2:45:00 PM HB786

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Damian Sempio
Organization: Individual
Submitted on: 3/21/2011