

LATE TESTIMONY

Dear Representative James Tokioka:

As a resident and small business owner in the rural county of Kauai I rely on out of state catalog retailers and businesses that use the internet to promote their products, to supply much of my uniforms, specialized equipment, and supplies. This type of interstate commerce allows companies like mine to be able to obtain items that cannot be found in the county of Kauai or within the state of Hawaii. As such, we have no other choice than to shop through mail order catalogs or on the internet.

The problem that I along with everyone else who lives in the states of Hawaii and Alaska face is that we as U.S. citizens are subjected to excessively high shipping fees by these mail order and internet retailers when at the same time the rest of the 48 states are often offered free or very low shipping fees. In other cases some companies who send catalogs to Hawaii and Alaska residents and businesses often refuse to sell some merchandise to residents of the two states simply because we are not a part of the 48 contiguous states.

The U.S. Postal Service offers flat rate shipping nationwide, including Alaska and Hawaii, but despite this fact, these retailers continue to discriminate against the citizens and businesses of the states of Alaska and Hawaii. It is understood that Alaska and Hawaii are remotely located states, however when a retailer based on the west coast of the United States can offer residents along the east coast low or free shipping, it seems quite unreasonable to charge excessively high rates to ship items nearly the same distance to Hawaii or Alaska. For these reasons I respectfully ask for the support of the legislation HCR37 introduced by Rep. James Tokioka.

Testimony for ERB 3/22/2012 9:15:00 AM HCR37

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Miles Tanabe
Organization: Individual
E-mail: NTANABEM@aol.com
Submitted on: 3/22/2012
