



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

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**S.B. 3006, S.D. 2, RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLE TIRES**

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

**March 15, 2012**

**9:00 a.m.**

1 **Department's Position:** The department supports this measure as it will help address ways to  
2 prevent and control an ongoing illegal dumping issue.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** Undetermined, but task force members will seek reimbursement for expenses for  
4 their participation in task force meetings, including travel.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** The department agrees that there is a need to curb illegal dumping of motor  
6 vehicle tires. While the present problem appears to be associated with salvagers and secondary use  
7 markets rather than tire retailers, it is wise to study the issue together with a wide range of stakeholders.

8 We request that the department be given enough time to study ways to address this issue. Since  
9 this measure has already identified key stakeholders, the task force needs time to define the problem,  
10 assess the problem, set goals, select key components of a prevention program (i.e., site maintenance,  
11 outreach, enforcement, and tracking), determine roles and responsibilities, and write the report on its  
12 findings and recommendations to the Legislature. We anticipate monthly meetings for twelve (12)  
13 months, three of which are to develop the report to the Legislature and a final meeting to approve the  
14 draft report.

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

*Promoting Lifelong Health & Wellness*

Sophie Flores Manansala  
Mikilua Community – Waianae  
Representative Denny Coffman - Committee Chair  
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection (EEP)  
**Thursday, March 15, at 9 AM**  
**SB 3006 SD2**

**Testimony-**

Tires, tires, and more tires abandoned and left on streets, littering properties, and posing a health hazard to communities. Tires are an essential requirement to operating our numerous motorized vehicles. Farm equipment, recreational vehicles, our automobiles all utilize tires. But what happens to these tires when they are no longer usable in our lifestyle? We toss them out like bad water. The problem is they don't disappear or dissipate into the air or ground like water. They remain tires in the true form they were made to be.

You can't haul them to the dump without incurring a disposal fee. You can't burn them. You can't bury them or dump them in the ocean because that would be an environmental disaster waiting to happen. So what do we do with all these tires abandoned by society because they have lost their usefulness?

We drive through communities and tires litter the landscape. People dump them in volume creating mountains on the side streets of our community. These tires show a history too. Some tires are large and look like they came from a farm tractor used for years to plow a farm. Some tires are really small, some with rims all rusty and worn. Yes, these tires have lost their usefulness and are a burden to their owners. Thus, these tires are discarded not the proper way because that costs money. These tires are dumped and abandoned because it is FREE – NO CHARGE.

Recently, my community conducted a community clean-up. Our community experienced flooding from streambeds being clogged up with overgrowth of vegetation and debris. Some of the debris included old tires. We collected more than a thousand (1000+) tires from the community clean-up. From the streets alone we collected more than 400 tires. I came away from this clean-up asking myself – Why? What do we do with so many old tires? Who and why are people storing these tires? Where do they all come from? When I need new tires - the tire company retains my old tires. Who is contributing to the litter of tires in my community?

These are questions that everyone needs to ask themselves. If we are going to make a dent in the tire dumping/abandoning problem we need to understand the root of the problem and who and what is the contributing factor(s). Only then, can we effectively attempt to solve the burgeoning problem tires are creating in our community.

I haven't addressed the health hazards of abandoned tires because I am sure the Health Department has all kinds of data supporting the eradication of abandoned tires. I failed to

mention that the tires we photographed were full of water (from the recent rains) where mosquitoes were thriving.

I haven't addressed the environmental hazards of ill disposed of tires. I am sure EPA can produce scientific evidence of all issues pertaining to unlawful disposal of old tires.

I haven't addressed the economic expense to the communities and agencies to dispose of abandoned tires. The City and businesses have data showing the cost of trucks, agencies, manpower to collect and properly dispose of these abandoned tires.

I haven't mentioned the impact to tourists who come to visit our islands and expect to see beautiful beaches and landscapes only Hawaii can offer but see the litter of abandoned tires on streets and roads. What are they thinking about the quality and culture of paradise?

I am soliciting your involvement to come to the aid of our communities to deal with this super real problem of abandoned tires in our community. We cannot proceed without your help. We cannot continually collect these tires to rid them from the streets and roads. We know more tires will replace the ones we pick up. We deplore you to address this problem. Put some "teeth" in the process so people who are committing this act can be stopped. Put some "teeth" into this process that will change the behavior of the community from dumping to respecting the community they live in.

I thank you for reading my testimony. I know with your support and commitment – Tire dumping/littering in our community can be resolved effectively. Do not prove me naïveté in this matter - your community depends on your wise decision and actions.

Sincerely,

Sophie F Manansala  
87-1117A Paakea Rd  
Waianae, HI 96792  
sophiem@hawaii.rr.com  
808-668-7026 (land) 808-542-5025 (cell)

PHOTOS Enclosed

