



Submitted in opposition to HB 404

February 5, 2012

While the intent of HB 404 seems to be a “step in the right direction”, it isn’t. Rather, it represents a further intrusion into the personal lives of our citizens. Certainly, women should not consume alcohol products during pregnancy. As well, they should not eat fatty foods, nor consume excess amounts of salt, nor dine on stacks of pancakes drizzled with maple syrup. Given the logic offered in HB 404 we should then post warning signs on sugar packets, salt shakers, malasada boxes, bentos and bottles of beer and wine. Oh, wait... it’s already there. Well, on the containers of alcohol beverages, anyway

Further, our opposition to the bill is based on what I believe is a profound lack of understanding about what it means to operate a restaurant in Hawaii. Adding the impact of HB 404 to the already is numerous rules and regulations of a food operation is unfair! Soon, the Department of Health will implement their placard system wherein restaurants will be required to display a green, yellow or red sign indicating the “health status” of their restaurant. We support that initiative – but enough is enough. Leave the sugar packets and salt shakers alone.

Finally, I will close with a quotation by a frequent visitor to Hawaii, Mark Twain. He wrote,

“The mania for giving the Government power to meddle with the private affairs of cities or citizens is likely to cause endless trouble, and there is great danger that our people will lose our independence of thought and action which is the cause of much of our greatness, and sink into the helplessness of the Frenchman or German who expects his government to feed him when hungry, clothe him when naked, to prescribe when his child may be born and when he may die, and, in fine, to regulate every act of humanity from the cradle to the tomb, including the manner in which he may seek future admission to paradise.”

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger Morey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Roger Morey
Executive Director