



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

### H.B. 901, RELATING TO SOLID WASTE

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

January 31, 2013  
8:30 a.m.

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

2 **Fiscal Implications:** Increase annual revenue from approximately \$500,000 to \$1,000,000.

3 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this bill is to modify, and increase, the existing solid waste  
4 management surcharge so that it applies to waste-to-energy facilities and facilities that prepare waste for  
5 disposal outside the state of Hawaii.

6 The changes proposed in this bill will help the department address at least two pressing issues for its  
7 solid waste regulatory program.

8 First, and foremost, is the provision of adequate funding for the solid waste program. The surcharge  
9 is the program's primary funding source and was instituted in 1994 at 25 cents per ton. The surcharge is  
10 applied to waste being deposited in the state's landfills and sole incinerator. It was subsequently increased to  
11 35 cents per ton in 1997. The surcharge has not been raised in fifteen years despite a growing workload for  
12 program staff and the loss of 25% of positions due to the 2009 Reduction-In-Force and loss of general funds.  
13 Current annual revenues of approximately \$500,000 are exceeded by staffing costs that are in excess of  
14 \$700,000. The program has maintained operations through savings from vacancies, furloughs, salary

1 reductions, and reduced services. Despite these efforts fund balances are approaching critically low levels.  
2 The situation is now more urgent since our initial request in 2011.

3 The proposed surcharge tiers also address the evolving waste management field and its changing  
4 technologies. For example, the department is aware of waste-to-energy facilities that are proposing to use  
5 new technologies that the current solid waste management surcharge would not apply to. The recent past has  
6 also seen attempts to ship waste out of the state for disposal. The department feels that it is appropriate that  
7 the surcharge be modified to apply to these facilities as they are permitted and regulated by the solid waste  
8 program.

9 Our goal is to create social and physical environments that promote and support good health for all.  
10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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KIRK CALDWELL  
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LORI M.K. KAHIKINA, P.E.  
DIRECTOR DESIGNATE

EDUARDO P. MANGLALLAN  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

ROSS S. TANIMOTO, P.E.  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
WAS 13-25

January 31, 2013

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on  
Energy & Environmental Protection  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Lee and Members:

Subject: House Bill 901, Relating to Solid Waste

The City and County of Honolulu's Department of Environmental Services (ENV) supports adequate funding for the Department of Health's Solid Waste Management programs. House Bill (HB) 901, Relating to Solid Waste, proposes to increase funding for those programs through increases in the solid waste management surcharge.

While we are in full support of adequate funding of the Department of Health's Solid Waste Management programs, we are concerned with funding these regulatory functions through fees on regulated activities rather than through use of State general funds. We would appreciate the committee evaluating the appropriate source of funding for these Department of Health programs during its consideration of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lori M.K. Kahikina", is written over a faint circular stamp.

Lori M.K. Kahikina, P.E.  
Director Designate



# Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

PO Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803  
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## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

January 31, 2013, 8:30 A.M.  
(Testimony is 1 page long)

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 901

Aloha Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawaii Chapter, with over 10,000 dues paying members and supporters statewide, respectfully *supports* HB 901. This measure establishes increases the solid waste management surcharge so as to ensure Department of Health has the resources to enforce and regulate our solid waste laws.

We believe DOH lacks adequate resources to aggressively monitor and enforce existing solid waste laws. Further, DOH lacks the resources to achieve Hawaii's ambitious waste reduction goals. Moving towards reducing waste and all of the associated costs -- shipping, handling, disposal, etc. -- would save everyone money.

We encourage this Committee to move this measure forward.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.