



LATE

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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

HCR 39/HR 21, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO BEGIN MONTHLY TESTING OF PACIFIC OCEAN AND SEAFOOD PRODUCTS AND THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ESTABLISH AN INTERNATIONAL INDEPENDENT COMMISSION OF EXPERTS TO ASSESS THE SAFETY OF AND RISK OF RADIATION IN SEAFOOD PRODUCTS FROM THE PACIFIC OCEAN

Testimony of Linda Rosen, M.D., M.P.H.
Director of Health

March 21, 2014
8:30 A.M.

- 1 **Department's Position:** The Department appreciates the intent of this resolution, but it respectfully
2 opposes the measure. This resolution is unnecessary because the Department has already implemented
3 additional radiation monitoring since March 11, 2011.
- 4 **Fiscal Implications:** Implementation of this measure may require additional funding for sampling and
5 laboratory analysis at a cost of approximately \$600.00 per sample.
- 6 **Purpose and Justification:** The Department has already established enhanced radiation surveillance
7 around the islands in response to the Fukushima nuclear event. This includes continuous air sampling
8 through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Radnet system located in Honolulu;
9 monthly (or as rain capture permits) precipitation sampling; quarterly milk and drinking water sampling;
10 quarterly shoreline surveillance on the Islands of Hawaii, Kauai, Maui and Oahu; and surveying of
11 Japan Tsunami Marine Debris (JTMD), as needed. Trace amounts of radioactive material were detected
12 in air, milk and precipitation samples for a few weeks following the Fukushima event, but were far

1 below levels of public health concern. Levels have long since returned to normal values associated with
2 background radiation. Reports of findings and advisories have been periodically posted to the
3 Department's website since March 14, 2011, along with links for additional resources from various
4 agencies. The most recent website update was on March 12, 2014.

5 With regard to food and seafood safety, the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has no
6 evidence that radionuclides from the Fukushima incident are present in the U.S. food supply at levels
7 that would pose a public health concern. This is true for both FDA-regulated food products imported
8 from Japan and U.S. domestic food products, including seafood caught off the coast of the United States.
9 Consequently, FDA is not advising consumers to alter their consumption of specific foods imported
10 from Japan or domestically produced foods, including seafood. FDA continues to closely monitor the
11 situation at and around the Fukushima Dai-ichi facility, as it has since the start of the incident and will
12 coordinate with other Federal and state agencies as necessary, standing ready to take action if needed, to
13 ensure the safety of food in the U.S. marketplace.

14 Given the extent of monitoring, sampling and surveillance being performed by various entities,
15 the Department believes this measure is unnecessary and should be deferred.

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

morikawa2-Joanna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2014 2:13 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: katc31999@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR39 on Mar 21, 2014 08:30AM*

HCR39

Submitted on: 3/20/2014

Testimony for HLT on Mar 21, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katarina Culina	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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morikawa2-Joanna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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To: HLTtestimony
Cc: lynhowe1946@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR39 on Mar 21, 2014 08:30AM

HCR39

Submitted on: 3/19/2014

Testimony for HLT on Mar 21, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lyn Howe	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha It is very important that we monitor our ocean food sources for radiation levels. Thank you for putting forth this bill. Lyn Howe Beach Road Farm

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