

HB 2509, HD1

Measure Title: MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO ASSIST COMMUNITIES WITH THE REMOVAL OF MOTOR VEHICLE TIRES.

Report Title: Motor Vehicle Tires; Abandoned Tires; Removal; Appropriation (\$)

Description: Appropriates funds to assist communities affected by discarded or abandoned tires by providing funds for programs promoting the removal of abandoned tires that have been illegally dumped from the landscape, including funding county abandoned tire removal programs. (HB2509 HD1)

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LINDA ROSEN, M.D., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

**H.B. 2509 H.D. 1, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO ASSIST COMMUNITIES
WITH THE REMOVAL OF MOTOR VEHICLE TIRES**

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

**March 11, 2014
2:45 p.m.**

1 **Department's Position:** The department supports this bill provided that its passage does not
2 replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** Appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds to administer contracts to
4 remove abandoned tires from the landscape.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** Abandoned tire dumping is a recurring concern especially for those
6 communities that are impacted by this issue. Disposal fees for abandoned tires are cost-prohibitive and
7 strain the ability of community groups to control dumping in their neighborhoods. We understand that
8 disposal costs range from as low as \$1.80 per passenger or light-truck tire, up to \$638 for the biggest
9 off-road, oversize tire.

10 This measure will also enable the department to provide direct financial assistance to the
11 counties to address tire dumping in their affected areas. We estimate a cost of \$50,000 to remove
12 10,000 tires, or \$100,000 to remove 20,000 tires.

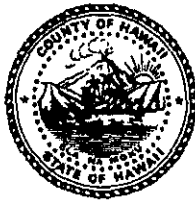
1 This measure alone will not prevent current improper tire disposal practices, but coupled with
2 monitoring and enforcement from the department, it may help affected communities to alleviate the
3 situation.

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

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William P. Kenoi
Mayor

Walter K.M. Lau
Managing Director



BJ Leithead Todd
Director

John A. Medeiros
Deputy Director

County of Hawai'i

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

345 Kekūanāo'a Street, Suite 41 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

(808) 961-8083 • Fax (808) 961-8086

<http://www.hawaiicounty.gov/environmental-management/>

March 10, 2014

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 225
Honolulu, HI 96813

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Tuesday, March 11, 2014
TIME: 2:45 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 225
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Re: Testimony in Support of House Bill 2509, HD1 Making an appropriation to assist communities with the removal of motor vehicle tires,

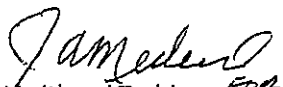
Dear Chair Gabbard and Vice Chair Ruderman and committee members,

The County of Hawai'i Department of Environmental Management (DEM) is pleased to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 2857.

County of Hawaii DEM supports the intent of this bill. Abandoned tires, particularly in rural subdivisions on private roads pose a real concern in our community. This bill would help community associations clean up a health hazard as the tires collect water and provide a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


BJ Leithead Todd
DIRECTOR

cc: Mayor William Kenoi
John Medeiros, Deputy Director
Greg Goodale, Hawai'i County Solid Waste Division Chief

County of Hawai'i is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

**HADA Testimony Presented
With SUPPORT for HB2509 HD1
Relating to Making an Appropriation to Assist Communities
With the Removal of Motor Vehicle Tires**

For the Public Hearing by the Senate Committee on Energy & Environment
2:45 p.m. Tuesday, March 11, 2014
Conference Room 225
Hawaii State Capitol

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee:

There are significant funds remaining in the abandoned tire special, remaining from the \$1/tire tax dealers and retailers collected from customers 2000-2003. In 2003, legislators, kept faith with a promise to dealers to sunset the tire tax when sufficient funds had been raised to tackle the problem that existed back then.

Some \$685,700 remains in the fund. Also the legislature transferred \$500,000 from the fund in FY2010 during the difficult financial times.

A good solution to future tire problems would be to transfer back the \$500,000 now that things are better for the economy and the state funding situation is improved.

The scrap tire problem today is very small compared to the problem that existed in the late nineties—one that was largely caused by a large tire recycler's financial difficulties. The State Department of Health has reported picking up 2,800 tires since 2006. That's a small number of 400 tires a year.

Here are some additional insights which may be helpful:

Scrap tires in Hawaii may be put in 3 categories.

Tires which have PROPER disposal—some say that the number is perhaps as high as 99%, or more, of the estimated 1 million scrap tires created annually. This waste recycling is facilitated through a "disposal fee" collected by retailers-- who then hire haulers who subsequently pay recyclers to take the tires. Some tires eventually are shredded into crumb rubber and burned to create electricity; some tires are recapped. There are many recycling uses. Counties also pick up waste tires from individuals. The City and County of Honolulu reports that their refuse collection division will schedule pickup of up to 4 tires annually from an individual residence location.

Tires ILLEGALLY dumped on government-owned property—Counties annually pick up an additional 0.4 percent. Approximately 4,000 tires are collected by the Counties according to the Department of Health's DRAFT report which provides a chart showing that this number of scrap tire is picked up each year on properties (parks, roadways, etc) owned by the Counties.

These illegally dumped tires are picked up and disposed of using County highway beautification funds and County operating funds of approximately \$50,000 per year. The City and County of Honolulu annually raises \$5 million through a "highway beautification fee" charged on each annually motor vehicle registration.

The State of Hawaii, using funds from the abandoned tire special fund, reported that following the big tire clean up which ran from 2000-2005, that the State has used the abandoned tire special fund to facilitate collection and disposal of some 2,800 tires from miscellaneous small piles --which we thus calculate to be 400 tires per year over the last 7 years. These 400 tires picked up annually represent an additional 4/10ths of 1 per cent.

Tires ILLEGALLY dumped on private property—While neither the State Department of Health or the Tire Task Force was able to uncover the scope and number of any scrap tire piles on private property, there were anecdotal accounts of some such piles located on the Leeward Coast, along with accounts of piles in some other areas.

Property owners can be cited by law enforcement officials with a violation of state law if it is determined that these piles create a health hazard.

Here are some of the conclusions HADA reached from participating in the Tire Task Force meetings:

- adequate funding of \$685,700 remains in the State's abandoned tire special fund
- These state funds exist in the special funds to be used for special circumstances relating to abandoned tire piles that cannot be handled by citations issued to a property owners
- if the need for more funding eventually arises, and since there was \$500,000 removed earlier from the abandoned tire fund during the past difficult financial years to fund other state functions, this amount could be replaced in the fund-- to be eventually used for the purposes for which it was collected from the general public

For these reasons, HADA asks that consideration be given to replacing the \$500,000 in funds that were removed from the special fund. HB 2509 is a vehicle that will allow such funds to be restored to the abandoned tire special fund.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Rolf
Hawaii Automobile Dealers Association
1100 Alakea St. Suite 2601
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: 808 593-0031

Mikilua Valley Community Association Testimony
Supporting: HB2509 HD1 - Making an appropriation to assist communities with the removal of motor vehicle tires

For the Public Hearing by the Senate Committee on Energy & Environment
2:45 p.m. Tuesday, March 11, 2014
Conference Room 225
Hawaii State Capitol

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee:

As I type - illegal dumping of tires is a common occurrence on the back roads of my community. I cannot keep track of how many times community members have collected these tires and other rubbish to dispose of them correctly. We are getting tired of this because it takes time, planning and personal money to do so. We welcome and even beg for our elected officials to step in and give us some needed help.

A few years back our community association using our own resources and labor along with City and County departments and other Government Agencies did a clean-up of storm drains. We collected more than 800 hundred plus tires. Thanks to non-profits like Nani O Waianae we were able to dispose of them. Our roads remained clean for a few months but little by little more tires were dumped and we have been trying to keep up with the dumping and demand to clean but it is getting costly for us. We have since organized a fundraiser to raise money to plan another clean-up but people are thinking we are loosing the battle.

During the task force meeting sponsored by our Governor and lead by Department of Health last year - we learned that large properties on the Leeward Coast may in fact be holders of illegal tires. Well our community is in the midst of these large properties and something has to be done when these large property owners decide they no longer want to house tires on their property and think Paakea Rd and Mailili Rd is perfect to dump their tires. This is happening folks, even during the daylight hours. No longer is it opportune to dump at night when it is dark and these roads don't have street lights. People dump during the day.

I look for stricter enforcement of dumping laws and signage posted everywhere dumping occurs. I look for our law enforcement officers to assist us in showing the law really has teeth. However, I am a realist and know our public officials including the law enforcement officers are understaffed and dumping isn't their number one priority.

Then the other option is to tell you all our story and hope that you can get us help and we can do the rest. This is our community, our ohana and we are passionate about our quality of life here. We need your help just as the bill states - to assist communities with the removal of motor vehicle tires.

Please support this bill and pass it because proper disposal of dumped tires is not only a Paakea Rd/Mailili Rd problem but affects our entire island. These dumpers can easily transport tires to anywhere on the island to dump.

We are a state that depends on the beauty of our islands because many visitors come to see paradise. We don't want to show them how pilau paradise is on the Leeward Coast.

Thank you for reading our testimony. We stand passionate about our community - all we ask for is HELP
- VOTE please to pass this bill.

Sincerely submitted,
Sophie Flores
Mikilua Valley Community Association
87-1117 A Paakea Rd.
Waianae, HI 96792
Tel: 808-668-7026
sophiem@hawaii.rr.com

March 11, 2014

Honorable Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

And Members of the Committee on Energy and Environment

Conference Room 225

Hawai'i State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, Hawai'i

Aloha, Chair Gabbard and Committee Members:

Mahalo for your consideration of House Bill 2509 HD1, which would make funding available to assist our communities to properly dispose of illegally dumped tires. I am a board member of the Big Island chapter of Keep Hawai'i Beautiful, and regularly work with community groups on this island that are trying to cope with this issue.

On the Island of Hawai'i, illegally dumped tires have been a particular problem for rural subdivisions. Tires were banned from our county landfills years ago, but consumers are often unwilling to pay the required disposal fees – about \$5 per tire on this island -- to properly recycle tires. This means unethical people now have a significant economic incentive to illegally dump tires by the roadsides.

The rural Puna subdivisions are among the most frequent victims of this illegal dumping. Larger subdivisions such as Hawaiian Paradise Park are forced to regularly assign their road maintenance crews to collect and dispose of dozens of tires illegally dumped along private subdivision roads. Other subdivisions with smaller road maintenance budgets such as Hawaiian Acres and Ainaloa have stockpiles of tires because they have no funds to pay for disposal.

It is entirely appropriate that funding for the cleanup of illegally dumped tires come from fees consumers already pay at the time of each tire sale. Making this funding available to the counties, to community associations and to volunteer cleanup organizations will support ongoing beautification efforts across our state.

Please support House Bill 2509, and thank you for your consideration.

Kevin D. Dayton

90 South Wilder Road

Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

(808) 960-5007

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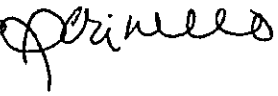


Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov/council

March 9, 2014

TO: Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

FROM: Stacy Helm Crivello 
Council Member

DATE: March 11, 2014

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF HB 2509 H.D. 1 RELATING TO MAKING AN APPROPRIATION
TO ASSIST COMMUNITIES WITH THE REMOVAL OF MOTOR VEHICLE
TIRES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to assist communities affected by discarded or abandoned tires by providing funds for programs promoting the removal of abandoned tires that have been illegally dumped from the landscape, including funding county abandoned tire removal programs.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. According to the Department of Health's Abandoned Tire Task Force draft report, approximately 10,700 tons of abandoned tires have been removed since 1999 from over 30 sites statewide that the department is tracking. That translates to over 1 million tires.
2. Abandoned tires not only ruin our landscape but they also affect the health and safety of our communities. Whether a potential fire hazard releasing toxic chemicals in our air, or the breeding ground for vermin and mosquitoes, these illegal dump sites lead to environmental degradation and create a public health hazard.
3. In areas like Maui County which encompasses three islands with shipping and transportation challenges, the cost of removing and disposing of tires is substantially higher than the rest of the state. The cost to the County of Maui Department of Environmental Management was \$18.99 per tire.

For the foregoing reasons, I support this measure.

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HB2509

Dear Chair Gabbard and Committee of Energy and Environ. Members:

I have been a resident on the Big Island in the Puna District, rural subdivision of Wa'a Wa'a, for over ten years.

Our Government Beach Road has always been and still continues to be illegal dumping grounds for tires, garbage, abandoned vehicles, engine parts, furniture, appliances, you name it, it's been dumped. Our residents pitch in to keep up with this illegal dumping to maintain a beautiful clean neighborhood. It's an on-going battle.

Since the disposal cost per tire is \$5 minimum, we cannot afford to pay for this out of our pockets. We have loaded our vehicles with garbage and disposed of it at the transfer stations, dropped scrap metal items at Big Island Scrap metal, disposed of tires at Leo's Rubbish Service in Hilo. Kevin Dayton has assisted us with the cost of tire disposal. We greatly appreciate his community service.

We need your help to pass Bill 2509. Would you please support this funding so that it would be available to counties, community and clean-up volunteer organizations?

Respectfully,
Marilyn Begg
PO Box 1647
14-388 Pakaka Road
Pahoa, HI 96778

HB2509

Submitted on: 3/7/2014

Testimony for ENE on Mar 11, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

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

Comments: Yes we need to remove the tires and make it possible to do so. Also the transfer stations don't take tires so this I feel accounts for most of the illegal dumping of tires. We need to have a drop off station for tires or at least 1 day 4 times a year where tires can be brought to the transfer stations. Thank you for hearing this bill.

HB2509

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for ENE on Mar 11, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hilary Flaming	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a resident of the Wa'a Wa'a area and am thrilled that this bill is being heard. Govt. Beach Rd is a favorite dumping place for tires and other garbage and I feel that the current efforts to keep this area clean and beautiful have made a difference. This bill would help us to fund the maintenance and keep the area clean, so we can all enjoy it's magnificence. Mahalo!