



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. 2509, MAKING AN APROPRIATION TO ASSIST COMMUNITIES WITH
THE REMOVAL OF MOTOR VEHICLE TIRES

Testimony of Gary Gill
Acting Director of Health

February 4, 2014
8:30 a.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. To this end, we suggest an amendment to allow
12 the department to distribute the funds to the counties, similar to the glass advance disposal fee law
13 (Chapter 342G, Part VII, HRS).

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.

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

Joan Shafer

PO Box 411
14-3475 Government Beach Road
Pahoa, HI 96778 USA
Tel: +1 808 747 1647
joan@PlayingToYourStrengths.com

February 2, 2014

RE: SB 2509

TESTIMONY

Thank you for your attention. I am strongly in favor of this measure for the following:

- There is a one mile stretch of unpaved road through Nanawale Preserve of which there are no buildings. This is an area of beauty and one of the great natural wonders of this island.
- Over the past 6 months, the homeowners in this area have gone out with garbage bags, rakes, back-hoes, and pick-up trucks to remove the garbage and trash that has been thrown in the ditches and turn-out areas along this road comprising appliances, abandoned cars, bags of garbage, furniture, damaged household items, etc. In our first group cleaning in June 2013, we pulled out 54 tires.
- Over the following months, the road became littered again with pitched tires – primarily because there is no legal place to get rid of them. Once the tires appeared, so did more trash. We pulled out 23 tires in our second group clean – along the same stretch of road.
- What we have seen is that the cleaner we keep the road, the less people use this area as a dumping ground.
- We know where and how to get rid of general garbage that people are dumping. We don't have a place to remove the tires.
- If the tires can be picked up and removed, then the trash problem in this area will diminish - conceivably to nothing.
- Keeping these areas clean make it safer for people, especially children, to play and enjoy recreationally in addition to respecting the beauty of the area.
- Any action you can take that would support the disposal of tires would be greatly appreciated and applauded.

Most respectfully –

Joan Shafer

LATE

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

For the Public Hearing by the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
8:30 a.m. Tuesday, February 04, 2014
Conference Room 325
Hawaii State Capitol

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Thielen 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