

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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IN REPLY REFER TO:
WAS 14-45

March 28, 2014

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 Concurrent Resolution 27, Requesting the City and County of Honolulu to Develop and Implement a Program to Increase Public Awareness of the Importance of Recycling Household Batteries and Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs and to Establish Drop-off Sites for the Collection and Recycling of Batteries, Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs, and Other Household Hazardous Materials

The Department of Environmental Services, City and County of Honolulu, supports the intent of House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 27, but respectfully opposes the resolution and recommends that it not be passed.

For information, "household batteries" (typical C, D, A, AA, AAA) do not contain mercury and heavy metals any longer. Such batteries can be safely disposed of with normal household waste and incinerated at H-POWER.

The City and County of Honolulu currently educates the public about proper recycling/disposal of all types of batteries and compact fluorescent bulbs through its **opala.org** website and quarterly newspaper ads to alert the public of bi-monthly household hazardous waste drop off events. In addition, residents can drop-off auto batteries at retailers and city convenience centers, rechargeable batteries at participating retailers, and fluorescent bulbs at participating retailers and/or bi-monthly household hazardous waste events.

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We do not believe additional public education is needed and having to develop and implement additional permanent drop-off sites is not cost effective and would be an unfunded mandate.

We respectfully request that HCR 27 not be passed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori M.K. Kahikina". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "K".

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



National Electrical Manufacturers Association

1300 North 17th Street, Suite 900

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TESTIMONY ON HCR 27

BEFORE THE HAWAII LEGISLATURE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

MARK A. KOHORST
SENIOR MANAGER - ENVIRONMENT,
HEALTH & SAFETY

NATIONAL ELECTRICAL MANUFACTURERS
ASSOCIATION

April 1, 2014

TESTIMONY

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

My name is Mark Kohorst, and I am Senior Manager for Environment, Health & Safety at the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA). Our organization is the principle trade association for US-based producers of the broad spectrum of products involved in the generation, transmission, distribution, and end use of electrical energy. I am submitting this comment on behalf of the NEMA Dry Battery Section, which consists of leading US battery manufacturers such as Energizer, Duracell, Panasonic, and Rayovac. On their behalf, I hereby offer the following comment regarding HCR 27.

While almost all battery chemistries are recyclable, the secondary uses of battery components are relatively scarce. Most battery components are NOT recycled into other products, particularly into new batteries. We therefore suggest the following revision to lines 9-11 on page 2 of the resolution:

WHEREAS, recycling of household batteries results in the separation of the plastic components and heavy metals for potential reuse in new plastic products, batteries, and other products.

Thank you very much for your consideration. If you have questions or would like additional information, we would be happy to provide it.

Contact Information:

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March 29, 2014

RE: HCR27 - Recycling household batteries and compact fluorescent light bulbs

To whom it may concern:

My name is Heather Barton and I am writing this testimony in support of HCR27. I am encouraged that the Hawaii State Legislature is taking action to protect our residents from the mercury that is currently poisoning the land and people. Mercury is a neurotoxin that causes brain damage (<http://www.epa.gov/hg/effects.htm#content>), yet cities and states throughout the country turn a blind eye while it leeches into the ground water.

I support establishing recycling drop-off centers, however, I believe that all household items containing mercury should be completely outlawed, just as mercury thermometers have been outlawed in many states. Every time one of these light bulbs breaks in a home, we are required to call hazmat, yet people are unaware of this and expose their children and unborn babies to this neurotoxin. LED light bulbs should also be outlawed as they “contain lead, arsenic and a dozen other potentially dangerous substances” (Scientific American, Sep. 15, 2012; <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/led-lightbulb-concerns/>). I have a coffee can full of bulbs waiting to be recycled because they don't last 5 years as advertised and I wonder how many Hawaii residents have already tossed their bulbs into the trash?

Yes, energy-efficient light bulbs are necessary, however, we are trading rising sea levels, which may happen in 50 years, for brain damage, that is happening now, and this is an unwise trade off. Americans and Hawaiians are smart enough to come up with better solutions than poisonous light bulbs. Until we come up with a *safe* alternative, I believe we must encourage the use and sale of incandescent light bulbs.

Sincerely,

Heather Barton
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