



Executive Officers:
Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores - Chairperson
John Erickson, Young's Market Company - Vice Chair
Bob Stout, Times Supermarkets - Secretary/Treasurer
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

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TO: COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: Thursday, February 25, 2016
TIME: 1:00 pm
PLACE: Conference Room 211

RE: SB2805, SD1

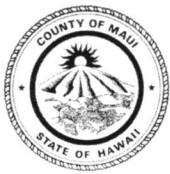
Position: Oppose

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

Hawaii businesses and customers already pay several costly taxes and fees that are not only a financial burden, but an administrative burden as well. The state's system is complex and hard to navigate and adding an additional surcharge creates an unnecessary added cost for retailers and consumers.

While we appreciate the three percent allotment of the fee to retailers, **1.2 cents per card is not enough to pay for accounting and processing costs and we will be operating at a loss.** Several states including Florida, North Carolina and Alabama have allotments greater than three percent. If this bill is passed, we request that it be amended to increase the allotment to five percent, which would be a more appropriate amount to cover associated costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



ALAN M. ARAKAWA
MAYOR

OUR REFERENCE
YOUR REFERENCE

POLICE DEPARTMENT

COUNTY OF MAUI

55 MAHALANI STREET
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TIVOLI S. FAAUMU
CHIEF OF POLICE

DEAN M. RICKARD
DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

February 24, 2016

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
And Members of the Committee on Ways and Means
The Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Senate Bill No. 2805 SD1
RELATING TO ENHANCED 911 SURCHARGES

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

The Maui Police Department supports S.B. 2805 SD1, which seeks to collect the 911 surcharge from prepaid wireless consumers at the retail point of sale.

The collection on prepaid wireless 911 surcharge is very important in order to sustain adequate funding for enhanced 911 statewide. 911 surcharges should be imposed in a fair and equitable manner with respect to prepaid mobile service, like the 911 surcharge is collected today for postpaid wireless. The 911 surcharge should be imposed upon all consumers of telecommunication services that have the ability to access 911. This is an important funding mechanism to assist state and local governments in sustaining 911 systems and to provide for the deployment of new, emerging technologies. Prepaid wireless telecommunications services are an important segment of the telecommunications industry and have grown in use by consumers; however, today prepaid wireless consumers are exempt from the surcharge and yet have always had access to 911.

The benefit to the public is a comprehensive, efficient, and coordinated statewide 911 system serving all citizens that is funded in a fair and equitable manner for all. The Maui Police Department asks for your support for S.B. No. 2805 SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,


TIVOLI S. FAAUMU
Chief of Police