

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Written Testimony
Only

Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 1800
RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLE TIRES

REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS LEE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Hearing Date: January 25, 2018 Room Number: 325
Time: 8:30 AM

1 **Fiscal Implications:** There are no fiscal impacts on state resources. Tire retailers and the
2 counties that choose to implement the program would experience increased administrative
3 responsibilities that may be offset by the revenue generated by the fee.

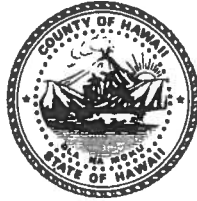
4 **Department Testimony:** This bill proposes to create a refundable fee on motor vehicle tires in
5 order to address the issue of illegally dumped used tires. The Department of Health supports this
6 bill.

7 The department recognizes that some consumers choose to hold on to their used motor
8 vehicle tires despite the charging of a non-refundable disposal fee when purchasing new tires.
9 This bill is an attempt to create further incentive for consumers to turn in their used tires when
10 purchasing new ones.

11 It is fitting that the bill gives counties the option of implementing the program as they are
12 responsible for disposing of illegally dumped tires.

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

DRU MAMO KANUHA
Council Member
District 7, Central Kona



PHONE: (808) 323-4267
FAX: (808) 323-4786
EMAIL: dru.kanuha@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

West Hawai'i Civic Center 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Highway, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740

TESTIMONY OF DRU KANUHA
COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
ON
HB 1800, RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLE TIRES
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Thursday, January 25, 2018
8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of HB1800, Relating to Motor Vehicle Tires. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Hawai'i County Council and Chair of Governmental Relations and Economic Development Committee.

The purpose of this measure is to authorize each county to establish a requirement for customers to provide an equal number of used motor vehicle tires to the tire retailer as the number of new motor vehicle tires purchased, or pay a fee that shall be refundable upon provision of the used tires. Improper disposal of used motor vehicle tires poses a threat to human health, safety, and pollutes the environment. Improperly disposed vehicle tires are ideal for breeding grounds for mosquitos which are vectors for many infectious diseases like dengue fever, zika virus, west nile virus, and chikungunya. Tires are also a fire hazard and are costly to clean up when they are abandoned or illegally dumped.

For the reasons stated above, I urge the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection to support this measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 323-4267.

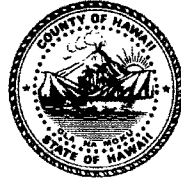
Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DK" followed by a flourish.

DRU KANUHA
Council Member, Hawai'i County Council

Harry Kim
Mayor

Wilfred M. Okabe
Managing Director



William A. Kucharski
Director

Diane A. Noda
Deputy Director

County of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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cohdem@co.hawaii.hi.us

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

January 24, 2018

Rep. Chris Lee, Chair
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
State of Hawai'i House of Representatives
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: **SUPPORT of HB 1800**
(Relating to Motor Vehicle Tires)
Date: January 25, 2018 (Thursday)
Time: 8:30 a.m.

Dear Chairperson Lee and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection:

The County of Hawai'i (COH) supports HB 1800.

Abandoned or illegally dumped tires are a health hazard and costly to process. HB 1800, which allows a County to add an additional "deposit fee" if new tires are purchased but old tires have not been provided to the tire dealer, is supported by the County of Hawai'i. This Bill provides a necessary disincentive to citizens to keep old tires, which then have a higher probability of being disposed of illegally. While tire dealers are currently required to accept and process tires turned over to them by purchasers of new tires, there is no incentive for either the dealers to encourage purchasers turn over the old tires nor for the tire purchaser to turn over the old tires for proper handling and recycling. HB 1800 provides the incentive and is therefore supported by the COH. Passage of this Bill would be one step forward to reduce the cost to the COH to collect and process waste tires, and the COH would pursue the authority to enact the provisions of HB 1800, once passed.

Issues

1. It is suggested that the Bill be amended to require that a purchaser of new tires turn over tires substantially similar in size to the tires purchased. For example a commercial truck would not be allowed to turn over small passenger tires to retrieve the fee.

Rep. Chris Lee, Chair

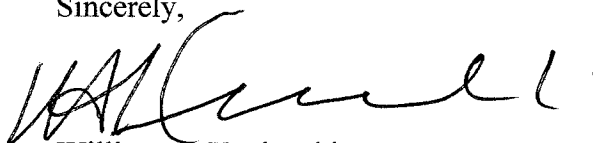
January 24, 2018

Page 2

2. There will be administrative costs for tire retailers associated with tracking and refunding or turning over collected fees; however, these costs would be expected to decrease after purchasers become accustomed to the new fee. For this to occur (changing purchaser attitudes), the fee would have to be fairly significant as it relates to a new tire purchase.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Sincerely,

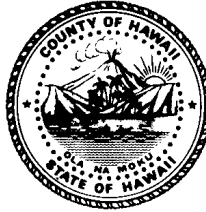
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. A. Kucharski', written in a cursive style.

William A. Kucharski
Director

WK:mef

cc: Rep. Nicole E. Lowen
Mayor Harry Kim
Andrew Levin, Executive Assistant
Gregory Goodale, DEM Solid Waste Division Chief

Karen Eoff
Council Vice Chair
Council District 8 - North Kona



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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

January 24, 2018

Representative Chris Lee, Chair
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Re: Testimony Supporting HB1800; Bill Relating to Motor Vehicle Tires
Hearing Date and Time: January 25, 2018 at 8:30 a.m., Conference Room 325

Dear Committee:

On behalf of myself and constituents of Council District 8, North Kona, support for the above referenced Bill is expressed, with brief testimony provided as follows:

Illegally abandoned tires have been a problem for quite some time in Hawai'i County. This measure provides an incentive for the purchasers of new tires to turn in old ones for proper handling and recycling. This will also reduce the cost to Hawai'i County that would otherwise be spent to collect and process these tires.

Authorizing the counties to establish requirements for customers to provide an equal number of tires to tire retailers at the time of new purchases, is a step forward in the right direction.

This bill also has support from the Hawai'i County Department of Environmental Management, with a suggested amendment that any tires to be turned in should be "similar in size" as tires that are purchased.

We strongly recommend the passing of this bill.

Sincerely,

KAREN EOFF, Council Vice Chair
Council District 8, North Kona

KE.wpb



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII
MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Thursday, January 25, 2018 8:30AM Conference Room 325

In SUPPORT of HB 1800 Relating to motor vehicle tires

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Lowen and members of the Committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **supports HB 1800**, which seeks to authorize counties to establish a requirement for customers to exchange the equal number of used tires to the tire retailer as they are purchasing, or pay a fee to compensate for the missing tires. The bill also creates a fund for authorities to clean up improperly disposed of used tires.

This measure will effectively reduce tire waste, which can have negative effects on human health and safety, as well as the environment. This measure would increase tire recycling, which would decrease negative impacts such as the spread of mosquito borne illness, unsightly litter when improperly disposed of, and reduce fire hazards.

The Sierra Club supports measures like this that keeps our land and oceans free of litter and solid waste. Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue.

Mahalo,

Marti Townsend
Director

HB-1800

Submitted on: 1/24/2018 4:17:18 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/25/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Lacques		Support	No

Comments:



Brian Kitagawa, President
Dave Rolf, Executive Director

HADA TESTIMONY WITH OPPOSITION
TO HB1800

RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLE TIRES

Presented to the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
At the Public Hearing, 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, January 25, 2018
Conference Room 325, Hawaii State Capitol

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Lowen, and members of the committee:

The members of the Hawaii Automobile Dealers Association have always encouraged pursuit of environmentally responsible policies. Our association is in opposition to this bill, however, because of several concerns about unintended consequences.

New car dealers have participated in scrap tire clean up programs and studies over the years, and have always encouraged proponents of any new legislation regarding such scrap tire clean-up or prevention policies to show the scope and size of the problem that needs to be addressed and to be aware of problems that may occur as unintended consequences of any proposed policy.

Comment #1—The bill proposes to require that tire retailers collect refundable fees from customers, (which may possibly be as much as \$50 per new tire, which would amount to \$250 on a vehicle's sale which has four tires and a spare) and remit to the county a portion of those fees retained by the retailer which came from customers who do not turn in an equal number of tires at time of purchase.

This requirement to turn in used tires to avoid a possible \$250 fee on an older used car purchase, for example, may encourage a black market in used tires, and we may soon see cars in neighborhoods on cinder blocks, with their tires pilfered to avoid this \$250 amount.

Comment #2—With collected monies retained by the retailer (when a tire purchase was not off-set by the turning in of a used tire by the customer) then being remitted to a county for "tire management, cleanup and disposal," a county may, as one county does now with derelict car clean-up, restrict its tire cleanup activities only to lands under the county's jurisdiction.

Comment #3 -- HADA also opposes this measure because funds and programs are currently in place to address scrap tire clean up.

For the above reasons, while we always remain opening to working on this, we oppose HB1800 and ask that the measure be held.

Respectfully submitted,

David H. Rolf

For the Members of the Hawaii Automobile Dealers Association

HB-1800

Submitted on: 1/24/2018 3:22:50 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/25/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez		Support	No

Comments:

HB-1800

Submitted on: 1/24/2018 4:19:23 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/25/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jun Shin		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Lowen, honorable members of the House Energy & Environmental Protection Committee,

My name is Jun Shin, I am a Freshman Political Science major at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and someone interested in learning and advocating for environmental issues. I am writing this in strong support of HB1800, relating to motor vehicle tires, which is due for a hearing [on Thursday, January 25, 2018 at 8:30 AM](#) for the following reasons.

Abandoned tires are an issue that doesn't appear to be discussed that often despite its negative impacts, and frankly I didn't know much about this topic until I got a chance to read this legislation in depth. The problems abandoned tires bring to the environment, through tire fires, and to the people in the form of mosquitoes and the diseases that are bound to follow is very serious. I would also like to add the dangers to people driving vehicles if these tires keep being dumped into our streets and our roads. That is why I am very glad to see the legislature promoting tire recycling by placing incentives in the form of financial obligations for customers in their future dealings with tire retailers.

I am glad to see that not only is the legislature reacting to the problem, and just trying to stop the problem from here on out, but they also included in this bill, funding for officials to take care of the problem of disposed tires now.

I stand in support with Sierra Club and all other organizations, and individuals fighting and shedding light on this issue.

Thank you for your hard work and deliberation and for shedding light on this issue,

Jun Shin,

[1561 Kanunu St. Honolulu, HI 96814](#)

Cell: [8082556663](#)

Email: junshinbusiness729@gmail.com

HB-1800

Submitted on: 1/25/2018 8:52:20 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/25/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tamara Farnsworth	County of Maui Dep't of Env. Mgmt.	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of HB No. 1800 "Relating to Motor Vehicle Tires." As stated in the Act, used tires that are not properly managed present significant health, environmental, and safety hazards. In my experience managing a substantial illegal dumping clean-up grant as well as the abandoned vehicles program for the County of Maui, it is a great challenge to locate, retrieve, handle, and store used tires that have been illegally dumped. The Act incentivizes proper disposal of used tires and will provide some needed funding for the high costs incurred by the counties for removal of tires from illegal dump sites. The Act will assist the agencies and organizations tasked with illegal dumping clean-ups and disposal of tires to create a healthier environment for the residents of Hawai'i as well as provide residents the opportunity to do the right thing.

Mahalo,

Tamara Farnsworth

Abandoned Vehicles & Metals Administrator

County of Maui

Department of Environmental Management

Environmental Protection & Sustainability Division

2145 Wells St., Suite 103

Wailuku, HI 96793

Phone [\(808\) 270-8217](tel:8082708217)

Cell [\(808\) 856-1668](tel:8088561668)

Fax [\(808\) 876-4601](tel:(808)876-4601)

HB-1800

Submitted on: 1/24/2018 4:38:48 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/25/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Kucharski		Support	No

Comments:

The County of Hawai'i (COH) supports HB 1800.

Abandoned or illegally dumped tires are a health hazard and costly to process. HB 1800, which allows a County to add an additional "deposit fee" if new tires are purchased but old tires have not been provided to the tire dealer, is supported by the County of Hawai'i. This Bill provides a necessary disincentive to citizens to keep old tires, which then have a higher probability of being disposed of illegally. While tire dealers are currently required to accept and process tires turned over to them by purchasers of new tires, there is no incentive for either the dealers to encourage purchasers turn over the old tires nor for the tire purchaser to turn over the old tires for proper handling and recycling. HB 1800 provides the incentive and is therefore supported by the COH. Passage of this Bill would be one step forward to reduce the cost to the COH to collect and process waste tires, and the COH would pursue the authority to enact the provisions of HB 1800, once passed.

Issues

1. It is suggested that the Bill be amended to require that a purchaser of new tires turn over tires substantially similar in size to the tires purchased. For example a commercial truck would not be allowed to turn over small passenger tires to retrieve the fee.
2. There will be administrative costs for tire retailers associated with tracking and refunding or turning over collected fees; however, these costs would be expected to decrease after purchasers become accustomed to the new fee. For this to occur (changing purchaser attitudes), the fee would have to be fairly significant as it relates to a new tire purchase.
3. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.