

SB-2109

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
THE SENATE
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018
Wednesday, January 31, 2018
1:15 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 2109, RELATING TO VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS

To the Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair; the Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

Good afternoon, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate Bill No. 2109, relating to Volatile Organic Compounds ("VOC") and the proper disposal of such household and consumer products. Examples of VOCs, include but are not limited to, gasoline, benzene, formaldehyde, solvents such as toluene and xylene, styrene, and perchloroethylene (or tetrachloroethylene), the main solvent used in dry cleaning. The

OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of Senate Bill No. 2109 and support its passage.

Senate Bill No. 2109, is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it requires the department of health to investigate the improper disposal of household and consumer products containing VOCs as a nuisance and requires the department to abate, destroy, remove, or prevent the nuisance; to determine nonpoint sources of VOCs that add significant pollution to certain state waters; and to determine alternative unscented household and consumer products that are void of VOCs. Nonpoint source ("NPS") pollution, unlike pollution from industrial and sewage treatment plants, comes from many diffuse sources. NPS pollution is caused by rainfall moving over and through the ground.

The DPH Platform states that "[t]he Democratic Party of Hawai'i believes that the preservation and restoration of our natural environment are essential. We support a sustainable society that utilizes the earth in such a way that future generations will benefit from the practices of our generation. We support the restoration, preservation, and protection of our native ecosystems on each island. We believe in integrated approaches, practices, and support public policies that create and maintain a sustainable way of life in Hawai'i.

We support the protection of our 'aina against destruction by corporate, government, or military usage and expect full restoration and reparation of environmental damage. To handle current and future demands for water, we must assess the current condition of our aquifers and take appropriate actions to secure our freshwater resources.

We support democratic participation of citizens and residents to protect (i) valuable coastal ecosystems and reefs from misuse and (ii) because for public use and recreation. The Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management (CZM) law, HRS Chapter 205A, currently provides for public participation in management of coastal resources.

We know that climate change is a real threat to our islands and the world. We strongly urge our candidates and elected officials to take immediate action to mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change. This includes funding adaption measures including coastal retreat, effective participation of indigenous peoples in climate change governance, and recognition that indigenous, local, and traditional ecological knowledge is key in climate change adaptation solutions." (Platform of the DPH, P. 8, Lines 406-411, 422-430, 435-439 (2016)).

Given that the purpose of Senate Bill No. 2109 is to prevent VOCs from causing environmental damage by the improper disposal of household and consumer products containing VOCs and considering alternative environmentally-friendly household and consumer products to use in their stead, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

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