

IRON WORKERS STABILIZATION FUND

April 19, 2023
1:00 pm

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Conference Room 225 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Re: HCR107HD1 – URGING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO EXEMPT FROM REAL PROPERTY TAX THOSE PROPERTY OWNERS OF RESIDENTIAL UNITS WITHIN ONE-HALF MILE OF AN ACTIVE MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE LANDFILL OR CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION LANDFILL OR DEEMED TO HAVE BEEN IMPACTED BY AN ACTIVE LANDFILL TO A DEGREE THAT WARRANTS SUCH AN EXEMPTION

Aloha Chair Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair Herbert “Tim” Richards and Members of the Committee:

We **SUPPORT** HCR107HD1. This resolution urges the City and County of Honolulu to provide a real property tax exemption for those residents living within ½ mile of the operation of an active landfill on the island of O‘ahu and those areas the City deems impacted by the operation of landfills.

The scientific consensus affirms what the communities of West O‘ahu, especially Nānākuli, have been experiencing for decades, that landfills are a health hazard. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/National Center for Health Statistics Neighborhood Life Expectancy Project (see attachments for visual maps), our members and their families in the two census tracts abutting the PVT Landfill operated in Nānākuli live 10 years less than the state average of 82 years, being the 2nd and 3rd lowest life expectancies in the entire state. This is unacceptable. As a matter of fairness, every community in Hawaii deserves a “clean and healthful environment” (HI State Const. Art. XI, Sec. 9). No one should suffer the ill effects of landfills, so we need to decrease our reliance upon landfills and eventually stop using them altogether.

The total waste generated on O‘ahu in 2021 was over 1.5 million tons, with 255,135 tons representing 25% of the total waste stream being Construction and Demolition Recycling; 222,238 tons representing 4% of the total waste being Construction and Demolition landfilling; 437,578 tons representing 28% of the total waste being General Material Recycling; 513,635 tons representing 30% of the total waste being H-Power Waste-to-Energy; 157,531 tons representing 11% of the total waste being H-Power Ash and Residual that was landfilled; and 106,723 tons representing 2% of the total waste being Municipal Solid Waste landfilling (City and County of Honolulu, *Status Report on Reducing and/or Continuing the Use of Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill*, 2023)

Nearly all landfilling, waste-to-energy processing, and recycling of O‘ahu’s waste occurs in West O‘ahu at the City-owned Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill (WGSL) in Kahe valley adjacent to the Honokai Hale and Makakilo communities, the City-owned H-POWER facility

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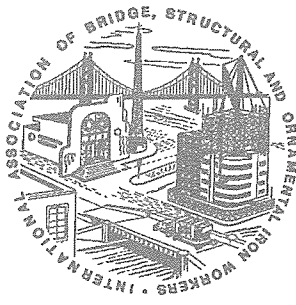
adjacent to the Kapolei community, and where both the H-POWER ash along with much of the Construction and Demolition waste passes through Makakilo, Kapolei, and Honokai Hale to either end up at WGSL or in Nānākuli at the landfill operated by PVT Land Company, Ltd. (City and County of Honolulu, *Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan*, 2019).

The West-Side of O‘ahu has historically hosted much of the island’s waste with the Wai‘anae Landfill operating from 1942 to 1989; the Pu‘u Palailai Landfill operating from 1975 to 1988; Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill operating from 1989 to the present; and the PVT Land Company, Ltd. operating from 1985 to the present. Waste has been flowing to the West-Side of O‘ahu for over 81 years.

Hawai‘i recognized that “no one segment of the population or geographic area should be disproportionately burdened with environmental and/or health impacts resulting from development, construction, operations and/or use of natural resources” (Hawaii State Department of Health, *Hawaii Environmental Justice Initiative Report*, 2008). Many of those living within the ½ mile of the operation of an active landfill are living paycheck to paycheck. A real property tax break will bring about a small but meaningful change for the year for those residents to better care for their health and safety, including through purchasing and maintaining air filters in their houses.

The people of West O‘ahu, especially those living within a ½ mile of the active operation of O‘ahu’s landfills have borne the brunt of our collective waste. Please urge the City to provide a tax break to those residents impacted so that they can take necessary actions to care for their health and safety.

We urge the committee to **PASS** HCR107HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity testimony.



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BRIDGE, STRUCTURAL,
ORNAMENTAL AND REINFORCING IRON WORKERS

Affiliated with A.F.L.-C.I.O.

LOCAL UNION NUMBER 625

94-497 UKEE STREET • WAIPAHU, HAWAII 96797

T.G. Paris
President Emeritus

April 19, 2023 – 1 pm

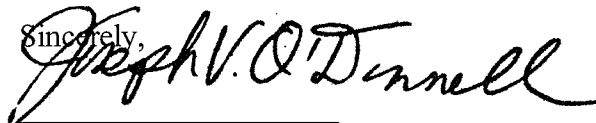
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Via Videoconference
Conference Room 430
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Re: HCR 107HD1 – Relating to Real Property Tax Exemption Request

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and Honorable committee members,

We **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HCR107HD1. This resolution urges the City and County of Honolulu to exempt from real property tax those property owners of residential units within one-half mile of an active landfill on Oahu.

Landfills cause harm to those that live, work, and play next to them. Our members and their families in Nanakuli, Oahu have experienced this reality for decades with the start of the privately held landfill operated construction and demolition landfill that has taken almost 40% of the island's trash since the mid-eighties. No one should have to live next to trash. We believe that this resolution is a step in the right direction as a matter of environmental justice. For far too long our neighbors in West, Oahu, and in Nanakuli in particular have been burdened by Oahu's trash while everyone across the island benefits. Please consider passing this resolution. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,


Joseph O'Donnell
Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer

HCR-107-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/17/2023 6:46:26 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/19/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela Young	Testifying for CARES	Support	In Person

Comments:

CARES testifies in strong support.

HCR-107-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/18/2023 9:54:01 AM

Testimony for AEN on 4/19/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
NANCY A JONES	Testifying for Hydroponics Alternatives LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Honorable Committee Members:

I submit this testimony in SUPPORT of HCR 107 (companion to SCR 57/ SD 1)--as amended—which urges City and County of Honolulu to exempt from real property taxes: 1) those property owners of residential units within one-half mile of an active municipal solid waste landfill; 2) residential property owners within one-half mile of a construction/demolition landfill; OR 3) those residential property owners deemed to have been impacted by an active landfill that warrants such an exemption.

Abundant evidence shows definite, negative health impacts to those that reside within one-half mile away from active landfills due to geography, micro-climates and other reasons. Residents of areas in close proximity to such landfills – particularly those on the Leeward Coast, which seems to be O`ahu’s “favorite dumping ground” -- could benefit significantly from a City and County property tax exemption that would allow residents to perhaps resolve their individual safety and health concerns.

For these key reasons and in the interest of preserving the health and safety of our Leeward Coast full-time residents (NOT vacation rentals) – especially our kupuna -- I urge your Committee to please pass HCR 107 (companion to SCR 57/ SD 1).

Mahalo for this opportunity to present this testimony supporting HCR 107.

Nancy Jones

PO Box 1462, Wai`anae, HI 96792 / Email: nancyhydroalt@gmail.com

HCR-107-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/14/2023 3:11:48 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/19/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong Support with comments,

Close landfill because it's affecting human health, life expectancy and over all wellbeing of residents who live near this toxic landfill.

D.O.H. please test water(aquifers) & air quality in Nanakuli surrounding active and decomolition landfills for toxic contaminants like was done for Red Hill. And if found contaminated, please hold those responsible for cleaning up toxic contaminants, to clean up contaminates from both active and demolition landfills.

HCR-107-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/17/2023 1:47:11 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/19/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melvin Paris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Senator Gabbard and members:

Help out those that live next to our opala. Mahalo.

Melvin Paris

Kapolei, Oahu

HCR-107-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/17/2023 1:48:59 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/19/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ed Werner	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Senators:

I support tax breaks for those suffering from landfills. Mahalo nui.

Ed Werner

Nanakuli, Oahu

HCR-107-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/17/2023 1:50:49 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/19/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Henrietta Paris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators:

Mahalo for taking up the issue of how for help our neighbors next to landfills. Please continue your good work. God bless.

Sincerely,

Henrietta Paris

Kapolei, Oahu

HCR-107-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/18/2023 10:06:00 AM

Testimony for AEN on 4/19/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zeb Jones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Honorable Committee Members:

I submit this testimony SUPPORTING HCR 107, HD 1 (companion to SCR 57/ SD 1)--as amended—urging the City and County of Honolulu to exempt from real property taxes: 1) those property owners of residential units within one-half mile of an active municipal solid waste landfill; 2) residential property owners within one-half mile of a construction/demolition landfill; OR 3) those residential property owners deemed to have been impacted by an active landfill that warrants such an exemption.

Many studies show definite, negative health impacts to those residing within one-half mile of active landfills due to geography, micro-climates and other reasons. Residents of areas in close proximity to such landfills – particularly those on the Leeward Coast, which has become O`ahu’s “favorite dumping ground” -- could really financially benefit from a City and County property tax exemption that would allow residents to perhaps resolve their individual safety and health concerns.

For these key reasons and to preserve the health and safety of our Leeward Coast full-time residents (as opposed to vacation/AirBnB rentals) – especially our kupuna -- I respectfully urge your Committee to please pass HCR 107, HD 1 (companion to SCR 57/ SD 1).

Mahalo for this opportunity to present this testimony supporting HCR 107, HD 1.

Zeb Jones

PO Box 1462/ Wai`anae, HI 96792 / Email: zebbe3442@gmail.com