



HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

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March 12, 2008

To: Committee on Health
Rep. Josh Green, M.d., Chair / Rep. John Mizuno, Vice Chair

By: Hawaii Food Industry Association
Richard C. Botti, Pres., or Lauren Zirbel, Government Relations

RE: HCR 132 / HR 114 REQUESTING A WORKING GROUP TO EXPLORE
PRODUCTS CONTAINING ASPARTAME

We oppose HCR 132 and HR 114 in its existing form.

There have already been hundred of studies using well accepted scientific methodologies and published in the peer reviewed literature that demonstrate aspartame safety, the most recent compilation published September 2007 by an international expert panel in the respected journal, Critical Reviews in Toxicology.

The issue in one of labeling, which is a national issue that should be addressed by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration.

Based on prior testimony received by this Legislature, the issue appears that consumers may not always know whether aspartame is an ingredient, because they claim that some products do not specifically list aspartame as an ingredient, rather it is hidden under the label of "natural flavors." If this be the case, then it makes sense that any person that is allergic to the product, or that chooses not to consume products containing aspartame should have the option of not purchasing the product. For this reason, we suggest that the Resolution be re-titled, restructured, and used as a vehicle requesting the U.S. FDA to require ingredient labeling of aspartame, even at smaller amounts as determined by the FDA.

If the Committee however feels strongly about the resolution as now titled, we ask that the following amendments be included to better assure the accuracy of statements made in the Resolutions and to allow for a balanced discussion that will lead to a more conclusive conclusion:

Page 1 line 3: Change the word "artificial" to "low calorie". Aspartame is not an artificial sweetener, it is a low calorie sweetener, while sugar is a high calorie sweetener.

Page 1 lines 13 & 14: Replace with :

"WHEREAS, some individuals have raised questions about aspartame safety; and"

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Page 1 lines 16 through 21: Delete all. This does not remotely represent the body of science that exists and documents the safety of aspartame. Replace with:

“WHEREAS, the U.S. FDA, the European Union regulatory authorities for food safety, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization, and the health and regulatory authorities of more than 130 countries all over the world have confirmed that aspartame is safe and may be used as a sweetener in foods and beverages; and”

Page 1 Delete lines 23 through 28 and replace with:

“WHEREAS, there have been hundred of studies using well accepted scientific methodologies and published in the peer reviewed literature that demonstrate aspartame safety, the most recent compilation published September 2007 by an international expert panel in the respected journal, Critical Reviews in Toxicology, and

WHEREAS, the 2007 expert panel found that the current average level of aspartame consumption among those who use aspartame is less than 10 percent of the level deemed by FDA to be safe when consumed every day throughout a lifetime; and

WHEREAS, opponents of aspartame maintain that current research on aspartame safety is inadequate; and”

Page 2 amend lines 1 & 2 as follows:

“.....that aspartame is a [neurotoxin derived from toxic sludge or it is a harmless product enabling a healthy lifestyle] villain or a savior; and

Because this is a health issue, a Medical Doctor should be included. We suggest the President of the Hawaii” Medical Association.

“(9) The President of the Hawaii Medical Association or a designee.”

Because this is an issue of food labeling, nutrition, and diabetes, we suggest the following also be added to the group:

1 Representative of the Hawaii Dietetic Association

1 Representative of the Nutrition Dept. at the University of Hawaii

1 Representative of the Hawaii Food Industry Association or designee

With these amendments, we believe there could be a meaningful report presented to the Legislature for future review.

mizuno1-Edgar

From: aspartamehelp@juno.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2008 10:52 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Available aspartame informations

Dear Representative Green and Committee.

I have long been entirely knowldgeable about Aspartame's horrendous toxicities, because I am a biochemist and MD with an outstanding knowlege of Aspartame's many Human damages, becaused it gave me LouGerhrig's disease in May-June 1983. I do not have time now, but should you wish more insights of the toxic applied biochemistry in we humans please advise me of where, and I will send you detailed informations.

Sincerely

James D Bowen MD

3/11/2008

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mizuno1-Edgar

From: Unizion [kim@unizion.co.uk]
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2008 8:10 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: House Bill - Wednesday at 11:00 AM.

"Please copy as committee handout for this hearing."

To the Honorable Rep Josh Green, MD, Chairman, House Health Committee
Rep John Mizuno, Vice Chairman
and Members of the Committee:

Dear Rep Green and Committee Members:

I am writing to tell you of the dangers of aspartame in the human diet.
I have a personal story to tell and one of 2 friends who have suffered at it's hands.

My husband works in Air Traffic Control in Gatwick, West Sussex, England and as you can imagine he is in a fairly stressful job. He had been trying to lose some weight and decided to start drinking a low-calorie diet drink - he always drinks a vast amount of fluids so he was changing to over 2 litres a day of this poison. He been drinking it for a number of months and we didn't notice anything at first until one day he started getting rather high - hypertensive and elevated.

He came home one day and started saying things that didn't make sense, I wasn't at all sure what was going on at first as I had a personal tragedgy to deal with at the time which didn't help. The next day he came to pick me up from a friends and he was late, he is never late and he was very florrid. By the evening he had got worse and was maniacally laughing, I called for medical help and he was eventually sectioned, he took 3 months off work trying to recover, he could hardly climb the stairs and he was PUTTING ON weight.

I found out about aspartame purely by accident by researching something else. I told him to come off it immediately and the results were miracalous! He could climb the stairs and he was a different man - this happened in the psace of a few days!!! He had no history of mental illness so we can only presume it was the aspartame - and he has stayed well ever since. PLEASE BAN THIS DEADLY NEURO-TOXIN.

My other friend kept getting admitted to the hospital with severe stomach pains and there seemed to be no real medical basis for it - this had been happening for 6 months - I checked what she was eating and noticed she had been consuming her favourite mints LOADED WITH ASPARTAME. She stopped eating them and has never been back to the hospital since.

A young teenage student of mine had mulitple symptoms, lose of feeling in her hands, disrupted periods, enormous weight gain - She came off diet drinks and lo and behold... she lost the weight and health is back to normal. For a teenager it was very scary to not know what is wrong with you when she was embarking on a acting and singing career.

Please SAVE THE PEOPLE OF THIS PLANET.

Thank-you

Mrs Kim Dixon

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COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Time: 11 a.m.

Comments of the Calorie Control Council on

House Concurrent Resolution 132

Submitted March 11, 2008

by Lyn O'Brien Nabors, President

Calorie Control Council

1100 Johnson Ferry Road, Suite 300

Atlanta, Georgia 30042

Written Comments Only

Aspartame, an important ingredient of low- and reduced-calorie foods and beverages, has been safely consumed by hundreds of millions of people for more than two decades. A simple ingredient, aspartame's components are found in everyday foods.

Aspartame, composed of aspartic acid, phenylalanine (amino acids, the building blocks of protein) and a small amount of methanol, brings nothing "new" to the diet that is not already present in milk, fruits, vegetables and meats. For example, a serving of tomato juice provides about six times more methanol than a serving of a diet beverage sweetened 100% with aspartame. A serving of nonfat milk provides about six times more phenylalanine and 13 times more aspartic acid compared with a diet beverage sweetened 100% with aspartame. A banana has twice the amount of aspartic acid, half the phenylalanine and the same amount of methanol as a serving of a diet beverage sweetened 100% with Aspartame. Once consumed, aspartame breaks down into its components, which the body digests in exactly the same way as those in everyday foods. Aspartame does not contain neurotoxic or carcinogenic components.

US regulations require that aspartame containing products state the presence of aspartame in the ingredient statement on the food label.

Aspartame has been tested for more than three decades, in more than 200 studies. It is one of the most thoroughly tested ingredients in the food supply. Its safety has been confirmed by the Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) of the Food and Agriculture Organization/World Health Organization, the European Food Safety Authority, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and regulatory bodies in over 100 countries.

In spite of the vast amount of research, allegations have circulated that aspartame is responsible for a number of conditions. Scientific studies have been conducted to address these claims and they have been carefully evaluated by scientists, regulators and health organizations. These groups agree that aspartame is indeed safe and that the allegations made are without foundation. Information from a number of these reviews is provided below.

EU Committee on Food - Update on the Safety of Aspartame 2002
http://ec.europa.eu/food/fs/sc/scf/out155_en.pdf

In December 2002, the European Union's Scientific Committee on Food (SCF) (now the European Food Safety Authority) reconfirmed the safety of aspartame. The 2002 review updated the previous SCF opinions (1985, 1989, 1997) in light of reports on the consumption of aspartame in relation to the onset of brain tumors and seizures, headaches, allergies, and changes in behavior and cognitive function. The 2002 review focused on papers published in the open scientific literature from 1988 to 2001 and drew on the recent extensive review by the Agence Française de Sécurité Sanitaire des Aliments (AFSSA, 2002), which covered mutagenic, carcinogenic and neurological effects.

The SCF concluded that "on the basis of its review of all the data in animals and humans available to date, there is no evidence to suggest that there is a need to revise the outcome of the earlier risk assessment or the ADI previously established for aspartame." Again, concluding that aspartame is safe.

US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

<http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~lrd/fpaspar2.html>

In April 2007, the FDA completed its review concerning the long-term carcinogenicity study of aspartame entitled, "Long-Term Carcinogenicity Bioassays to Evaluate the Potential Biological Effects, in Particular Carcinogenic, of Aspartame Administered in Feed to Sprague-Dawley Rats," conducted by the European Ramazzini Foundation (ERF), located in Bologna, Italy. The agency stated that the "FDA reviewed the study data made available to them by ERF and finds that it does not support ERF's conclusion that aspartame is a carcinogen. Additionally, these data do not provide evidence to alter FDA's conclusion that the use of aspartame is safe."

United Kingdom (UK) Food Safety Authority

<http://www.foodstandards.gov.uk/news/newsarchive/2002/dec/aspartamereview>

The European Commission's Scientific Committee on Food (SCF) has published its updated opinion on the safety of the sweetener aspartame after an extensive review of more than 500 pieces of research. "The Committee concluded – on the basis of its review of all the data available to date – that there is no need to revise its earlier risk assessment, which concluded that aspartame is safe."

New Zealand Food Safety Authority - July 2007 <http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/publications/media-releases/2007/aspartame-press-release.htm>

"Recent media reports may have raised unnecessary concerns for consumers about the safety of aspartame – used as a low energy sweetener in many common products – and need to be addressed, says the New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA)."

"NZFSA has a role to provide accurate information on the safety of food sold in New Zealand, so people are able to make informed choices about what they eat. Misleading or unsubstantiated claims about a particular food can create fear and quite unnecessary concerns for consumers," says Sandra Daly, NZFSA's Deputy Chief Executive."

Health Canada http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/securit/facts-faits/aspartame/index_e.html
http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/securit/facts-faits/aspartame/aspartame_statement_e.html

In May 2006, Health Canada stated “The overwhelming body of scientific evidence continues to support the safety of this sweetener, when used according to the provisions of the Food and Drug Regulations. However, as is the case whenever new information concerning the safety of a product arises, this new data will be carefully reviewed. Should any conclusive evidence be found linking the consumption of aspartame to adverse health effects, Health Canada will take appropriate action.”

US National Cancer Institute <http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/factsheet/Risk/artificial-sweeteners>

“Aspartame, distributed under several trade names (e.g., NutraSweet® and Equal®), was approved in 1981 by the FDA after numerous tests showed that it did not cause cancer or other adverse effects in laboratory animals. Questions regarding the safety of aspartame were renewed by a 1996 report suggesting that an increase in the number of people with brain tumors between 1975 and 1992 might be associated with the introduction and use of this sweetener in the United States. However, an analysis http://www.cancer.gov/dictionary/db_alpha.aspx?expand=a - analysis of then-current NCI statistics showed that the overall incidence of brain and central nervous system http://www.cancer.gov/dictionary/db_alpha.aspx?expand=c - central nervous system cancers began to rise in 1973, 8 years prior to the approval of aspartame, and continued to rise until 1985. Moreover, increases in overall brain cancer incidence occurred primarily in people age 70 and older, a group that was not exposed to the highest doses of aspartame since its introduction. These data do not establish a clear link between the consumption of aspartame and the development of brain tumors.”

“Recently, a laboratory experiment found more lymphomas http://www.cancer.gov/dictionary/db_alpha.aspx?expand=l - lymphoma and http://www.cancer.gov/dictionary/db_alpha.aspx?expand=l - leukemia in rats fed very high doses of aspartame (equivalent to drinking 8 to 2,083 cans of diet soda daily). However, there were some inconsistencies in the findings. For example, the cancers found in the treated rats were not specific to aspartame, and the number of cancer cases did not rise with increasing amounts of aspartame as would be expected. Subsequently, the NCI examined human data from the NIH-AARP Diet and Health Study of over half a million retirees. Increasing consumption of aspartame-containing beverages was not associated with the development of lymphoma, leukemia, or brain cancer. More information about aspartame can be found in the *FDA Statement on Aspartame*, which is available at <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~lrd/tpaspart.html> on the Internet.”

National Multiple Sclerosis Society

http://www.nationalmssociety.org/site/PageServer?pagename=HOM_ABOUT_headlines_aspartame

“Several websites and documents circulating on the Internet are making unsubstantiated claims about aspartame, an artificial sweetener used in many diet soft drinks and other foods. These stories claim that Aspartame is the cause of a variety of illnesses, including MS, lupus, Alzheimer disease, Parkinson disease, birth defects, Desert Storm syndrome, brain tumors, and seizures. However, please bear in mind the following:

The claims are not documented. There is no evidence for ‘epidemics’ of multiple sclerosis, lupus, and some of the other diseases as claimed in the articles.

There is no evidence that authors of the claims have any scientific, medical, or academic credentials; nor is there any evidence that they have done any scientific research to support their claims. No published, peer-reviewed scientific research exists that supports the claims being made in the articles.”

American Cancer Society

http://www.cancer.org/docroot/ped/content/ped_1_3x_aspartame.asp

The FDA received hundreds of complaints of various symptoms after aspartame was introduced. The most common symptoms were headache, dizziness, stomach (gastrointestinal) symptoms, and change in mood. Less often, seizures were reported. The symptoms did not follow any particular pattern and most were minor. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) concluded, "although it may be that certain individuals have an unusual sensitivity to the product, these data do not provide evidence for the existence of serious, widespread, adverse health consequences attendant to the use of aspartame."

"Claims are still made that aspartame is related to numerous health effects including: Alzheimer disease, birth defects, cancer, diabetes, Gulf War syndrome, attention deficit disorders, lupus, multiple sclerosis, and seizures. However, there is very little scientific evidence to support these claims. Human exposure studies done to date, in which volunteers eat known quantities of aspartame, have not shown any evidence of harm."

American Heart Association - <http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=4447>

"People with diabetes can use artificial sweeteners. So can people on a weight-loss diet. Aspartame is another common artificial sweetener. Extensive investigation hasn't shown any serious side effects from aspartame."

Mayo Clinic

<http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/diabetes-diet/NU00592/UPDATEAPP=0>

"Artificial sweeteners are often the subject of stories in the popular press and on the Internet, claiming that they cause a variety of health problems, including cancer. According to the National Cancer Institute, however, there's no scientific evidence that any of the artificial sweeteners approved for use in the United States cause cancer. And numerous studies confirm that artificial sweeteners are safe for the general population."

American Diabetes Association

<http://www.diabetes.org/nutrition-and-recipes/nutrition/sweeteners.jsp>

"The low-calorie sweeteners in the United States all underwent extensive testing before they were approved. Results showed that low-calorie sweeteners are safe for everyone, including children and pregnant women. However, people with a rare condition called phenylketonuria (PKU) should limit their intake of aspartame, one type of low-calorie sweetener."

The Joslin Diabetes Center affiliated with Harvard University

http://www.joslin.org/managing_your_diabetes_696.asp

The Internet myth "Especially deadly for diabetics": "there is no question that aspartame has been *beneficial* to people with diabetes, enabling them to enjoy sweet tasting foods without the carbohydrates. Since it does not contain calories in the usual amounts consumed, it cannot affect blood glucose levels or cause weight gain. . . . It is unfortunate that the Internet's remarkable capacity to transmit information means that it can also transmit misinformation widely and with lightning speed."

National Parkinson Foundation

<http://web.archive.org/web/20070106134605/http://www.parkinson.org/site/apps/s/content.asp?c=9dJFJLPwB&b=108269&ct=89681>

“There is no scientific evidence that aspartame causes or aggravates MS (multiple sclerosis) or PD (Parkinson’s Disease).”

Alzheimer’s Association

<http://www.alz.org/AboutAD/Myths.asp>

“Several studies have been conducted on aspartame’s effect on cognitive function in both animals and humans. These studies found no scientific evidence of a link between aspartame and memory loss.”

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America

<http://www.aafa.org/display.cfm?id=9&sub=20&cont=285>

“Aspartame (NutraSweet) is a calorie-free sweetener. Most reported reactions, include "hives," swelling of the eyelids, lips or hands and headaches. But these reactions have not been verified. People who have a problem breaking down the amino acid, phenylalanine, should not consume aspartame. Some claim the product also causes hyperactivity in children, but study results do not support these claims.”

American Dietetic Association

http://www.eatright.org/cps/rde/xchg/ada/hs.xsl/nutrition_1030_ENU_HTML.htm

“Aspartame's safety has been documented in more than 200 objective scientific studies. The safety of aspartame has been confirmed by the regulatory authorities in more than 100 countries, including the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Health Canada, and the European Commission's Scientific Committee on Food, as well as by experts with the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization and World Health Organization.”

mizuno1-Edgar

From: Stephen Fox [stephen@santafefineart.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2008 6:23 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: Rep. Josh Green; Rep. John Mizuno; green1-Felea'i; green2-Nicholas; mizuno2-Leolani; repbonilla@capitol.hawaii.gov; Rep. Karen Awana; "rebelatti@capitol.hawaii.gov.repbertram"@capitol.hawaii.gov; Rep. Gene Ward; Rep. Karl Rhoads; Rep. Maile Shimabukuro; Rep. James Tokioka
Subject: Testimony on Health Committee's Hearing on Rep. Josh Green's HCR 132, Requesting the Hawaii Director of Health to form a work group to explore the need to ban or better label products containing the artificial sweetener aspartame.

Testimony is being submitted as both Word Perfect and as Word Document

March 11, 2008

To the Honorable Rep Josh Green, MD, Chairman, House Health Committee Rep John Mizuno, Vice Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Dear Rep Green and Committee Members:

Thank you for including Mission Possible International as a member of your work group, and thank you for taking the time to read this formal testimony. We are filing this at the very last minute, since you and no one from your office or any of the committee members responded to our voluminous medical and victim testimony to inform any of us of your Resolution. We are sure that the lobbyists from the Grocers' and Soft Drink Companies who opposed the bills for an outright ban are aware of this Resolution of yours, as that is their job after all, to apprise their employers of anything and everything which might even potentially down the road challenge the viability and safety of their products. They are probably happy to begrudgingly chime in their concurrence, although at this date, there is no testimony presented on the Hawaii Legislature website.

We strongly recommend that you in a committee amendment or in a floor amendment, include two victims of aspartame poisoning, not just "consumers," as you originally put it in the Resolutin, and that you add a representative of the Hawaii Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division, since aspartame will someday soon be the subject of massive compensatory and punitive lawsuits similar to the states' tobacco suits in the 1990's; you might as well get someone on board who is capable of comprehending the evidentiary aspects of the epidemiological scale inherent in aspartame poisoning, the whistle blowers from the manufacturers, etc.

You apparently are trying to be conciliatory and trying to "mean well," although the tone of some of the Resolution is angry and critical of victims' point of view by impugning and ridiculing the opposition to aspartame as a kind of "junk internet science."

We are also astonished by your inclusion of the Calorie Control Council, whose entire purpose is to please their corporate fenders, which include aspartame manufacturers and users, like Coca Cola, Ajinomoto, and the Merisant Corporation, maker of Equal. They are at best apologists and soothsayers, through and through; that is their job. Putting them on a Task Force, however well intended are your intentions, is similar to asking a few members of the Nazi High Command to serve as judges at Nuremberg!

Deriding our point of view as junk science is absurd, in view of the fact that the Director of Health, Dr. Chiyome Fukino, and her Department, in order to oppose outright ban bills, chose to use a so-called "study" [AKA the Burdock Report] from Toxicology Journal which was entirely paid for by Ajinomoto of Japan, the world's largest manufacturer of both aspartame and of another neurotoxic additive: Monosodium Glutamate, and purposefully excluded almost all of the independent studies which showed their obvious neurodegenerative harm from aspartame and its metabolic by products, like methanol, formaldehyde, and diketopiperazine.

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Another point on Calorie Control Council which you and your House colleagues should be aware of: these folks continually espouse the use of their products, even for pregnant women, phenylketoneurics, and liver patients.

Their "cheereleading" positions occasionally erupt onto the pages of major American newspapers, like the Miami Herald, to whom Neurosurgeon Russell Blaylock wrote the following, and we quote his entire letter for exactitude of testimony:

Posted: 24 Apr 2004

re: Miami Herald article from 02 February 2004

Dear Editor,

It has come to my attention that the Calorie Control Council, a front group for the NutraSweet Company, recently suggested that aspartame was safe for women to use during pregnancy, as well as by those with serious liver disease and phenylketonurics. [emphasis added:] This is the most serious breach of public trust in the history of this nation. There is not one long-term study of aspartame safety ever conducted on the offspring of pregnant women consuming aspartame. Yet, there are numerous studies indicating aspartame could pose a serious danger to both mother and infant.

For example, according to the National Collaborative Study for Maternal PKU, blood levels of phenylalanine, a major component of aspartame and a developmental brain toxin, should not exceed 6mg./dl. In a study of pregnant women it was found that aspartame consumption at commonly consumed amounts reached these levels in 42% of normal women and 100% of PKU carriers. One in fifty people are PKU carriers and do not know it. This same group concluded that levels of 10mg/dl held a serious risk of infant brain impairment. In this same study 15% of pregnant women reached this toxic level of phenylalanine and 36% of PKU carriers.

This means that fully a third of all babies born to PKU carrier mothers consuming aspartame foods and drinks risk varying degrees of brain damage.

It is also known that the amount of toxic phenylalanine reaching the baby is twice as high as that in the mother's blood because the placenta concentrates the toxin. In addition, numerous metabolic breakdown products of aspartame are known to damage the developing infant's brain, including methanol, formaldehyde, formic acid, diketopiperazine and phenylacetate.

Aspartame has been shown by several studies to damage DNA, which can lead to cancer and degenerative brain disorders later in life. The risk of increased brain tumors in such a child would be enormous. Similar mechanisms of damage would be expected in those with liver disease. Studies on aspartame safety have shown that the product increases tumors throughout numerous organs, especially the brain. It was shown that brain tumor incidence increased over 47X in animals exposed to aspartame.

With the public concern over childhood obesity and diabetes, few are being told of the overwhelming evidence that early exposure to excitotoxins (as found in aspartame) consistently produce gross obesity and insulin resistant diabetes, just as we are seeing in our youth.

The promoters of aspartame use have been lying from the beginning and continue to use their money and political clout to cover up the real and present dangers of this toxic product.

Russell L. Blaylock, M.D.
Neurosurgeon
Ridgeland, MS 39157

As to Dr. Fukino's espousal of the Ajinomoto "study," we are indeed patient, ready and willing to educate her, if that is acceptable to you and to her as to the egregious flaws in that so-called Burdock Report, and if this is even possible with the presence of the Calorie Control Council in your Resolution. Because the gullible Dr. Fukino didn't have the ability nor take the time to research based on facts easily found in the public record, Mark Gold of the Aspartame Toxicity Center, did it for her. Here is the rebuttal to this atrocity to stumble the public, which we ask be included in the official testimony on this Resolution of yours: .

<http://www.holisticmed.com/aspartame/burdock/>><http://www.holisticmed.com/aspa>

rtame/burdock/

Any physician should have known better than to use one of the manufacturer's defense reviews. Much of their "flawed" research has already been exposed.

Next, in the proposed work group, you have included the American Beverage Association, the present successor to the National Soft Drink Assn. They wrote a 30 page protest in 1983 stating Searle had not met its burdens under section 409 ... to demonstrate that aspartame is functional for use in soft drinks. They spoke about the extensive deficiencies, enough to render those studies inadequate and unreliable. They stated the company did not demonstrate the use of aspartame in soft drinks would not result in the adulteration of the beverages. The protest was so vehement that when NSDA turned around and lobbied for NutraSweet, their protest was added to the congressional record of May, 1985, so the world would know they were adding this toxin with full knowledge of the studies that did not prove it safe.

Are you expecting they are going to say they are sorry and want to turn around and help the people now?

We are however, willing and prepared to further educate them as to the point of view implicit in their vehement objections in 1983, the details of which are included in a forthcoming more effective Senate Resolution, which you may read shortly when it has been formally introduced.

Do you really believe front groups who are paid and those who sell the product will not defend their product? Are we to believe that the plan in your Resolution is a serious and unbiased program to help Hawaiians? Why not just invite the CEO's of Ajinomoto, Monsanto and Merisant and let them have a reunion on the House Floor, and pass out diet sodas for everyone to drink?

Dr. Green, in your possession you have Dr. H. J. Roberts medical text of over 1000 pages of the horrors this poison causes from cancer, neurodegenerative diseases, seizures and sudden death, to embalming of living tissue and interaction of drugs, written by a physician with over two decades experience treating diabetics who are victims of aspartame poisoning, as well as those diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, who symptoms subside once they stop consuming Aspartame. Selected by his medical peers in 1984 as the best doctor in the US, Roberts has taken care of aspartame victims in the trenches of medical practice and has testified before Congress. You're a physician. Have you forgotten "First do no harm"? Why would you invite the corporate hacks and front groups who poisoned the people to work a program to genuinely protect them?

We are somewhat appalled at your resolution, although under the circumstances, with less than 30 hours before the first testimony may be heard, and rushing to complete this letter before 24 hours before the hearing, we have to rise in support of the Resolution, with a few changes, like adding 2 victims instead of consumers chosen by the Director of the Health Department.

You had full knowledge because you are the only member of the entire legislature with Dr. Roberts' medical text, and were even given a documentary where the attorney himself who tried to stop approval explains how it was marketed by the political chicanery and regulatory coup by Don Rumsfeld after the FDA revoked the petition for approval and said it could not be proven safe. Why do you think the FDA wanted the company indicted? Because they kept trying to prove a poison safe, and couldn't do it; they kept getting caught. In saying in the Resolution that the people of Hawaii have a choice to consume or not consume aspartame, thus giving a kind of carte blanche to any corporation manufacturing anything, as they do in most 3rd world nations which have no regulatory apparatuses set up to protect them: this is technically true; however, most Hawaiians, like most Americans, really don't read labels, as they have been assured hundreds of times that the United States Food and Drug Administration would never approve a poison, and most naively believe that the FDA is "there to protect them." Further, we are sure that 90% of them don't know what a phenylketoneuric even is.

Corporations and their front groups loudly proclaimed the safety of their products like Asbestos, Leaded Gasoline, Thalidomide, DDT, Vioxx, etc., until the body count and the lawsuit piled up so badly that their lies were completely transparent. Wouldn't your point of view there obviate the entire purpose of committees like yours and the House Committee for Consumer Protection and Commerce?

For no ulterior motive or personal profit whatsoever, except that it is the right thing to do, we are trying to protect the people of Hawaii from a poison, not defend front groups lobbyists and manufacturers or allow them a forum for more chicanery and deception. There

is not a person who has read this resolution who has not seen through it. You have read many medical texts; you know the score.

A few weeks ago, under obvious and regrettable pressure from Grocery Manufacturers and Soft Drink bottlers, you deferred the bill when it could have been moved to the next committee, and now you bring in those we've been exposing for years. How will you explain this to your constituents, in the event that they ask you? This whole resolution is like asking baby killers to decorate the nursery. They will spend all their time convincing you and the committee this poison is safe as rain or as safe as "mother's milk," and then you can walk away and say "we tried."

Thank you and the Committee Members for reading this long testimony prepared on very short notice.

Respectfully, and cosigned by:

Stephen Fox, Managing Editor Santa Fe Sun News stephen@santafefineart.com

Dr. Betty Martini, D.Hum, Founder
Mission Possible International
9270 River Club Parkway
Duluth, Georgia 30097
770 242-2599
www.mpwhi.com, www.dorway.com
Aspartame Toxicity Center, www.holisticmed.com/aspartame

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
H.C.R. NO. 132 , TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE, 2008

STATE OF HAWAII - HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION Requesting the Director of Health to form a work group to explore the need to ban or better label products containing the artificial sweetener aspartame.

WHEREAS, discovered in 1965, aspartame was first approved in the United States in 1981 and is one of the most widely used artificial sweeteners; and

WHEREAS, when metabolized by the body, aspartame is broken down into two common amino acids, aspartic acid and phenylalanine, and a small amount of a third substance, methanol; and

WHEREAS, these three substances occur in similar or greater amounts in common foods; and

WHEREAS, aspartame continues to be the subject of strong public controversy regarding its safety; and

WHEREAS, some studies have recommended further investigation into the possible connection between aspartame and diseases such as brain tumors, brain lesions, and lymphoma; and

WHEREAS, some human and animal studies have found adverse effects and some have found no adverse effects; and

WHEREAS, while there have been a number of studies on the effects of aspartame on people, there is a great deal of argument by both proponents and opponents on the methods used in the testing and whether accurate representations of the consequences of average consumption by people have been achieved by these studies; and

WHEREAS, the Internet has become a tool for many to spread and promote the opinion they adhere to as fact whether it is that aspartame is a neurotoxin derived from toxic sludge or it is a harmless product enabling a healthy lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, while many may find that the simple answer to the problem is to not purchase or use any product containing aspartame in it, there are those who maintain that some products do not specifically list aspartame as an ingredient, rather it is hidden under the label of "natural flavors"; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the Director of Health is requested to form a work group to explore the need to ban or improve labeling for products containing the artificial sweetener aspartame; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the members of the work group should include:

- (1) One member from the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
- (2) One member of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate;
- (3) The Director of Health or the director's designee;
- (4) The President of the Calorie Control Council or the President's designee; and
- (5) The President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Beverage Association or a designee;
- (6) The President of the Hawaii Society of Naturopathic Physicians or a designee;
- (7) The Founder of Mission Possible International or a designee; and
- (8) Two consumers appointed by the Director of Health; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the work group is requested to submit a report of its findings, as well as any suggested legislation, to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2010; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, President of the Calorie Control Council, President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Beverage Association, President of the Hawaii Society of Naturopathic Physicians, and Founder of Mission Possible International.

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From: Mark D. Gold [mgold@holisticmed.com]
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2008 8:20 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Testimony regarding H.C.R. # 132, Twenty-Fourth Legislature, 2008

To: Representative Josh Green, M.D., Chair, House Health Committee and Committee Members

From: Mark D. Gold, Aspartame Toxicity Information Center
Date: March 11, 2008
Subject: H.C.R. # 132, Twenty-Fourth Legislature, 2008

Honorable Representatives:

I read with interest the proposed House (HCR) Resolution 132:
"Aspartame: Work Group."

There are a couple of parts of the resolution that are not quite accurate. In addition, the proposed make-up of the Working Group virtually guarantees that no action will be taken. I will make some suggestions proposed below.

The following part of the resolution is inaccurate:

"WHEREAS, when metabolized by the body, aspartame is broken down into two common amino acids, aspartic acid and phenylalanine, and a small amount of a third substance, methanol...."

There are other breakdown products of aspartame, such as aspartylphenylalanine diketopiperazine, which has been suggested as a potential brain tumor agent after conversion in the gut. In addition, using the phrasing such as "small amount of" for methanol might imply "safe" for some, but methanol causes chronic toxicity at exceptionally low levels (especially when combined with an excitotoxic amino acid such as aspartic acid). I suggest removing the words "a small amount of."

The following part of the resolution is inaccurate:

"WHEREAS, these three substances occur in similar or greater amounts in common foods...."

What occurs in most foods is aspartic acid and phenylalanine as part of a protein molecule that is digested and absorbed very slowly. With aspartame (a dipeptide), there is a sudden absorption of these free-form amino acids, spiking the blood plasma levels of these amino acids in some cases. There are plenty of studies pointing to these differences, yet this part of the resolution implies that there is nothing to worry about.

In addition, methanol has been shown to convert to formaldehyde and the formaldehyde accumulate in the brain, liver, kidneys, and other parts of the body from aspartame ingestion. This has never been shown to happen from food ingestion. This is because of substances in the food that prevent the conversion of methanol to formaldehyde. The conversion of methanol to formaldehyde and the accumulation of formaldehyde in the body from aspartame ingestion has been proven in a published, peer-reviewed independent study.

I suggest eliminating this whole section because it implies aspartame breakdown products are similar to what is found in food and clearly those independent researchers concerned with aspartame toxicity know that it is not similar to food.

The following part of the resolution should be changed:

"...aspartame is a neurotoxin derived from toxic sludes."

I believe that independent scientists who have studied this issue for decades (and whose articles have been transcribed and can be found on the Internet) would never refer to

aspartame like that. A more accurate and professional phrasing may be something like:

"...aspartame is a neurotoxin." or
"...aspartame is a slow poison that accumulates in the body."

Working Group

I cannot too strongly suggest removing the following members from the proposed Working Group:

- a. (4) The President of the Calorie Control Council or the President's designee.
- b. (5) The President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Beverage Association or designee.
- c. (7) The Founder of Mission Possible International or a designee.

These and other organizations would be more than happy to submit answers to questions and testimony. But to include them in a working group guarantees that nothing will get done. As you probably know, the Calorie Control Council is one of the public relations organization for the aspartame manufacturer. Let completely independent minded people be part of the Working Group and then let the chips fall where they may.

Speaking of independent reviews of this issue, it is my understanding that the aspartame industry submitted a scientific review as part of their testimony, "Aspartame: A Safety Evaluation Based on Current Levels, Regulations, and Toxicological and Epidemiological Studies" which was published in the scientific journal, "Critical Reviews in Toxicology." Many scientists and physicians did not know that this review was paid for by the manufacturer of aspartame and that the reviewers had close financial and working relationships with the manufacturer and their trade groups. Now all of that information is available online at:

<http://www.holisticmed.com/aspartame/burdock/>

Cordially,

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