

**SB 559**

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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STATE OF HAWAII  
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In reply, please refer to:  
File:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
S.B. 559, RELATING TO RECYCLING

Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.  
Director of Health  
February 13, 2009  
9:00 A.M.

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health appreciates the intent of this bill, but does not  
2 support it at this time.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** \$12,500 in deposit beverage container (DBC) special funds for both FY2010 and  
4 FY2011.

5 **Purpose and Justification:**

6 This bill requires DAGS to establish a mandatory recycling program for all state buildings and  
7 facilities, public schools and the University of Hawaii (UH) by January 1, 2011. Specifically, this bill  
8 would establish a "Hawaii recycling program" that shall include but is not limited to all recyclable paper  
9 products, electronic devices, plastics, furniture, as well as other recyclable items. It assigns  
10 responsibility for the program development and implementation to the energy resources coordinator, the  
11 DOE and the UH administration. It also requires agencies to incorporate the Hawaii recycling program.  
12 It also funds the Hawaii recycling program using moneys in the DBC special fund.

1 DOH supports organized and increased recycling. We also see merit in providing resources to  
2 support one facet of the administration's lead by example initiative for more economical and  
3 environmentally friendly energy and resource design, use and purchasing. However, in view of the  
4 current economic uncertainty, DOH opposes this measure because it expands government programs and  
5 is funded by undetermined future amount of DBC funds.

6 We are concerned about the DBC fund becoming an omnibus recycling fund, given the need to  
7 refund deposits and pay handling fees. We are concerned about taking money from the DBC fund when  
8 it is also called upon to help alleviate the State's difficult fiscal situation in S.B. 884.

9 Broader budget priority setting should precede assigning particular new uses to special funds.

10 DOH would continue to provide technical assistance to DAGS, DOE and UH, as requested,  
11 regarding recycling within State buildings.

12 The Department of Health appreciates the intent of this bill to increase and expand recycling in  
13 State facilities. However, the given the current fiscal realities, it would not be prudent to pursue this  
14 proposal at this time.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

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