

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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MUFI HANNEMANN  
MAYOR



February 1, 2010

TIMOTHY E. STEINBERGER, P.E.  
DIRECTOR

MANUEL S. LANUEVO, P.E., LEED AP  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Bill No. 2644  
ROSS S. TANIMOTO, P.E.  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Support Y IN REFERENCE TO: 10-026

Date 2/1

Time 10:18

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The Honorable Hermina M. Morita, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Energy and  
Environmental Protection  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Morita and Members:

Subject: House Bill 2644, Relating to Solid Waste

The City and County of Honolulu's Department of Environmental Services does not support House Bill (HB) 2644, relating to solid waste, as written.

HB 2644 indicates that the costs of administration of the State's solid waste management program through the Office of Solid Waste Management, Department of Health (DOH) should be supported by revenue collected from the \$.35/ton surcharge to disposal facilities within the state. HB 2644 proposes to extend the surcharge to include transfer stations, waste to energy facilities and shipping facilities. We object to this proposal for several reasons:

- a) We do not agree with the basic premise that the surcharge should be the only source of support for the administration of the State's solid waste management program. In this proposal only certain facilities are required to pay the surcharge. The Office of Solid Waste Management issues permits to recycling facilities as well as transfer stations, waste-to-energy, landfill disposal sites, and other facilities. Either all should be required to pay the surcharge or none should be required to pay.
- b) Under the proposed language, \$.35/ton surcharge is assessed when solid waste is dropped into a transfer station. That ton is sent either to the landfill, a waste-to-energy facility, or a shipping facility, where the surcharge is assessed again. This creates multiple surcharges on the same ton of waste. In order to not incur multiple charges, a collector would have to avoid using the transfer stations and just send all the refuse collection trucks directly to a disposal site, thereby increasing traffic on the highway, increasing fuel and maintenance charges, and generally contributing to a less efficient solid waste management program. We do not believe that this is the intended result of the legislation.

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and Members of the Committee on Energy and  
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- c) Further, it is unclear that the surcharge has been collected from, or is collectable from, unpermitted solid waste disposal facilities. Putting the burden only on those that lawfully obtain a permit may serve to encourage unpermitted activity.

It may be more appropriate for the State DOH increase permit fees, which is a fairer method for gaining revenues and assessing cost allotments.

We encourage the Committee to not move HB 2644 forward in its current form. Additional evaluation of the appropriate mechanism to fund the State's Office of Solid Waste Management is appropriate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy E. Steinberger', is written over a faint rectangular box.

Timothy E. Steinberger, P.E.  
Director



**Hawaii Farm Bureau**  
F E D E R A T I O N

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Bill No. 2644

Support Y N X

Date 2/1

Time 15:35

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**February 2, 2010**

**TESTIMONY**

before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Rep. Hermina M. Morita, Chair

Rep. Denny Coffman, Vice Chair

**HB 2644 Relating to Solid Waste**

Chair Morita, Vice Chair Coffman and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF), the largest statewide non-profit general agriculture organization, representing approximately 1,600 farm and ranch family members, appreciates the opportunity to present comments on this bill.

HFBF recognizes that the current fiscal situation may require a fee-for-service approach and supports efforts that provide the public with necessary services which may otherwise become unavailable.

Our farming and ranching members are trying to ensure food availability and security in our state despite the higher costs of production here. Our dependency on mainland and foreign food not only hurts our local economy but could prove disastrous if the islands are cut off from food shipments for even as little as one week.

The state is trying to encourage more cattle processing in Hawaii in an attempt to improve Hawaii's biosecurity, however, due to restrictions imposed by USDA on carcass use at the rendering plants, some waste must be disposed of at the landfill. However, because landfill disposal costs make this cost-prohibitive, cattle producers are unable to send all of their animals for local processing, making Hawaii that much further from food security.

To better support local food production, solid waste surcharges should not be assessed on animal carcasses and wastes that cannot be disposed of through other means. Similarly, in the case of a natural disaster or animal disease epidemic, disposal of carcasses, including cattle, sheep, goats, hogs, and chickens should be exempt from all state disposal surcharges.

For this reason, we respectfully request the following amendment (**in bold**) to Chapter 342G-62.

SECTION 2. Section 342G-62, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

"(a) There is established a solid waste management surcharge. The solid waste management surcharge shall be 35 cents per ton of solid waste either disposed of within the State at permitted or unpermitted solid waste disposal facilities[~~-~~] or transferred to a solid waste reduction facility with the State, including:

- (1) Waste-to-energy facilities; and
- (2) Facilities that collect solid waste for transport to any landfill, incineration facility, or waste-to-energy facility outside the State.

The surcharge shall be paid by the person or entity doing the disposal. **This surcharge shall not apply to disposal of animal carcasses.**

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit comments in support of agriculture in Hawaii.