

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2010 6:28 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: bill@ejlounge.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2850 on 2/17/2010 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/17/2010 1:30:00 PM HB2850

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bill Comerford
Organization: Hawaii Bar Owners Association
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Phone: 808-223-3997
E-mail: bill@ejlounge.com
Submitted on: 2/16/2010

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments:
WE STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS BILL

In this difficult time of economic hardship once again the legislature has chosen to lump more sin taxes on our industry without any relief and any sign of helping our industry which is key in drawing tourists to our islands.

It is unconscionable to ask us to pay for more and more health issues that do not relate to our industry and yet raise our costs which in turn raises our prices which in turn puts a higher cost on vacations and a resultant loss of tourist numbers.

Why do you tax us? Because it is easy. Yet this is nearly annual without any regards to the survival of the businesses or the jobs they create.

This appears as one issue but add minimum wage increases, bottle bills, unemployment insurance etc etc and this is one of the many straws that break our backs and make unviable to pursue this industry.

Please stop lumping on the taxes?

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

JAMES R. AIONA, JR.
LT. GOVERNOR



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**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
TESTIMONY REGARDING HB 2850
RELATING TO THE LIQUOR TAX**

TESTIFIER: KURT KAWAFUCHI, DIRECTOR OF TAXATION (OR DESIGNEE)

DATE: FEBRUARY 17, 2010

TIME: 1:30PM

ROOM: 308

This measure temporarily increases the liquor tax from July 1, 2010 until June 30, 2015.

The Department of Taxation (Department) **opposes the tax increase** contained in this measure and recommends that this measure be held.

A TAX INCREASE—The Department opposes this tax increase. The Department does not support tax increases, especially increases that will simply increase the costs to consumers at a time when taxpayers cannot afford such increases.

REVENUE IMPACT – This bill would increase general fund revenues by approximately \$5.7 million per year from fiscal year 2011 until fiscal year 2015.