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LATE

**Testimony COMMENTING on S.C.R. 69  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO IMPLEMENT A RADIATION  
MONITORING PILOT PROJECT  
SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: March 31, 2015 Room Number: 225  
Time: 3:00 pm

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Implementation of this measure may require additional funding for  
2 sampling and laboratory analysis at a cost of approximately \$1000.00 per sample.

3 **Department Testimony:** The resolution requests that the Department of Health implement a  
4 radiation monitoring pilot project that measures and monitors radiation levels in food, dairy  
5 products, rainwater, aquifers and drainage ditches in response to the March 11, 2011 Fukushima  
6 nuclear disaster. It also requests that the Department post periodic reports of those radiation  
7 levels and their significance on its website.

8 The Department appreciates the intent of this resolution, but offers the following  
9 comments:

10 The Department has already established enhanced radiation surveillance around the  
11 islands in response to the Fukushima nuclear event. This includes continuous air sampling  
12 through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Radnet system located in Honolulu;  
13 monthly (or as rain capture permits) precipitation sampling; quarterly milk and drinking water  
14 sampling; quarterly shoreline surveillance on the Islands of Hawaii, Kauai, Maui and Oahu; and  
15 surveying of Japan Tsunami Marine Debris (JTMD), as needed. Trace amounts of radioactive

1 material were detected in air, milk and precipitation samples for a few weeks following the  
2 Fukushima event, but were far below levels of public health concern. Levels have long since  
3 returned to normal values associated with background radiation. Reports of findings and  
4 advisories continue to be periodically posted to the Department's website, along with links for  
5 additional resources from various agencies.

6 With regard to food and seafood safety, the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has  
7 no evidence that radionuclides from the Fukushima incident are present in the U.S. food supply  
8 at levels that would pose a public health concern. This is true for both FDA-regulated food  
9 products imported from Japan and U.S. domestic food products, including seafood caught off the  
10 coast of the United States. Consequently, FDA is not advising consumers to alter their  
11 consumption of specific foods imported from Japan or domestically produced foods, including  
12 seafood. FDA continues to closely monitor the situation at and around the Fukushima Dai-ichi  
13 facility, as it has since the start of the incident and will coordinate with other federal and state  
14 agencies as necessary, standing ready to take action if needed, to ensure the safety of food in the  
15 U.S. marketplace.

16 Given the extent of monitoring, sampling and surveillance being performed by various  
17 entities, the Department believes this resolution may be unnecessary. Should the need arise, the  
18 Department will increase its monitoring and surveillance to ensure the safety of the people of  
19 Hawaii.

20 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.