



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and
Military Affairs and Committee on Consumer Protection**

Senator Will Espero, Chair, Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair, Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair, Consumer Protection
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair, Consumer Protection

Friday, February 6, 2015 at 10:15 a.m.
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

RE: SENATE BILL 193 RELATED TO ENHANCED 911 SURCHARGES

Chair Espero, Chair Baker, Vice-Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Joint Committees:

Retail Merchants of Hawaii (RMH) opposes SB 193, which would require a seller to collect a surcharge from its consumer(s) for the State's E911 program.

As the single largest generator of general excise tax in the State of Hawaii; employing nearly 25% of Hawaii's workforce and representing over 3000 storefronts throughout the State, **RMH strongly opposes SB 193**. This bill would require sellers to deduct and retain 3 percent of prepaid wireless E911 surcharges from consumers and remit payment collected back to the State for the program. Hawaii already charges consumers for this service and an additional charge would be over the top. Retailers/Sellers/Businesses are already overburdened by the collection of regulated fees, adding this to the list would be another added burden to consumers and sellers. This overburden will cost business(s) time lost from direct profits.

Charging consumers additional fees and requiring retail businesses to do it, will increase cost to employers and significantly increase cost for consumers.

RMH appreciates the thought behind creation of this policy, however, respectfully ask each member to **OPPOSE SB 193**.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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