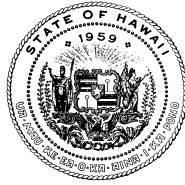


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII



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KA LUNA HO'ŌKELE

WRITTEN
TESTIMONY
ONLY

In reply, please refer to:
File:

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB0966 HD1
RELATING TO DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE**

REPRESENTATIVE DAVID A. TARNAS, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Hearing Date: 3/29/2023

Room Number: 325

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** Unknown
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports this measure as it provides other
- 3 options for penalties to deter illegal dumping.
- 4 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.
- 5 **Offered Amendments:** None



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

To: The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair
The Honorable Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Re: **SB 966 HD1 – RELATING TO DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE**
Hearing: Wednesday, March 29, 2023, 2:00 p.m., Conference 325, via videoconference

Position: **Strong Support**

Aloha, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i and its 7,500 members stand in strong support of SB 966 HD 1. This measure would subject to forfeiture any vehicle used in the commission of felony disposal of solid waste or petty misdemeanor disposal of solid waste.

As provided in the Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform adopted at the DPH State Convention on May 28, 2022, our policy is to “protect and preserve Hawai'i's environment and achieve energy sustainability, advance measures to re-establish a healthy climate and environment for humans and fellow species, including actions to urgently address climate change, and work towards 100% renewable energy goals.

We believe that all people have the right to live in a clean, healthy and safe environment. We believe that the preservation of our natural environment and its ecological well-being is essential to ensuring a safe, healthy, bountiful life for future generations in Hawai'i. We support policies that create a more sustainable society. We support the restoration, preservation, and protection of native ecosystems.

We believe in the resource management principles outlined in the Public Trust doctrine of [Article XI, Section 1 of the] Hawai'i State Constitution.”

Illegal dumping involves the unauthorized disposal of numerous types of waste. Typical materials dumped include building materials from construction sites, such as drywall, roofing shingles, lumber, brick, concrete, and siding. Other frequently dumped materials include automobile parts, household appliances, household waste, furniture, yard scraps, and medical waste.

Effects of illegal dumping include health, environmental, and economic consequences. While legal waste disposal locations, such as [landfills](#), are designed to contain waste and its byproducts from infiltrating the surrounding environment, illegal dumping areas do not typically incorporate the same safeguards. Due to this, illegal dumping may sometimes lead to [pollution](#) of the surrounding environment. [Toxins](#) or hazardous materials infiltrating soil and drinking water threaten the health of local residents. Additionally, illegal dump sites that catch fire pollute the air with toxic particles. Environmental pollution due to illegal dumping causes short-term and long-term health issues. Short-term issues include [asthma](#); [congenital illnesses](#); [stress](#) and [anxiety](#); [headaches](#), [dizziness](#) and [nausea](#); and [eye](#) and [respiratory infections](#). Long-term concerns include [cancer](#) and [kidney](#); [liver](#); [respiratory](#); [cardiovascular](#); [brain](#); [nervous](#); and lymphohematopoietic diseases. Beyond negative health outcomes due to pollution and toxic waste, illegal



March 29, 2023

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dumps pose a physical threat. Unstable piles of material and exposed nails threaten harm to humans, specifically children who may be attracted to illegal dumps as play areas.

Forfeiture of any vehicle used in the commission of felony disposal of solid waste or petty misdemeanor disposal of solid waste is consistent with the Public Trust Doctrine and the policies of the Democratic Party of Hawaii to curb illegal dumping that threatens our healthy climate and environment.

/s/ Melodie Aduja and Alan Burdick, Co-Chairs, DPH Environmental Caucus

SB-966-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2023 4:15:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/29/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

On reading the bill SB966 and testimony on it concerning illegal dumping I can see both sides of the issue, which apparently the writers of this bill missed.. One of the testifiers included homeless in the testimony - that they should also be fined! What the bill and all the testimony writers are missing is the larger picture. Disposal is expensive for commercial dumpers and probably close to impossible for the homeless. Do we have a good, convenient way to dispose of appliances, cars, and building materials? Some counties are developing solutions. Are we planning to give the dumpers an alternative place to take their "trash" or just penalize them? Are the legal ways to dispose of vehicles or building materials or other hard to dispose of materials made known to potential dumpers? Is this information shared beyond official notifications to reach the potential dumpers? Some counties are looking to advertise on social media. Since each county has its own solid waste system and infrastructure, does one penalty fit all counties? Is the penalty appropriate for places that have barriers to convenient locations and times for disposal? Because the solid waste infrastructure is different for each county, it would seem that penalties (and solutions) should be appropriate to each county. Has there been a study of why people are dumping illegally and was penalizing seen as the only solution to the problem? Is such a harsh penalty appropriate in every situation? I can not support a bill which does not explain the options possible or looked at, but goes directly to penalizing. Make disposing easier first!