



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony COMMENTING on HCR 92 HD1
RECOGNIZING THE ISSUE OF ILLEGAL DUMPING WITHIN THE WAIPAHU
COMMUNITY AND URGING THE STATE, CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU,
AND MILITARY TO WORK TOGETHER TO ADDRESS THIS CONCERN.**

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

SENATOR GLENN WAKAI, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS

Hearing Date: April 12, 2024

Room Number: 224

1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A

2 **Department Testimony:** This resolution requests the State, including the Department of Health
3 (Department) to work with the City and County of Honolulu and military to address illegal
4 dumping in the Waipahu community, particularly along bike paths.

5 The Solid and Hazardous Waste Branch of the Department is tasked with responding to
6 illegal dumping complaints statewide. Our records for the past three years indicate only a single
7 complaint of illegal dumping in Waipahu, however it does not mean that illegal dumping is not
8 occurring. Due to our limited resources, we utilize the complaint system to help identify
9 potential problem areas.

10 The Department is willing to investigate any illegal dumping in the community and
11 would like to obtain information on the specific locations of any instances and encourages the
12 public to report incidents of illegal dumping so that we are able to investigate and resolve these
13 issues as expeditiously as possible to mitigate any public health and environmental threats.

14 The Department is aware of homeless encampments along or near the Pearl Harbor bike
15 path that may contribute a significant amount to the dumping in this area. It is difficult for the

- 1 Department to enforce and curb any dumping from these sources. Until the homeless issue is
- 2 resolved, illegal dumping will continue to persist and remain a chronic problem in this area.
- 3 **Offered Amendments:** None.
- 4 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.