

SCR 163

**Measure
Title:**

**REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A
LITERATURE REVIEW OF THE HEALTH
EFFECTS FROM LONG TERM EXPOSURE
TO HAZARDOUS WASTE MATERIALS.**

**Report
Title:**

**Hazardous Waste Materials; Literature
Review**

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LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU
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State Capitol
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Written Testimony

SCR163

**REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A
LITERATURE REVIEW OF THE HEALTH EFFECTS FROM LONG TERM
EXPOSURE TO HAZARDOUS WASTE MATERIALS**

Testimony by the Legislative Reference Bureau
Ken H. Takayama, Director

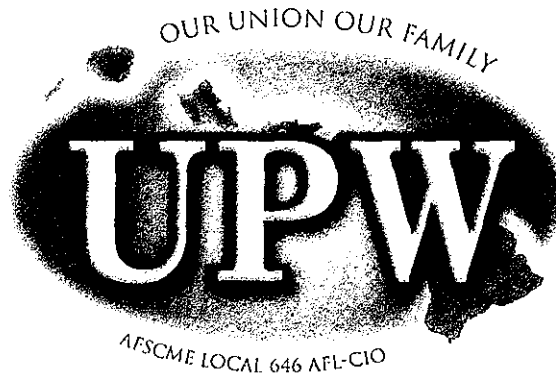
Presented to the Senate Committee on Health

Wednesday, April 1, 2009, 2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 016

Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ken H. Takayama, Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 163. The Bureau takes **no position** either for or against this measure, but offers the following **comments**:

1. The Concurrent Resolution directs the Bureau to conduct a literature review on the following subjects:
 - a. Health effects from long term exposure to hazardous waste materials;
 - b. Upgrades and improvements that could be made to existing wastewater treatment plants to ensure healthy working conditions;
 - c. Upgrades to refuse collection systems to ensure healthy working conditions; and
 - d. Appropriate actions to compensate employees who suffer from various health problems as a direct result of long term exposure to hazardous waste materials.
2. The scope of the project directed is potentially very broad, and may involve a great deal of material that is very technical.
3. As presently drafted, however, the project directed appears to be difficult, but still manageable.



The Senate
The Twenty-Fifth Legislature
Regular Session of 2009

The Committee on Health
Sen. David Y. Ige, Chair
Sen. Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, April 1, 2009
TIME: 2:45 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 016

**TESTIMONY OF THE UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS, AFSCME, LOCAL 646, AFL-CIO
ON SCR 163, REQUESTING THE LRB TO CONDUCT A LITERATURE REVIEW OF
THE HEALTH EFFECTS FROM LONG TERM EXPOSURE TO HAZARDOUS
WASTE MATERIALS**

My name is Dayton Nakanelua, state director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO (UPW). The UPW currently represents approximately 8,700 blue collar, non-supervisory employees in bargaining unit 1, and 2,800 institutional, health, and correctional workers in bargaining unit 10 in the State of Hawaii and the various counties.

We strongly support SCR 163. Many of the employees who collect and work with hazardous waste materials are our members. Over the years, questions have been raised by these workers regarding the long term effects of exposure to these materials and the best and safest way of handling them. A review of the latest studies would be a first step in addressing these concerns and implementing the safest work practices and environment. Furthermore, this measure promotes the concept of work injury prevention which has been the focal strategy in

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keeping workers' compensation insurance rates manageable. It is a win-win situation for both business and labor.

We ask that the second "BE IT RESOLVED" clause be amended to read:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the literature review, the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to review materials related to the appropriate upgrades and improvements that could be made to existing wastewater treatment plants, ~~and~~ refuse collection and disposal systems to ensure safe and healthy working conditions for current and future employees...

With this amendment we strongly urge the passage of SCR 163.

From: Scott Dunn [scott@accucopyconsulting.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 2:31 PM
To: HTHTestimony
Subject: SCR 163

Categories: Green Category, Blue Category

Ryan, thank you for hearing our resolution. As discussed, here is our amendment. The second be it resolve clause should read. "...existing wastewater treatment plants, refuse collections and disposal systems to ensure safe and healthy..." Thank you Scott Dunn UPW 226-8000.