



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 15, 2007

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COUNCILMEMBER DJOU: CITY MUST ALLOW SHIPMENT OF GARBAGE OFF-ISLAND

Councilmember Charles K. Djou (Waikiki, East Honolulu) introduced legislation to allow the shipment of privately collected garbage to the mainland. This legislation reverses the Hannemann administration's stated policy of prohibiting the shipment of waste off of Oahu.

"Oahu has a landfill problem; we simply lack sufficient real estate for more garbage dumps. Even if Oahu did have available space, taking up more precious Hawaii land for a garbage landfill is a tragic misuse of our natural resources. If a private company hauls trash away from a private business or condo and contracts with a private shipping company to take that garbage to the mainland, so long as all existing environmental rules are complied with, I feel this is exactly what the City should encourage, not ban. The Hannemann administration's new policy to ban all such private transactions and force all Oahu garbage to stay in Honolulu contravenes the basic principles of American free enterprise and foolishly forces more garbage to pile up here rather than on the mainland," stated Councilmember Djou.

Councilmember Djou introduced Bill 42 (2007) with Councilmember Todd Apo to reverse the administration's stated policy of banning off-island garbage shipment. The Hannemann administration has asked for a private, closed-door meeting with City Councilmembers on Wednesday, April 18, to stop Bill 42 from advancing.

Even if the City Council fails to pass Councilmember Djou's bill, the U.S. Supreme Court may still reverse the Hannemann administration's policy. This summer the U.S. Supreme Court is scheduled to decide, in United Haulers Assn., Inc., et al. v. Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Management Authority, et al., if municipal "flow-control" regulations mandating that garbage stay in a particular municipality violates the inter-state commerce clause of the U.S. Constitution.

"Greed drives the City's anti-shipment policy. The City makes a hefty profit off of the current \$91/ton garbage tipping fee. By banning off-island trash shipment and forcing all waste haulers to only use City garbage transfer stations, the City prevents entrepreneurs from cutting into the City's income stream through the power of government. Greed, however, should not trump good policy at City Hall," added Councilmember Djou

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