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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

1000 ULUOHIA STREET, SUITE 308, KAPOLEI, HAWAII 96707
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-3486 • FAX: (808) 768-3487 • WEBSITE: <http://envhonolulu.org>

KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



LORI M.K. KAHIKINA, P.E.
DIRECTOR

TIMOTHY A. HOUGHTON
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

ROSS S. TANIMOTO, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

IN REPLY REFER TO:
DIR 14-043

August 27, 2014

The Honorable Ron Menor, Chair
Committee on Executive Matters and Legal Affairs
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

CITY COUNCIL
HONOLULU, HAWAII

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Dear Chair Menor and Councilmembers:

SUBJECT: Bill 50 (2014), Relating to the Settlement of Certain Civil Fines

The City's Department of Environmental Services (ENV) opposes Bill 50, due to the fact that Section 2-3.5 (b) 2 is not clearly defined to exclude ENV.

As you know, fines are considered an escalation; we first issue notices or letters to inform parties of the concern and the lack of compliance before fines are issued. In the majority of cases, this resolves the issue. ENV processes more than 750 notices from our Refuse and Environmental Quality Divisions. Last fiscal year, less than ten percent (10%) of these violations resulted in fines totaling a value of \$12,250.

The agency has developed administrative rules and procedures for managing this process in a timely manner, including fees for appealing the fines. We believe that instituting another layer of approvals reduces efficiency by keeping cases open for longer, necessitating administrative management; and delays decisions to those parties appealing the fines.

Should there be any questions, please contact me at 768-3486.

Sincerely,

Lori M.K. Kahikina, P.E.
Director

APPROVED:

Ember Lee Shinn
Managing Director