

**TESTIMONY OF IAN L. SANDISON
ON BEHALF OF SCHNITZER STEEL HAWAII CORP.
ON HB 2249, HD1
(RELATING TO LANDFILLS)
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
HOUSE
HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE**

February 27, 2012

Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ian Sandison and on behalf of Schnitzer Steel Hawaii Corp. ("Schnitzer"), I am pleased to have this opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 2249. This bill allows and encourages the use of recycled materials as alternative daily cover at landfills in Hawaii. It is patterned after very similar legislation in California. The public benefits of this legislation are (1) minimization of waste, (2) prolonging of the useful life of Hawaii's existing landfills and (3) encouragement of recycling.

Schnitzer is Hawaii's largest recycler. Schnitzer's operations in Hawaii employ approximately 50 people, and include equipment and processes to recycle ferrous and non-ferrous scrap metal. Its state-of-the-art metal shredder can reduce a full-size automobile into fist-sized pieces of shredded steel scrap in approximately 30 seconds. For each ton of scrap metal received by Schnitzer, its recycling operation reduces the volume by 80%. Much of this material would otherwise take up significant space in the Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill, or be simply abandoned on Hawaii's streets and vacant lots.

Recycling operations produce some residual waste. Schnitzer shreds approximately 120,000 tons of scrap metal every year. In so doing, it generates approximately 20,000 tons of recycling residue. That residue consists primarily of plastics, glass, carpet and other nonmetallic automobile and appliance components. Currently, this residual waste goes to Waimanalo Gulch where it takes up valuable landfill space.

If HB 2249 is becomes law, Schnitzer could process this waste into alternative daily cover for use at landfills in Hawaii. While Schnitzer is currently working with the Department of Health on permitting processed shredder residue as alternative daily cover, the

permitting process has proved to be quite lengthy and repeats efforts that have already been undertaken elsewhere in the United States. On the mainland, waste from nearly all of Schnitzer's scrap metal recycling operations is further processed into alternative daily cover for use in landfills. This saves landfill space and changes what would otherwise be waste and turns it into a useful product. Alternative daily cover efficiently and economically helps to prevent landfill fires and to control litter, pests and odors.

Schnitzer strongly supports PVT's proposed amendment to allow for the use of recycled materials as alternative daily cover at construction and demolition landfills. This will further encourage recycling and greatly help to reduce Oahu's dependence on Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to submit this testimony to your Committee.