

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

July 8, 2005

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 332

Honorable Members
Twenty-Third Legislature
State of Hawaii

Pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, I am returning herewith, without my approval, House Bill No. 332, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Frozen Food Products."

The purpose of this bill is to amend section 328-61, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to require those who sell baked goods that were previously frozen and thawed to so inform consumers prior to sale.

This bill is objectionable because it is unnecessary to protect public health and safety. Uncooked food that was previously frozen and not thawed properly may pose a health risk. However, baked products that are subject to flash freezing and then thawed do not pose a risk of food-borne illness. Bakers who do not flash freeze their products are not prohibited by statute or regulation from advertising this fact.

Enforcing the signage requirements for several thousand different varieties of previously frozen and thawed baked goods would place a significant burden on the Department of Health staff and would divert the department's resources from genuine health and safety matters. The public will be better served if the Department of Health continues to focus on more significant health issues such as the proper handling and storage of raw seafood or the potential adulteration of food products with bacterial or chemical contamination.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS
HOUSE BILL NO. 332
Page 2

For the foregoing reasons, I am returning House Bill
No. 332, without my approval.

Respectfully,

LINDA LINGLE
Governor of Hawaii