
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CURBSIDE RECYCLING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii is facing a
2 solid waste crisis. Landfill siting on all islands is a
3 contentious issue, and the solid waste permit for Oahu's main
4 landfill, Waimanalo Gulch, will expire by May 2008.

5 Hawaii, however, lags behind many other states in the
6 United States in its commitment to recycling, with less than
7 one-third of its municipal waste being recycled. Further, Oahu
8 residents generate an average of 6.2 pounds of trash daily.
9 This amount is forty-one per cent greater than the national
10 average (4.4 pounds per person) and two hundred ten per cent
11 greater than the average amount of trash generated daily by
12 German residents (less than two pounds daily).

13 Over ten thousand cities across the mainland have a
14 curbside recycling program. Honolulu is the largest city in the
15 country without a curbside program.

16 Without convenient curbside recycling, tens of thousands of
17 tons of recyclable material will be disposed of annually,
18 wasting natural resources, energy, and landfill space. A



1 program that allows residents to recycle bottles, cans, food
2 jars, cardboard, newsprint, and other recyclables at their own
3 curb would vastly increase Hawaii's real recycling rate.

4 The city and county of Honolulu 1999 waste composition
5 study found that Oahu's residential solid waste contains over
6 forty-three per cent (or 137,000 tons) paper, plastics, metal,
7 and glass, most of which could be recycled. Almost ninety
8 thousand tons of paper are discarded annually from Oahu homes.

9 It is estimated that a well-run curbside recycling program
10 in Honolulu could capture over forty thousand tons of
11 recyclables annually. This figure is based on capture rates of
12 curbside recycling programs in cities of comparable size, such
13 as the city of Portland, Oregon, with approximately two hundred
14 thousand households, whose curbside program diverted 48,200 tons
15 of recyclables (inorganics) in 2000. Additionally, the city of
16 San Diego (276,000 households) recycled seventy-two thousand
17 tons with their curbside collection program in 2004. The city
18 and county of Honolulu 1999 analysis of curbside recycling found
19 that an average curbside collection program could capture about
20 thirty-nine thousand tons of recyclables annually.

21 The benefits of a curbside recycling program extend beyond
22 the environmental gains. The city of Mesa, Arizona (population



1 314,000) saved money by integrating curbside recycling into its
2 solid waste management system. After implementing curbside
3 recycling, the city was able to reduce the number of garbage
4 pick-ups from twice per week to just once.

5 The purpose of this Act is to require any county with over
6 five hundred thousand residents to adopt a comprehensive
7 recycling program, including curbside collection of recyclable
8 items.

9 SECTION 2. Chapter 46, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
10 by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately designated
11 and to read as follows:

12 "§46- Curbside recycling program. (a) No later than
13 January 1, 2008, each county with a population of over five
14 hundred thousand residents shall establish, implement, and
15 administer a comprehensive recycling program in its respective
16 county. The program shall include collection of recyclable
17 items and conversion of those items into energy or recycled
18 products.

19 (b) For purposes of subsection (a):

20 (1) Recyclable items include paper, newspaper, corrugated
21 cardboard, plastic bottles, plastics, metal, rubber,
22 glass, wood, aluminum cans, beverage containers, and



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JAN 25 2006



Report Title:

Curbside Recycling; Solid Waste Management

Description:

Requires counties with greater than 500,000 residents to implement curbside collection of recyclable goods as a component of their solid waste management programs.

