

Date: 03/18/2008

Committee: House Higher Education;
House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2774, SD2, HSCR1116 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes a task force within the University of Hawaii to conduct an evaluation of the recycling options available to schools, including a summary feasibility report relating to the establishment of a school recycling program, the use of reverse vending machines, and the feasibility of providing recycling bins in schools throughout the State. Appropriates funds.
(SB2774 SD2)

Department's Position: The Department of Education supports SB 2774, SD2, which establishes a task force within the University of Hawaii to conduct an evaluation of the recycling options available to schools as evidenced at a small number of pilot sites. The Department appreciates the efforts of the University of Hawaii College of Social Sciences Public Policy Center to spearhead this task force. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Committee on Higher Education

Representative Jerry Chang, Chair; Representative Joe Bertram, Vice-chair

Committee on Education

Representative Roy Takumi, Chair; Representative Lyla Berg, Vice-chair

Tuesday, March 18, 2008
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
Room 309
2:30 P.M.

Re: Testimony in support of SB 2774 S.D. 2, Relating to Education

My name is Emily Valdez, I'm a tenth grader at Kalaheo High School and I am in strong support of S.B. 2774. I wrote the resolution that was presented at the 2007 Secondary Student Conference that would become S.B. 2774. I wrote that resolution because Hawaii's youth are forgetting the importance of recycling and saving our Aina. Senate Bill 2774 proposes a way to implement recycling programs in schools and teach the children of the future the need for recycling.

Schools use many different resources. At Kalaheo High school teachers are aloud to have four thousand sheets of paper a month. Students attend school for about ten months out of the year. That means each teacher at Kalaheo uses about forty thousand sheets of paper a year. Most of this paper is just thrown away to sit and rot in a landfill. Imagine if there were recycling programs in schools how much potential there is too save, especially because paper isn't the only resource used frequently. Aluminum soda cans are bought daily on most school campuses. Reverse vending machines would allow the can to be recycled on the spot. I also think the vending machines would excite teenagers to recycle because it is such a unique way of doing it.

The University of Hawai'i has already agreed to be apart of the task force that is asked for in S.B. 2774. This already saves a lot of time and stress of trying to appoint members to be on the task force. It also shows that a majority of people agree that recycling should be implemented in schools, but not only in one way. By starting programs like these in places that waste the most, it could possibly be a domino effect and carry on in the home, community, and in businesses. Our resources are slowly starting to run out, we can't sit around and watch that happen it's time to take action.