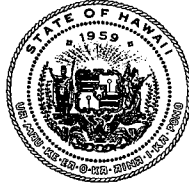


**SB 3144**



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.  
Director of Health**

**2:45 p.m.**

1 **Department's Position:** We appreciate the intent of the bill and offer comments and suggestions.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** Un-quantified increased costs for the counties in order to expand recycling  
3 programs, and un-quantified potential costs involved in major changes in government, business, non-  
4 profit, organizational and individual behavior.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** The bill increases the state's solid waste stream reduction goal to 75% by  
6 January 1, 2012, while current law sets goals of 25% waste reduction by 1995 and 50% by 2000.

7 We strongly support source reduction and recycling, the top two statutory priorities for solid  
8 waste management stated in HRS 342G-2(b). Materials that can be diverted, reused, or recycled should  
9 not go into landfills.

10 Implementation will be very challenging. If the proposed or even present goal is taken seriously,  
11 the whole state will have to substantially change the way it operates. We have a long way to go to reach  
12 75%; we do not even meet the 2000 goal of 50%. The original Hawaii goals established in 1991  
13 mirrored the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recycling goals, but since then, EPA has revised  
14 its recycling goal down to 35%. The national recycling rate is about 32.5%. The State's solid waste

1 diversion rate for FY 2006-07 was about 31.4%, and is based mostly on recycling plus some reuse. Our  
2 annual report on solid waste is available at <http://gen.doh.hawaii.gov/sites/LegRpt/2008/default.aspx>.

3 We can learn from others. Portland, Oregon has had great success in its recycling efforts and  
4 presently recycles 61.5% of its solid waste that is achieved through a combination of commercial and  
5 residential recycling programs. Portland has certain advantages, such as lower transportation costs, that  
6 we do not.

7 Ultimately, resources will be required for success, and the bill's goal is one of many worthy  
8 social goals. The executive has done its review of competing priorities and submitted its executive  
9 supplemental budget proposal to reflect its priorities, and we ask that the legislature support and not  
10 harm those priorities.

11 As to specifics in the bill, we suggest removing the language requiring the counties to  
12 incorporate the revised goals by 2010. It is unnecessary because as all four counties are currently  
13 revising their Integrated Solid Waste Management Plans and must do so every five years. Requiring an  
14 update in 2010 would be redundant.

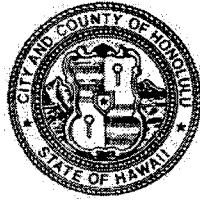
15 Enforcement and penalty provisions already exist under Part VI of HRS 342G, so that language  
16 in the bill is also unnecessary.

17 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

1000 ULUOHA STREET, SUITE 308, KAPOLEI, HAWAII 96707  
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-3486 • FAX: (808) 768-3487 • WEBSITE: www.honolulu.gov

MUFI HANNEMANN  
MAYOR



February 12, 2008

ERIC S. TAKAMURA, Ph.D., P.E.  
DIRECTOR

KENNETH A. SHIMIZU  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

ROSS S. TANIMOTO, P.E.  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
RA 08-019

The Honorable Ron Menor, Chair  
Committee on Energy and Environment  
State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 208  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: S.B. NO. 3144, RELATING TO SOLID WASTE

Dear Senator Menor:

The City and County of Honolulu Department of Environmental Services opposes S.B. No. 3144. This measure would establish an unrealistic goal of reducing 75% of the solid waste stream prior to disposal by the year 2012, through source reduction, recycling and bioconversion, and would give the State Department of Health authority to penalize the counties for not achieving this goal in a timely manner.

This effort, however well-intentioned, constitutes an unfunded mandate, placing the full burden of developing source reduction, bioconversion and recycling infrastructure and programs on the counties. Further, it does not acknowledge disposal technologies, including waste-to-energy, that provide significant benefit in diverting waste from island landfills and generating local electrical power.

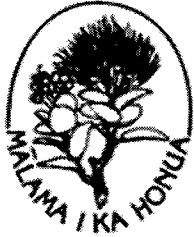
Currently, Oahu has achieved a landfill diversion rate over 55% through a combination of material recycling and waste-to-energy. Future solid waste master plans call for increasing our waste-to-energy capacity by an additional 300,000 tons and material recycling rates by more than 150,000 tons over the next five years. The City's goal is to reach a landfill diversion rate over 75%.

Recycling, bioconversion and source reduction efforts alone cannot address our need to develop a sustainable system of waste management. If this measure were amended to establish a landfill diversion goal of 75%, as opposed to a source reduction, recycling and bioconversion goal of 75%, we might be supportive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric S. Takamura", is written over a large, stylized flourish.

Eric S. Takamura, Ph.D., P.E.  
Director



# Sierra Club

## Hawai'i Chapter

PO Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803  
808.537.9019 hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008, 2:45 P.M.

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 3144

Chair Menor and members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, with 5500 dues paying members statewide, supports the intent of SB 3144, providing an additional solid waste diversion goal of 75% by 2012. We believe this measure could be strengthened to provide penalties or incentives to the counties in order to achieve compliance with the goals. It is our understanding that, as a state, Hawai'i has yet to reach the 2000 goal of 50% true diversion. We can do much, much better in reducing our opala footprint.

Hawai'i is faced with a solid waste crisis on most islands, O'ahu in particular. A study completed for the City by consulting group R.W. Beck, the "2006 Waste Characterization Study" (available online at [www.opala.org](http://www.opala.org)), reveals some shocking facts about Oahu's solid waste situation. Since the last waste characterization study in 1999, the trash from Oahu households increased by 30.2% from 316,491 tons annually in 1999 to 412,016 tons in 2006 (R.W. Beck, "2006 Waste Characterization Study," April 2007, at 3-11). The population increased by roughly 3% over the same period (878,906 to 906,000)—*meaning waste generation from households increased 10 times faster than population growth*. The proliferation of plastic bags contributes to this problem.

Hawai'i residents generate a whopping average of 6.2 pounds of opala each daily. That's 41% greater than the national average (4.4 pounds per person) and 210% greater than the average German resident (less than 2 pounds daily). This wastefulness is compounded by our lack of recycling, with more than two-thirds of our waste being landfilled or incinerated.

At 510 above sea level, the Waimanalo Gulch sanitary landfill has become one of Oahu's tallest manmade structures, exceeding the island's building height limitation by over 100 feet. It is also likely the dirtiest, receiving \$2.8 million in fines in the past few years for 18 environmental violations. No obvious new landfill locations are available, and the last selection process produced such unattractive options as Koko Head crater, or building a landfill over our sole source of drinking water.

We know we can do better to reduce our waste stream. Unfortunately, common sense solutions like the currently mandated curbside recycling on O'ahu have been slow to be implemented. Residents want to do the right thing but they need it to be easy and convenient. Curbside is just that – recycling convenience for bottles, cans, food jars, cardboard, newsprint, and other recyclables at your own curb. By establishing this common sense waste reduction program, Honolulu will be joining the 10,000 cities across the mainland that have curbside collection of recyclables.

Our environment and future generations are paying the real costs for not recycling. Simply put, Hawai'i residents can't wait any longer for a real solid waste solution. We can bury our problems for only so long. We need to start behaving as though we live on an island.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.