

LATE

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Ron Menor, Chair
Senator Gary Hooser, Vice Chair

PUBLIC HEARING

2:45 pm

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Conference Room 414

SB 3144 – RELATING TO SOLID WASTE

Comments

My name is Shannon Wood, the president of the *Windward Ahupua`a Alliance* based here on O`ahu; however, we spend a lot of our organizational efforts on county, state and federal issues & policies.

The first area focuses on renewable energy, global warming, climate change & sea level rise; the second is on protecting current and securing additional public access to lands & bodies of water owned by the public; and, the third supports reasonable, rational, cost-effective & environmentally sound solid waste management decisions.

Frankly, I find **SB 3144** unnecessary and really a waste of the *Legislature's* time & energy because it sets a goal - reducing solid waste by 75% from the baseline figure set in 1991 - which cannot be reached in 20 years, let alone four years from now. As long as decision-makers both locally & nationally do not understand that we must reduce, re-use, recycle, and reclaim everything from plastic bags to derelict vehicles to old mattresses, we will continue to generate more & more trash.

And by the way, waste-to-energy is not the same thing as recycling, despite what the *City and County of Honolulu* claims. The ash residue still has to be dealt with.

Although I certainly would have supported the original law passed in 1991, I wonder why you want to amend it 17 years later by establishing a goal which cannot possibly be met by the counties in four short years. We haven't even met the January 1, 2000, goal yet!

Does this mean that *WAA* opposes setting goals? Of course not – but there is nothing in this bill to hold both the government and private sector accountable for failing to meet these benchmarks.

Unless you can come up with some sort of justification which makes sense or amend it so that failure will result in penalties, please defer further action on **SB 3144**. *Mahalo*.



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RL: 2161

SB 3144
RELATING TO SOLID WASTE

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Public Hearing – February 14, 2008
2:45 p.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 414

By
Melissa Ihori, Environmental Health and Safety
Peter Rappa, Environmental Center

SB 3144 establishes the goal of reducing the amount of solid waste entering the State's waste stream by 75 percent. Our statement on this measure does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

We laud the legislature for making an effort to have the state reduce 75 percent of its solid waste stream by 2012. However, it is hard to determine whether the goal is realistic without some indication on the State's past progress of meeting its solid waste reduction goals of 1995 and 2000. In addition, it would be helpful to know if the State/County will be providing assistance to its departments in regard to providing cost-effective recycling options for items such as electronic waste, which constitutes an ever-increasing percentage of the waste stream.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

Rodlyn Brown
85-303 Kohai Place
Waianae, HI 96792

808/696-6564

LATE

My name is Rodlyn Brown and I am here today to speak in favor of SB3144.

I lived through the creation of the reduction and recycling plan in California 25 years ago.

The State legislature there set a 10 year plan limit with time line bench marks to be met. If the bench marks where not met, then that county was fined \$10,000.00 per day that they did not meet the time frame. It was amazing that the counties that did not meet the bench marks got with the program fast when they found the State meant the fine basis.

The first bench mark was at 5 years, then 8 years and finally 10 years. It worked.

Each county was to find their own solution to their problem and then enforce it.

I can only speak about what Monterey County did, because I lived there. The first thing that was done was explain to the people that is was their money that would pay the fines. The first action was to give each home three (3) containers the size of a folded newspaper of three different colors. One was for newspaper, number two (2) was for glass of all colors and the third was for all metal. There was a truck that had three (3) separate sections that came around every week to collect those recyclables.

Next all green waste was collected in a separate garbage container as they are using here as well as one for garbage. Each household was also encouraged to create their own compost container or pile for all wet garbage and green waste.

The next part of the problem was solved at the refuse center itself. Every garbage truck was brought into a huge building, larger than the size of an elephant quantisit hut. All trash was then dumped on the concrete floor and sorted for burnable, decomposable or sellable. The sellable items were then taken to an area with a resale building and grounds called the Last Chance Mercantile. People also brought their items out to the Last Chance rather than through them away.

This all took place in less than ten years and was a huge success for Monterey County because they never paid one dime of fine.

We live on a very small island as are the rest in our state and we ALL must get it together NOW.

Your putting this bill through this committee is absolutely necessary to our relieving our huge solid waste problem throughout our State. Please send this bill forward today. Mahalo