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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SOLID WASTE.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that fluorescent and  
2 compact fluorescent light bulbs contain small amounts of  
3 mercury. Mercury is an element that is toxic to humans, and  
4 even in small quantities, can result in internal bleeding,  
5 kidney failure, brain damage, or death. Forty-nine per cent of  
6 traditional fluorescent bulbs contain five to ten milligrams  
7 mercury, and ninety-six per cent of compact fluorescent light  
8 bulbs contain up to ten milligrams of mercury. Although  
9 individually these amounts seem small, the total amount of  
10 mercury contained in all of the fluorescent and compact  
11 fluorescent light bulbs in Hawaii is quite significant.  
12 Although these lightbulbs are an energy-efficient preferred  
13 alternative to traditional incandescent light bulbs, the  
14 disposal of used fluorescent and compact fluorescent light bulbs  
15 presents a challenge to safely dispose of the mercury that they  
16 contain. Currently, disposal methods include incineration or  
17 deposit into the State's landfills. Incineration can result in  
18 the release of toxic mercury vapors into the atmosphere, where



1 they can travel for hundreds of miles and return to earth in  
2 rainfall. Landfill disposal almost always results in breakage  
3 of the bulbs, releasing the mercury content into the soil, where  
4 it leaches into the groundwater. Currently, twelve states  
5 prohibit disposal of fluorescent and compact fluorescent light  
6 bulbs in their landfills.

7 The legislature further finds that almost all components of  
8 fluorescent and compact fluorescent light bulbs may be recycled.  
9 Lighting recycling facilities are able to capture the mercury in  
10 fluorescent bulbs and treat it so that may be sold back into the  
11 market for use in new lighting products. In addition, lighting  
12 recycling facilities are able to separate the glass and aluminum  
13 found in fluorescent and compact fluorescent light bulbs for  
14 further recycling. Currently, there is no lighting recycling  
15 facility in Hawaii, and used fluorescent and compact fluorescent  
16 light bulbs would need to be shipped to the mainland for  
17 recycling. Recycling these products would remove them from  
18 Hawaii's waste stream altogether, and be one further step toward  
19 preserving Hawaii's natural environment and protecting the  
20 health and safety of its residents.



1           The purpose of this Act is to prohibit the disposal of  
2 fluorescent and compact fluorescent light bulbs in landfills and  
3 waste-to-energy facilities, and incinerators in Hawaii.

4           SECTION 2. Chapter 342G, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
5 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
6 and to read as follows:

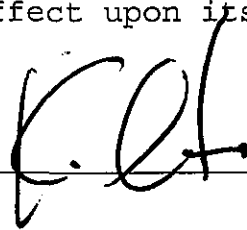
7           "§342G- Disposal of fluorescent and compact fluorescent  
8 light bulbs; prohibition. Notwithstanding any law to the  
9 contrary, the disposal of any fluorescent or compact fluorescent  
10 light bulb in any landfill or waste-to-energy facility, or by  
11 incineration, in the State is prohibited."

12           SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

13           SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



JAN 27 2010



**Report Title:**

Solid Waste; Fluorescent and CFL Bulbs; Disposal

**Description:**

Prohibits the incineration or disposal of fluorescent and compact fluorescent light bulbs in landfills and waste-to-energy facilities in the State.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

