
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 of
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 safe
14 disposal of used fluorescent and compact fluorescent light bulbs
15 presents a challenge because of the mercury that they contain.
16 Currently, disposal methods include incineration or deposit into
17 the State's landfills. Incineration can result in the release
18 of toxic mercury vapors into the atmosphere, where they can



1 travel for hundreds of miles and return to earth in rainfall.
2 Landfill disposal almost always results in breakage of the
3 bulbs, releasing the mercury content into the soil, where it
4 leaches into the groundwater. Currently, twelve states prohibit
5 disposal of fluorescent and compact fluorescent light bulbs in
6 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 it may be sold back into
11 the market for use in new lighting products. In addition,
12 lighting recycling facilities are able to separate the glass and
13 aluminum found in fluorescent and compact fluorescent light
14 bulbs for further recycling. Currently, there is no lighting
15 recycling facility in Hawaii, and used fluorescent and compact
16 fluorescent light bulbs would need to be shipped to the mainland
17 for 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. (a) Notwithstanding any law to the
9 contrary, knowingly disposing of any fluorescent or compact
10 fluorescent light bulb in any landfill or waste-to-energy
11 facility, or by incineration, in the State is prohibited.

12 (b) The owner or operator of a landfill, waste-to-energy
13 facility, or incinerator shall:

14 (1) Post clearly visible and easily-read signs at the
15 facility that provide notice of the prohibition of the
16 disposal and incineration of fluorescent and compact
17 fluorescent light bulbs; and

18 (2) Provide written notification to the facility's
19 customers of the prohibition on the disposal and
20 incineration of fluorescent and compact fluorescent
21 light bulbs, on a frequency to be established by the
22 department by rule, or include notification as a



1 provision of the facility's contractual agreements
2 with customers, if applicable."

3 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
4 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
5 begun before its effective date.

6 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Solid Waste; Fluorescent and CFL Bulbs; Disposal

Description:

Prohibits the knowing incineration or disposal of fluorescent and compact fluorescent light bulbs in landfills and waste-to-energy facilities in the State. Establishes notice requirements. (HD1)

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