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RL:2243

SB 775
RELATING TO RECYCLING

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Public Hearing – February 17, 2009
2:45 p.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 225

By

Peter Rappa, Environmental Center
Jacquelin Miller, Environmental Center Affiliate Faculty
John Cusick, Environmental Center

SB would establish a model review taskforce to develop plans to implement statewide curbside recycling in Hawaii. We are testifying as individual faculty and our views do not represent an official position of the University of Hawaii.

We don't think that there is a need for a model review task force to implement a statewide curbside recycling program in Hawaii. If the legislature wants to have a curbside program it should simply request that the Department of Health (DOH) or perhaps the Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC) develop one. Use the money that would have been appropriated for supporting the task force to allow DOH or OEQC to hire additional staff or enter into a contract with an environmental consultant firm. Require whoever gets tasked with doing the plan to look at programs in other states and countries. Have whoever develops the plan complete their recommendations by the next session and then discuss implementing it.

We already have a model of a program here on Oahu that could serve as the basis for a statewide program. There have not been too many new ways to recycle that have been developed recently. There is no need for a task force although there is a need to get the job done.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.