
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM FOR THE PROPER DISPOSAL OF FLUORESCENT, COMPACT FLUORESCENT, AND HIGH PRESSURE SODIUM LAMPS AND TO RESTRICT OR PREVENT THE DISPOSAL OF THESE ITEMS IN LANDFILLS OR BY INCINERATION.

1 WHEREAS, fluorescent and compact fluorescent light bulbs
2 contain small amounts of mercury, an element that is toxic to
3 humans, and when found in the human body, even in small
4 quantities, can result in internal bleeding, kidney failure,
5 brain damage, and even death; and

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7 WHEREAS, it is estimated that on average, 49 percent of
8 traditional fluorescent light bulbs contain seven milligrams of
9 mercury, 66 percent of compact fluorescent light bulbs contain
10 two and one-half milligrams of mercury, and 97 percent of all
11 high pressure sodium lamps contain 30 milligrams of mercury; and

12
13 WHEREAS, it is also estimated that eight million to ten
14 million high pressure sodium lamps are imported annually into
15 the State, of which an unknown number of lamps are incinerated
16 at a waste-to-energy power plant or disposed of at various
17 landfills; and

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19 WHEREAS, it takes only one fluorescent or compact
20 fluorescent lamp containing five milligrams of mercury to
21 contaminate 6,000 gallons of water; and

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23 WHEREAS, 500,000 fluorescent and compact fluorescent lamps,
24 containing an average of five milligrams of mercury per lamp,
25 amounts to approximately five and one-half pounds of mercury;
26 and



H.C.R. NO. 241

1 WHEREAS, the State currently has no program or laws to
2 regulate the proper disposal of fluorescent lamps, compact
3 fluorescent lamps, and high pressure sodium lamps; now,
4 therefore,
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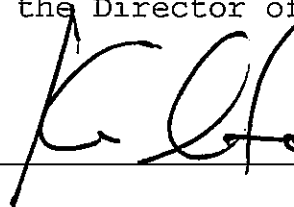
6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
7 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
8 of 2011, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Health is
9 urged to develop a program that includes an educational
10 component, for the proper disposal of fluorescent, compact
11 fluorescent, and high pressure sodium lamps; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health,
14 through its various divisions and by use of its regulatory
15 authority, is urged to restrict or prevent the disposal of
16 fluorescent, compact fluorescent, and high pressure sodium lamps
17 in landfills or by incineration; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
20 requested to submit a report of the actions taken to comply with
21 this request, including any proposed legislation, to the
22 Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the
23 Regular Session of 2012; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
26 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.
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OFFERED BY: _____



MAR 16 2011

