

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.  
ACTING DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**H.B. 1400, RELATING TO SOLID WASTE**

**Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.  
Acting Director of Health**

**February 3, 2011  
8:30 A.M.**

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health opposes this measure.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** Unfunded mandate for the counties.

3 **Purpose and Justification:** This bill proposes to reset the states recycling goal from 50% to 75% by  
4 January 1, 2015.

5 Current state recycling goals were set in statute in 1991 at 25% by January 1, 1995, and 50% by  
6 January 1, 2005. Figures for fiscal year 2009-10 indicate a recycling rate of 39.6%. While current goals  
7 have not been met, we point out that recycling in Hawaii has evolved tremendously since 1991. State  
8 programs such as the Deposit Beverage Container Program have contributed, but it is at the county level  
9 that much of the activity has occurred. Each county has invested time and resources to support recycling  
10 through both direct services and through programs aimed towards developing and strengthening private  
11 sector activity.

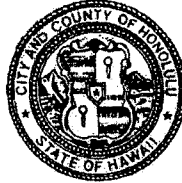
12 Taken within that context, we can say that implementing penalties for not meeting a reset  
13 recycling goal would amount to an unfunded mandate for the counties.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR

ROSS S. TANIMOTO, P.E.  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
WAS 11-15

February 1, 2011

The Honorable Hermina M. Morita, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Energy  
and Environmental Protection  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Morita and Members:

Subject: House Bill 1400, Relating to Solid Waste

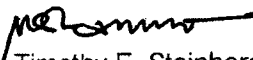
The City and County of Honolulu's Department of Environmental Services supports the intent of House Bill 1400, relating to solid waste, to increase the recycling goal to 75% by 2015.

To make this fully effective, a companion change in the definition of recycling must occur to insure the inclusion of waste-to-energy facilities, such as H-power, as recycling. The recycling of municipal solid waste into energy is a major part of our recycling program and we would not be able to meet the requirement if that process is not included.

Additionally, penalties that do not provide for consideration of whether the goal can be achieved will not make the goal any more achievable and therefore does not add benefit to the proposal.

Again, we support the intent of increasing recycling, but recommend changes to the bill to provide for inclusion of waste-to-energy as recycling and for elimination of monetary penalties.

Sincerely,

  
FOR Timothy E. Steinberger, P.E.  
Director