

# SB 1132

## RELATING TO SOLID WASTE.

Increases the solid waste management surcharge to \$1.25 per ton of solid waste disposed of in landfills or shipped out-of-state; increases the solid waste management surcharge to 60 cents per ton of solid waste disposed of at waste-to-energy facilities that accept 150,000 tons or more of solid waste annually; provides for no surcharges to waste-to-energy facilities that accept less than 150,000 tons of solid waste annually and for ash disposed of in landfills that originates from a waste-to-energy facility; and defines "waste-to-energy facility".

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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In reply, please refer to:  
File:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND  
MILITARY AFFAIRS

S.B. 1132, RELATING TO SOLID WASTE

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

February 12, 2013  
2:15 p.m.

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

2 **Fiscal Implications:** Increase annual revenue from approximately \$500,000 to \$1,000,000.

3 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this bill is to modify, and increase, the existing solid waste  
4 management surcharge so that it applies to waste-to-energy facilities and facilities that prepare waste for  
5 disposal outside the state of Hawaii.

6 The changes proposed in this bill will help the department address at least two pressing issues for its  
7 solid waste regulatory program.

8 First, and foremost, is the provision of adequate funding for the solid waste program. The surcharge  
9 is the program's primary funding source and was instituted in 1994 at 25 cents per ton. The surcharge is  
10 applied to waste being deposited in the state's landfills and sole incinerator. It was subsequently increased to  
11 35 cents per ton in 1997. The surcharge has not been raised in fifteen years despite a growing workload for  
12 program staff and the loss of 25% of positions due to the 2009 Reduction-In-Force and loss of general funds.  
13 Current annual revenues of approximately \$500,000 are exceeded by staffing costs that are in excess of  
14 \$700,000. The program has maintained operations through savings from vacancies, furloughs, salary

1 reductions, and reduced services. Despite these efforts fund balances are approaching critically low levels.  
2 The situation is now more urgent since our initial request in 2011.

3 The proposed surcharge tiers also address the evolving waste management field and its changing  
4 technologies. For example, the department is aware of waste-to-energy facilities that are proposing to use  
5 new technologies that the current solid waste management surcharge would not apply to. The recent past has  
6 also seen attempts to ship waste out of the state for disposal. The department feels that it is appropriate that  
7 the surcharge be modified to apply to these facilities as they are permitted and regulated by the solid waste  
8 program.

9 Our goal is to create social and physical environments that promote and support good health for all.

10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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