

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony in OPPOSITION to H.B. 749 H.D.1
RELATING TO SOLID WASTE

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 16, 2017
Time: 9:00 a.m.

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

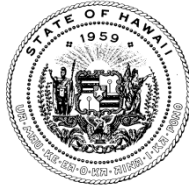
2 **Department Testimony:** This bill seeks to amend the Solid Waste Management Priorities in
3 Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Ch. 342G-2 by adding “waste-to-energy” as a new third tier.
4 The Department of Health respectfully opposes this bill and offers the following comments.

5 We note that HRS Ch. 342G-2 applies to the solid waste planning process and not to the
6 permitting, building, or operation of solid waste facilities. It does not in any way prohibit the
7 consideration, planning, construction, or operation of a waste-to-energy facility. The H-Power
8 facility is permitted by the Department’s Solid Waste Section and operates legally in accordance
9 with HRS Ch. 342H, which contains the solid waste permitting authority for the department.
10 While HRS Ch. 342G-2 is not a mandate, it is a statement on the State’s preference in how to
11 manage its waste; it is a statement of values.

12 Such a change has multiple impacts on other parts of statute. First, “waste-to-energy”
13 itself would have to be defined in statute. This is a multi-step process as “waste-to-energy”
14 encompasses more than one technology; each of which will have to also be defined as well. The
15 new definition’s impact on other definitions such as “disposal,” “incineration,” and “recycling”
16 will also need to be considered; as well as the potential impact on the Solid Waste Management
17 Surcharge.

1 In summary, this bill proposes a major change to the State's value statement on preferred
2 waste management approaches, has the potential to impact other parts of statute, and has no
3 impact on the City and County of Honolulu's ability to manage its waste as it chooses. Thus we
4 respectfully request that this measure be deferred.

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



Testimony by:
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
JADE T. BUTAY
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DARRELL T. YOUNG

IN REPLY REFER TO:

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 16, 2017
9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 329

H.B. 749, H.D. 1
RELATING TO SOLID WASTE

House Committee on Health

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** this bill which requires the counties to consider waste-to-energy as part of their solid waste management practices and processing methods in implementing the Hawaii Integrated Solid Waste Management Act.

These facilities are designed to reduce the volume of waste in our landfills by separating recycling materials in the landfill and producing renewable fuels from materials that cannot be recycled.

The DOT believes renewable sources of energy are sustainable to transportation and considers the benefits of renewable energy projects in its facilities in meeting Hawaii's clean energy goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

1000 ULUOHIA STREET, SUITE 308, KAPOLEI, HAWAII 96707
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-3486 • FAX: (808) 768-3487 • WEBSITE: <http://envhonolulu.org>

KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



LORI M.K. KAHIKINA, P.E.
DIRECTOR

TIMOTHY A. HOUGHTON
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

ROSS S. TANIMOTO, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

IN REPLY REFER TO:
WAS 17-42

February 16, 2017

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Health
House of Representatives
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 329
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members:

Subject: House Bill 749, H.D. 1, Relating to Solid Waste

The City and County of Honolulu's (City) Department of Environmental Services supports HB749 H.D. 1, which updates Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 342G-2, Solid Waste Management Priorities, but firmly believes that waste-to-energy should be given the same priority as recycling and bioconversion, including composting, as a solid waste management practice and processing method.

It is important that Hawaii solid waste management programs employ practices that are both environmentally and economically sustainable, and that they are designed to account for the many unique features of our State. Hawaii does not generate enough recyclable material on its own to sustain a local remanufacturing industry and therefore has to resort to sending its material to overseas recycling end markets that are thousands of miles away. Moreover, the process to pack and ship recyclables is resource intensive and involves significant capital investment and the consumption of large amounts of fossil fuels. These realities need to be carefully evaluated when balancing solid waste management priorities.

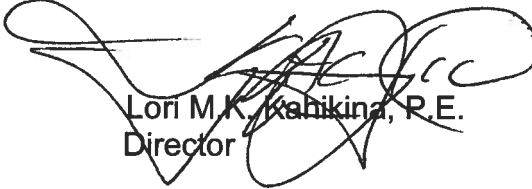
On Oahu, recycling and waste-to-energy are side-by-side, complimentary programs that play equally important roles in helping the City to achieve its goals for landfill diversion. It would be incorrect to prioritize one over the other. The City's solid waste management program targets higher quality materials for recycling and sends the lower quality materials – materials that do not have sustainable recycling markets in Hawaii – to waste-to-energy. Of the roughly 1.2 million tons of Municipal Solid Waste generated on Oahu every year, about 60% is processed locally at H-POWER where it is converted into renewable energy, while most of the rest is recycled into new products. Of the amount that is recycled, or 450,000 tons, about 350,000 tons are shipped off

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island. This means that we are still using additional resources to recycle about 30% of the island's waste. We believe this should be considered when evaluating the relationship of waste-to-energy and recycling as solid waste management practices.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Lori M.K. Kahikina, P.E.
Director



February 15, 2017

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
Members, House Committee on Health

From: Tim Shestek
Senior Director, State Affairs

Re: **HB 749, HD 1 – SUPPORT**

On behalf of the member companies of the American Chemistry Council (ACC), I am writing to express our support for HB 749 HD1, legislation that would direct the state and each county to consider “waste-to-energy” as a potential solid waste management practice and process.

ACC has a long history of working to increase recycling rates for plastic products, help identify markets for recovered plastics, and has actively engaged on projects and programs aimed at reducing marine debris and litter. Investments in recycling have paid off as Americans have recycled more pounds of plastics every year since tracking began in 1990.

Plastics that can be recycled should be recycled, but opportunities to recover non-recycled plastics are growing too. An emerging set of technologies is allowing governments and businesses to convert non-recycled plastics into energy, fuels, and feedstocks, or raw materials for new manufacturing.

A range of energy recovery technologies are being used to complement recycling in helping to divert more valuable post-use materials from landfills. Some of the most widely used and rapidly emerging technologies include waste-to-energy, plastics-to-fuels, gasification, and solid recovery fuels.

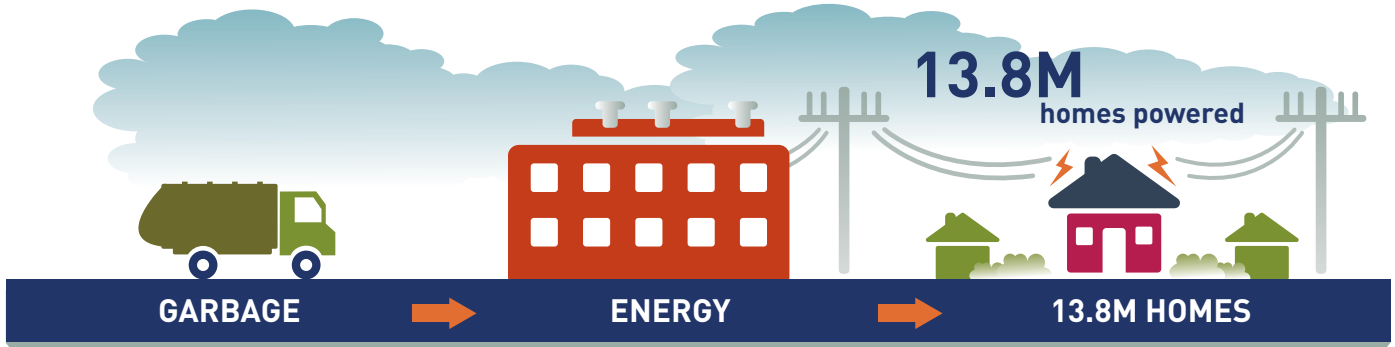
A recent study from the Earth Engineering Center at Columbia University assessed the energy value of municipal solid waste that is currently sent to U.S. landfills. The study concluded that enough electricity to supply 13.8 million homes with power could be generated if the current energy recovery capacity were to be expanded so that all of the non-recycled municipal solid waste that is currently sent to landfills each year was instead converted to energy. A fact sheet on this study is attached.

ACC appreciates the opportunity to share these comments. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 916-448-2581 or via email at tim_shestek@americanchemistry.com. You may also contact our Hawaii-based representatives Red Morris or Blake Oshiro at (808) 531-4551.

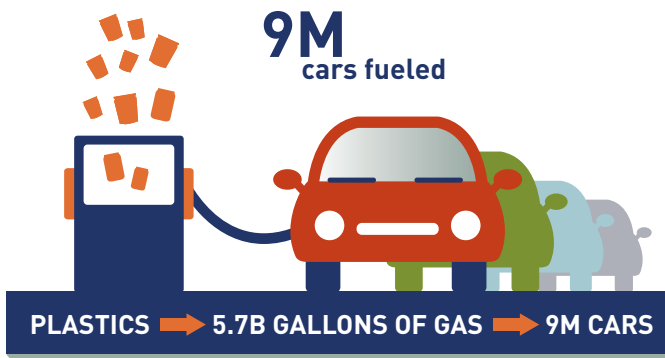


The Power of Waste

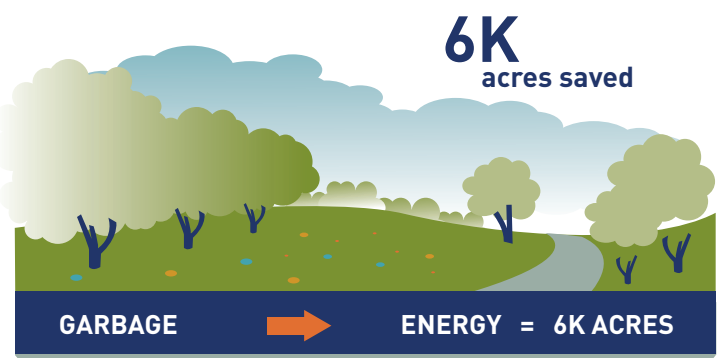
A recent study from the Earth Engineering Center at Columbia University assessed the energy value of municipal solid waste that is currently sent to U.S. landfills. It demonstrates the tremendous potential of modern technologies that convert waste into energy to help boost energy security, reduce landfill waste and lower greenhouse gas emissions.



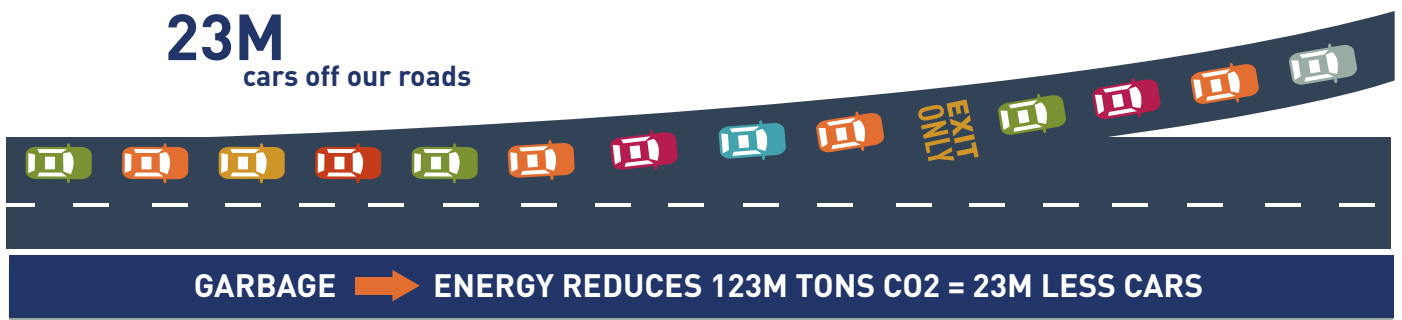
If current capacity were to be expanded so that all of the non-recycled municipal solid waste that is currently sent to U.S. landfills each year could instead be converted to energy, we could generate enough electricity to supply 13.8 million homes with power.



If current capacity were to be expanded so that the U.S. could convert all its non-recycled plastics into oil each year, we could produce 5.7 billion gallons of gas annually. That's enough to fuel nearly 9 million cars each year.



If capacity were to be expanded so that we could convert our non-recycled waste to alternative energy instead of landfilling it, we would have the opportunity to preserve more than 6,000 acres of open space every year that would otherwise be used to store garbage.



If capacity were to be expanded so that we could convert all of our non-recycled waste into energy instead of landfilling it, we could reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by nearly 123 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalents. This is comparable to removing 23 million cars from our roads.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Thursday, February 16, 2017 — 9:00 a.m. — Room 329

Ulupono Initiative Supports HB 749 HD 1, Relating to Solid Waste

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kyle Datta and I am General Partner of the Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally produced food; increase affordable, clean, renewable energy; and reduce waste. Ulupono believes that self-sufficiency is essential to our future prosperity and will help shape a future where economic progress and mission-focused impact can work hand in hand.

Ulupono supports HB 749 HD 1, which considers waste-to-energy as part of implementing the Hawai'i Integrated Solid Waste Management Act.

In an island state with little land and expensive shipping options, it is often not economical for waste to be re-used or recycled. While Ulupono is supportive of waste source reduction and recycling as the primary waste diversion options, waste-to-energy is a more preferable solution compared to landfilling.

Waste to energy incineration reduces volume 90 percent and on a dry basis, reduces weight by 90 percent, volatilizing the solids and sending 90 percent of them up the smoke stack as gas, mostly carbon dioxide (CO₂). The CO₂ is the product of combustion and is relatively benign as compared to landfilling wherein the waste decomposes thru anaerobic digestion forming methane (CH₄), which as a green house gas is 23 times more potent. In the past, there has been some confusion on the issue of weight reduction in waste through incineration. On one hand including the weight of the water used to quench the hot ash reduces the weight by 70 percent, but once the water evaporates the ultimate reduction is 90 percent.

Two of Ulupono's missions – waste diversion and renewable energy generation in Hawai'i – are both helped by waste-to-energy technologies. H-Power handled ~700,000 tons of municipal solid waste in 2015. Furthermore, H-Power generates 70 megawatts of firm electricity, which is enough to power up to 10 percent of O'ahu's electricity demand. Without waste-to-energy infrastructure, which has proven operational success in Hawai'i

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



for nearly three decades, it is probable this energy demand would have been produced via imported fossil fuel sources.

As Hawai'i's waste and energy issues become more complex and challenging, we appreciate this committee's efforts to look at policies that address these issues.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Kyle Datta
General Partner

kobayashi2 - Jessi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 11:06 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: jamesjtz@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB749 on Feb 16, 2017 09:00AM*

HB749

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for HLT on Feb 16, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Gauer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE TWENTY-NINTH
LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2017 COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair Thursday, February 16, 2017
9:00 a.m. Conference Room 329 State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street Support for HB 1559,

HD1 RELATING TO FOOD SAFETY. Appropriates funds to DBEDT in each of fiscal years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 to address the FDA's industry guidance on the use of color additives in sea salt products.

Honorable HEALTH Committee Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Kobayashi and Committee Members:

As an Independent Salt Farmer of Molokai that produces Hawaiian Sea Salt, we are respectfully submitting testimony in Favor of HB 1559, HD1.

We currently live on Hawaiian Homestead Lands and have been Salt Farming for about 10 years now. It is not easy making a living here on Molokai and we were fortunate enough to discover an innovative business like this to help diversify our family income. Our target goal for salt production in the past has been upwards of 20,000 lbs. a year. However within the last year, we have been impacted negatively because of slow salt sales. All that has diminished to completely stopping all production as of this year. This not only impacted our income for our family, but have impacted up to 6 others who have assisted us on our Salt Farm in the past. Although the impact might seem small compared to other measures you are considering to fund, on an Island such as Molokai it is a huge impact because of our somewhat limited economic opportunities.

I would humbly ask you to Support HB 1559, HD1 and pass it through your committee.

Mahalo,
Cameron Hiro,
Independent Salt Farmer, Psalty Acres
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Hoolehua, HI 96729

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