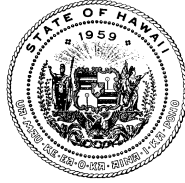


SB 524



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

Testimony in OPPOSITION to S.B. 524
RELATING TO SOLID WASTE

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

SENATOR CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS

SENATOR LORRAINE R. INOUE, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY

Hearing Date: February 8, 2017
Time: 2:45 p.m.

Room Number: 225

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” to the second tier that
4 currently includes recycling and bioconversion. The Department of Health respectfully opposes
5 this bill and offers the following comments.

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

13 This means that the proposed amendment has no effect other than to have the state equate
14 waste-to-energy technologies with recycling.

1 The department recognizes the role that the H-Power facility plays in the City and
2 County’s management of solid waste, and that it may be appropriate to modify the hierarchy set
3 in HRS Ch. 342G-2. In our testimony to this bill’s House companion we suggested an
4 alternative – to add “Waste-to-Energy” as a new third tier, instead of adding it to the existing tier
5 two. We believe that this approach properly recognizes the relative costs and benefits of
6 recycling, waste-to-energy, landfilling and incineration in managing Hawaii’s solid waste.

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

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

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

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 17-31

February 2, 2017

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
and Members of the Committee on
Agriculture and Environment
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Safety,
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
and Members of the Committee on
Transportation and Energy
State Senate
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 201
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Gabbard, Chair Nishihara, Chair Inouye and Members:

Subject: Senate Bill 524, Relating to Solid Waste

The City and County of Honolulu's (City) Department of Environmental Services strongly supports SB 524, which updates Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 342G-2, Solid Waste Management Priorities, to accurately reflect the solid waste management practices and processing methods that the City has implemented in the 25 years since this section was authored.

H-POWER, the City's innovative waste-to-energy and recycling facility, is at the foundation of the City's solid waste management system and is its principal mechanism for diverting material from the Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill. H-POWER processes more than 700,000 tons of municipal solid waste annually, safely and cleanly converting this material into enough renewable electricity to fulfill 10% of Oahu's needs – 70 megawatts of electricity, enough to power 60,000 homes. In addition to recycling waste into energy, H-POWER recovers and recycles about 20,000 tons of ferrous and non-ferrous metals from the waste stream every year. The electricity H-POWER produces contributes directly to State's renewable energy portfolio and will continue to be a significant factor in helping the State to achieve its long term goals for energy sustainability.

Testimony for SB 524
February 7, 2017
Page 2

H-POWER began commercial operation in 1990 and has since been expanded twice – once in 2012 with the addition of a third boiler to enable it to receive and process bulky wastes, and again in 2015 with the addition of a first-of-its-kind Sludge Intake Station to enable it to receive and process dewatered sewage sludge. Through robust recycling and waste-to-energy, the City has been able to achieve one of the highest landfill diversion rates in the country.

ENV will be present to testify at the hearing on February, 8, 2017. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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



February 6, 2017

To: The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy

From: Tim Shestek
Senior Director, State Affairs

Re: SB 524 – SUPPORT

On behalf of the member companies of the American Chemistry Council (ACC), I am writing to express our support for SB 524, 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.

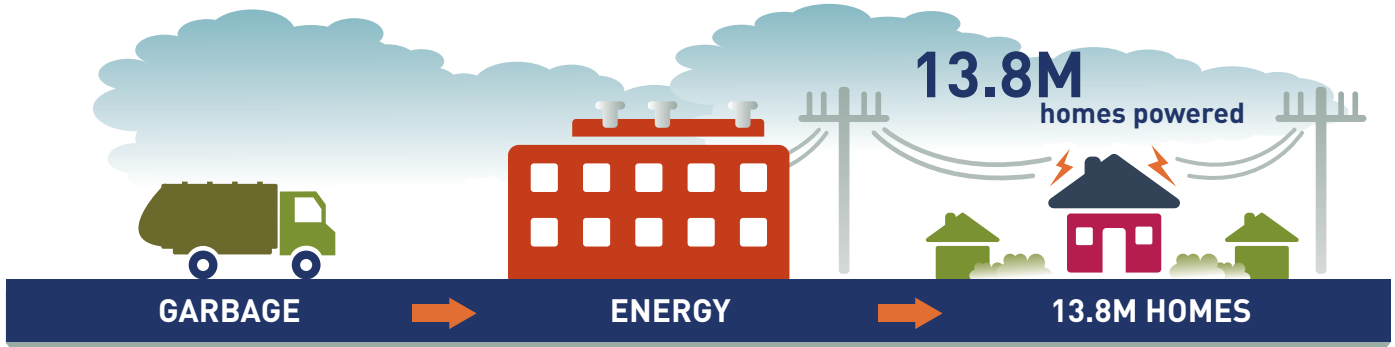
A recent study from the Earth Engineering Center at Columbia University assessed the energy value of municipal solid waste that is currently sent to U.S. landfills. The study concluded that enough electricity to supply 13.8 million homes with power could be generated if the current energy recovery capacity 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.

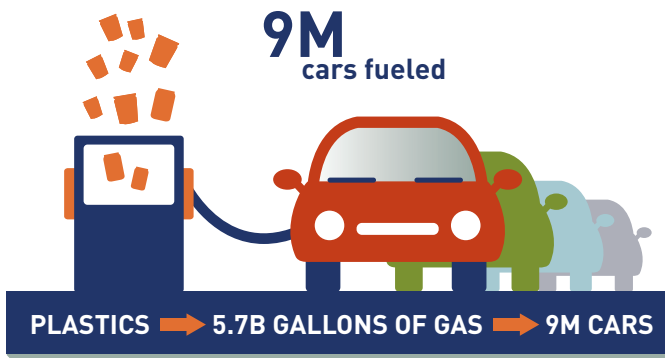


The Power of Waste

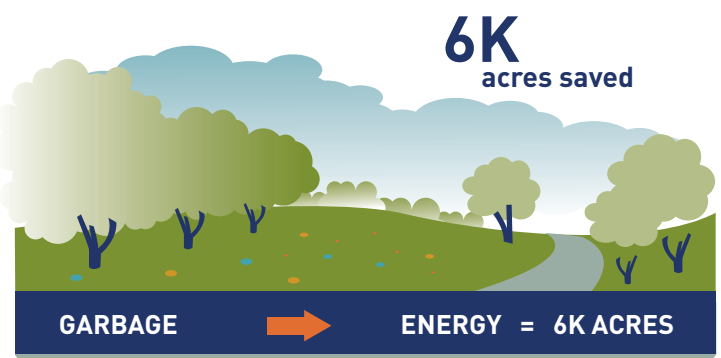
A recent study from the Earth Engineering Center at Columbia University assessed the energy value of municipal solid waste that is currently sent to U.S. landfills. It demonstrates the tremendous potential of modern technologies that convert waste into energy to help boost energy security, reduce landfill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



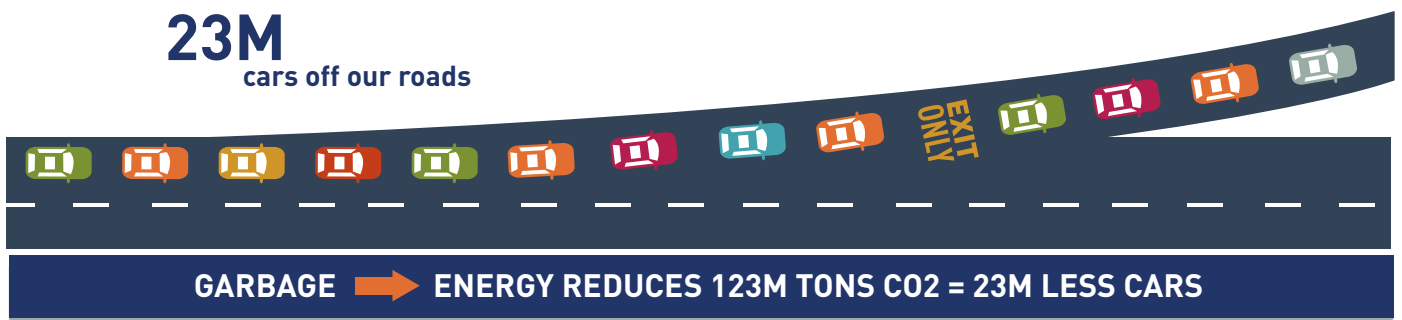
If current capacity were to be expanded so that all of the non-recycled municipal solid waste that is currently sent to U.S. landfills each year could instead be converted to energy, we could generate enough electricity to supply 13.8 million homes with power.



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.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 3, 2017 3:27 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB524 on Feb 8, 2017 14:45PM*

SB524

Submitted on: 2/3/2017

Testimony for AEN/PSM/TRE on Feb 8, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	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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