

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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**Testimony COMMENTING on HB2155 HD1
RELATING TO SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT**

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: 2/25/2020

Room Number: 308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Undefined sums of State of Hawaii general revenues shall be appropriated
2 to assist the counties with implementation. This measure may impact the priorities identified in
3 the Governor's Executive Budget Request for the Department of Health's (Department)
4 appropriations and personnel priorities.

5 **Department Testimony:** The Department respectfully offers the following comments on
6 HB2155 HD1, which requires residential and commercial solid waste be separated by source,
7 requires counties to update their integrated solid waste management plans, establishes a new
8 waste stream reduction goal, and provides general revenue appropriations to the counties to
9 implement this proposal:

10 Separating solid waste into appropriate, identifiable containers based on source may
11 facilitate recycling by reducing contamination and expediting waste processing. However, each
12 county manages its own solid waste based on local infrastructure, availability of funds,
13 availability of land, and other factors. Currently, residential waste collection varies greatly by
14 county – from no curbside collection in the County of Hawaii to automated three-bin curbside
15 collection in the City and County of Honolulu. In addition, no county conducts commercial
16 waste collection, which is managed exclusively by private haulers.

17 Each county is updating, or has recently updated, its Integrated Solid Waste Management
18 (ISWM) plan. The purpose of the ISWM plan is to identify priorities, approaches, and costs for
19 the entire waste management process.

1 The proposed legislation presents a universal solution that impacts each county's solid
2 waste management program, although each county faces its own discrete challenges. The
3 Department respectfully requests that the Legislature consider each county's capacity and
4 priorities as identified in their ISWM plans.

5 **Offered Amendments:** None.

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

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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IN REPLY REFER TO:
WAS 20-75

February 24, 2020

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Finance
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 325
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee on Finance:

**SUBJECT: HB 2155 HD1
Relating to Solid Waste Management**

The Department of Environmental Services (ENV) of the City and County of Honolulu opposes HB 2155 HD1 and offers the following comments.

As stated in HB 2155 HD1, the purpose of this Act is to: (1) Require that residential and commercial solid waste be separated by source to be processed at appropriate facilities; (2) Require counties to update their integrated solid waste management plans; (3) Establish a new waste stream reduction goal by 2030; and (4) Appropriate funds to each county to help subsidize their waste management programs.

On the first point, requiring residential and commercial solid waste to be separated by source to be processed at appropriate facilities implies that these waste streams would need to be collected separately. This is impractical for two reasons. First, for efficiency purposes, due to the close proximity of many residential and commercial waste generation points, both waste streams are often collected together in the same collection container and/or in the same collection vehicle. Requiring source separation of residential and commercial waste would mean the addition of collection containers at generation points and collection vehicles to service those containers, which is uneconomical and infeasible. Second, if the objective of this bill is for waste (regardless of source and recyclability) to be delivered to the appropriate processing facility, the source separation of residential and commercial solid waste would not achieve that objective. Designating separate collection containers for recyclable and non-recyclable material, ensuring that residential and commercial waste generators are depositing waste in the appropriate container, and requiring the waste hauler to deliver the waste to the appropriate processor would achieve that objective.

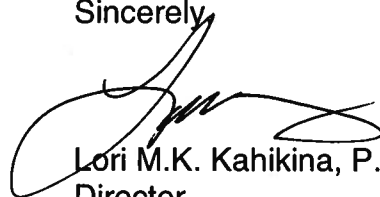
February 24, 2020
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On the second point, requiring counties to update their integrated solid waste management plans (ISWMP) appears to be redundant with HRS Section 342G-24, which requires the counties to submit their first ISWMP to the State Department of Health (DOH) by July 1, 1991, and requires counties to submit revised plans once every ten years; provided that an interim status report on the implementation of a revised plan shall be submitted five years after every submission of a revised plan to the DOH. Moreover, the City and County of Honolulu published its most recent ISWMP revision in 2019.

On the third point, concerning the establishment of a new waste reduction goal, the State's Aloha + Challenge project, which has been endorsed by the governor and all four county mayors, already contains an aggressive goal of 70% solid waste reduction by 2030. As of January 2019, the Aloha + Challenge online dashboard, which displays progress toward achieving the Challenge goals, shows that the counties are collectively on track to achieve this goal, although there is still a long way to go (about 17 more percent). Given that recycling is a significant factor in waste reduction, and in consideration of the major disruptions to the global recycling market caused by the enactment of China's National Sword policy at the beginning of 2018, we anticipate that it will become more difficult and costly to reduce waste through recycling in the coming years, so we are opposed to an increase in the 70% goal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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

HB-2155-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 3:46:29 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2020 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Phaethon Keeney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please Support HB2155, HD1, Hawaii's waste stream process is in need of an overhaul Statewide. Surfrider, Our Revolution, 350 Hawaii and other environmental organizations support this bill mandating solid waste be separated by source and processed at appropriate facilities while providing much needed funding to assist the counties in their solid waste management programs. Currently County level funding for proper oversight and sorting in the waste stream is lacking Statewide, and an adequate Statewide transition plan encouraging Department of Health to exert more detailed oversight (the Director of Health already has effective enforcement and penalty provisions) is needed, currently this systemic issue has yet to be properly addressed. Hawaii's businesses utilize a large portion of Hawaii's landfills and have little economic incentive to reduce their waste stream, and although county code prohibits businesses from using the transfer stations, abuse of the county transfer stations by commercial services is common and often overwhelms transfer stations. Hawaii County recently announced in January a limit to the amount of waste residents can dispose at county transfer stations in a single day to 3 cubic yards, about one pickup truck full, as a result of abuse by commercial enterprises. Providing funding for better sorting would help solve this issue. Also, because of shifting global recycling markets, Hawaii County transfer stations stopped accepting paper, plastic and other items in October 2019, but according to Greg Goodale, chief of Hawaii County Department of Environmental Management's Solid Waste Division, some mainland contractors may still be able to process such items if the county improves its collection system to prevent cross-contamination. HB2155 would provide much needed funds to Counties for separate bins and staffing needed, as well as helping identify and provide for commercial and residential use, while setting a new goal for the State to reduce the solid waste stream prior to disposal by 80% by 2030 through source reduction, recycling, and bioconversion. This bill, if properly funded, is a solid step forward in assisting Hawaii's counties with their waste reduction goals, reducing environmental impacts and lifespan of current landfills, as well as providing markets for clean economy local jobs that reduce our planetary impact.

Mahalo for your time,

Phaethon Keeney

