



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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**Testimony COMMENTING on HB2698
RELATING TO CONSTRUCTION WASTE**

REPRESENTATIVE NICOLE E. LOWEN, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Hearing Date: 2/4/2020 Room Number: 325

1 **Fiscal Implications:** No funds appropriated. This measure may impact the priorities identified
2 in the Governor's Executive Budget Request for the Department of Health's (Department)
3 appropriations and personnel priorities. The Department estimates that the cost to implement
4 this proposal is approximately \$75,000.00, exclusive of staff time to manage the administrative
5 functions and logistics. This estimate is based on the Department's past expenditures and
6 projected expenses to implement Act 254, which directed the Department to facilitate the Plastic
7 Source Reduction Working Group in 2019.

8 **Department Testimony:** The Department recognizes the importance of collaboratively
9 developing solutions to effectively manage construction waste throughout the State. A working
10 group representing various interests and viewpoints can be an effective approach to developing
11 solutions to difficult issues. However, we are concerned that the timing of the proposed working
12 group will prevent the Department from completing other mandated activities.

13 Currently, the Department's Office of Solid Waste Management (OSWM) is actively
14 involved with the aforementioned Plastic Source Reduction Working Group, which will submit a
15 report of its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to
16 convening the regular session of 2021. The Department's OSWM also plans to update its
17 Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) plan in the next year, as the counties complete
18 updates to their ISWM plans. Additionally, OSWM will be procuring compliance audit services

1 as recommended by the State Auditor for the Deposit Beverage Container (DBC) Program in the
2 next year.

3 Unfortunately, OSWM lacks the manpower and ability to effectively manage these
4 current and planned projects, tend to daily DBC and Advance Disposal Fee Program activities,
5 and also facilitate a new working group. The Department agrees that this working group can be
6 beneficial but is concerned that this proposal will impact OSWM's priorities and that OSWM
7 staffing shortages will impact the effectiveness of the working group within the specified
8 deadlines.

9 **Offered Amendments:** None.

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

HB-2698

Submitted on: 1/31/2020 12:31:34 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/4/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexandra Kahn	Surfrider Oahu	Support	No

Comments:

February 3, 2020



Representative Nicole Lowen
Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

RE: HB2698

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members,

Re-use Hawai'i is a non-profit organization working to keep building materials out of the landfill for the purpose of reuse. The materials we recover are provided to the community as an affordable resource.

HB2698 is a crucial step to help Hawai'i become more sustainable, self-reliant and resilient.

Construction and Demolition waste is the single largest contributor to our waste stream in Hawai'i, representing 30% of all the material that goes to the landfill. On O'ahu alone, over 400 structures are demolished each year. Only 10% of these are deconstructed and salvaged for reuse. Landfill capacity and locations on O'ahu, Kaua'i, Maui and Hawai'i Island are a major concern making waste reduction a top priority for the sustainability of our island state.

Furthermore, the production of new building materials consumes a tremendous amount of energy. When these items are kept out of the landfill and saved for reuse, all the energy that was invested into them is preserved. For every ton of wood products that are salvaged in Hawai'i, 2.2 tons of greenhouse gases are avoided by reducing the need to harvest and produce new products.

These salvaged materials also become an affordable community resource at the Re-use Hawai'i Redistribution Center. To-date, we have served 40,000 unique community members there. It is especially helpful for families, especially those that can't afford to buy new materials.

For 13 years Re-use Hawai'i has diverted a total of 13 million pounds of good reusable materials from the waste stream, valuing over 10 million dollars. We envision a future where natural resources are more broadly preserved by the construction industry in Hawai'i and the community benefits from the availability of locally sourced affordable building material.

As deemed necessary by the Legislature, we strongly support the creation of a working group of industry and community groups to explore the best solutions to our construction waste challenges. Re-use Hawai'i is very willing to participate.

Mahalo nui loa,

Quinn Vittum
Executive Director, Re-use Hawai'i



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

February 4, 2020 8:30 AM Room 325

In SUPPORT of HB2698: Relating to Construction Waste

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **supports HB2698**, which would require the Department of Health to convene a construction waste reuse and recycling working group to determine how to implement a requirement for the reuse, recycling, or donation of construction waste.

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i is committed to supporting efforts that seek to reduce waste and consumption across the islands, that initiate on-island recycling and processing, and that explore innovative ways to upcycle and reuse various waste materials. In this case, we advocate for diverting construction waste away from the landfill or to H-POWER by reuse, recycling, or donation. We realize there is a need to address the issue of construction waste, as it can have negative impacts on the natural environment. Due to comments on previous testimony, we believe a working group is the best way to begin on this issue. Our communities have come so far in their support for recycling programs, and *we should continue moving toward a zero waste Hawai'i in a way that is clean, efficient, and causes minimal harm to the environment.*

We urge the committee to pass this measure, which will serve our collective efforts to reduce waste across the state.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB2698**.

Mahalo,
Lori Mallini
Volunteer, Sierra Club of Hawai'i



February 3, 2020

Representative Nicole Lowen, Chair, and Committee Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment Protection

RE: ICC Supports Passage of HB 2698

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members:

The International Code Council is a 60,000 member, non-profit public benefit corporation dedicated to helping the building safety community and construction industry provide safe, sustainable, environmentally responsible, energy-efficient and affordable construction through the development of codes and standards used in the design, build and compliance process by state and local governments including the State of Hawaii, its agencies, and Hawaii's Counties.

HB 2698 proposes the Department of Health to be charged to convene a construction waste and recycling working group to develop recommendations on how to set reasonable and attainable measures to implement a program to divert, reuse, donate, or recycle construction waste and demolition materials from construction sites.

It is wise to charge the Department of Health to convene a working group of stakeholders to investigate the related issues of program implementation and to assess the true capacity of how much and what materials can be realistically diverted from the waste stream.

It is responsible to report the working group's findings to the legislature, so realistic and obtainable standards of construction waste diversion can be set by the legislature.

ICC strongly supports HB2698.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kraig Stevenson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kraig Stevenson, CBO
ICC Government Relations
kstevenson@iccsafe.org
562-201-9209



LATE

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
State Capitol, Conference Room 325
415 South Beretania Street
8:30 AM**

February 4, 2020

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2698, RELATED TO CONSTRUCTION WASTE

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the committee:

My name is Dwight Mitsunaga, 2020 President of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii). Chartered in 1955, the Building Industry Association of Hawaii is a professional trade organization affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders, representing the building industry and its associates. BIA-Hawaii takes a leadership role in unifying and promoting the interests of the industry to enhance the quality of life for the people of Hawaii.

BIA-Hawaii is in support of H.B. 2698, which would require the Department of Health to convene a construction waste reuse and recycling working group to determine how to implement a requirement for the reuse, recycling, or donation of construction waste.

We appreciate being selected as one of the members of the Construction Waste Reuse and Recycling Working Group, and look forward to productive discussions that would lead to recommendations that would benefit all parties.

We are in support of H.B. 2698, and appreciate the opportunity to provide our comments on this matter.



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 8:30 A.M.
Conference Room 325, State Capitol**

LATE

RE: HB 2698 RELATING TO CONSTRUCTION WASTE

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** HB 2698, which would require the Department of Health to convene a construction waste reuse and recycling working group to determine how to implement a requirement for the reuse, recycling, or donation of construction waste.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

We appreciate being selected as one of the members of the Construction Waste Reuse and Recycling Working Group and look forward to productive discussions that would lead to recommendations that would benefit all parties.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this legislation.

Testimony of
Stephen Joseph
PVT Land Company, Ltd.
HB 2698 Relating to Construction Waste
February 3, 2020

LATE

SUBMITTED VIA CAPITOL WEBSITE

Chair Nicole E. Lowen
Vice Chair Tina Wildberger
Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to **submit comments** concerning HB 2698 Relating to Construction Waste. HB 2698 would require the Department of Health to convene a construction waste reuse and recycling working group to determine how to implement a requirement for the reuse, recycling, or donation of construction waste.

PVT Land Company, Ltd. submits this testimony to provide information that may be helpful to the Committee in its deliberations. PVT is the only publicly available integrated solid waste management facility for construction and demolition debris on Oahu. The vast majority of debris that enters the PVT facility is separated, crushed, or shredded for reuse or recycling. PVT is able to recycle up to 80 percent of the debris that enters the facility: metals are recycled offsite; concrete, rock and dirt are recycled for use at the facility or offsite; wood and other combustible material are processed into feedstock that can be used in a gasifier to produce clean synthetic natural gas. By recycling and converting debris into feedstock for the production of energy, PVT can help reduce Hawaii's dependence on landfills and fossil fuels.

Together with PVT, the construction industry is the largest recycler of solid waste on Oahu. The City and County of Honolulu recently published its 2019 Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan Update (November 2019). The 2019 Report describes the tremendous increase in recycling on Oahu, from 74,000 tons of material in 1988 to 1,198,000 tons in 2017. The construction industry, including PVT, is the largest recycler with 763,279 tons of rock, concrete and asphalt recycled. This does not count the metal recycling by PVT and others in the construction industry or the generation of feedstock by PVT. See Table 4-1. Total Tons Recycled, Calendar Year 2017 at https://www.opala.org/solid_waste/pdfs/ISWMP_2019_Final.pdf

PVT respectfully submits that the construction industry is already a leader in recycling. Thank you again for the opportunity to submit comments on this measure.

HB-2698

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 2:54:26 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/4/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Azuma Chrupalyk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Major construction companies waste tons of valuable resources tht could be donated to Habitat for Humanity or a like-fashioned business. There is no need for all of that waste. This is an island.