



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 02/23/2021

**Time:** 02:00 PM

**Location:** 308 Via Videoconference

**Committee:** House Finance

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 0516, HD1 RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE ELECTRONICS MANAGEMENT.

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires persons who receive state funds and state financial assistance to donate unnecessary but functioning electronic devices, hardware, and televisions to nonprofit organizations that will refurbish and distribute them to eligible persons in the State. Sets reporting requirements for donating entities, nonprofit refurbishers, and the department of accounting and general services. Sets penalties for violations. Effective 7/1/2112. (HD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 516, HD1 requiring recipients of state funds and financial assistance to donate unnecessary but functional electronic devices, hardware, and televisions for refurbishment and distribution to eligible persons in the State.

Access to devices and technology resources for low-income families and other populations in need of access is a long-standing issue. The issue became more evident with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, which required the people of the state to work and learn remotely. The Department appreciates that this measure recognizes the need for access to technology resources by proposing a cost-efficient solution that is also sustainable and environmentally responsible.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher

collaboration. Detailed information is available at [www.hawaiipublicschools.org](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).

**HB-516-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 8:51:58 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Milholen	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Aloha, Chair, Vice Chair, and FIN committee members. My name is Jennifer Milholen and I help organize school recycling drives on O’ahu where we collect electronics from the school, and community members. Below are some electronics stats for donations that came to us from 2017 to present. The numbers are aggregated, but approximately 70% of collected electronics are coming from school or government contribution:

Aloha ‘Äēina Recycling Drives hosted: 62 events (includes recurring schools)

Total collected from 2017 to present: 265,000lbs or ~133 tons of electronics

2017-2018 total electronics: 105,230 lbs with an average of ~6,000lbs collected per event

2018-2019 total electronics: 98,517lbs with an average of ~5,500lbs collected per event

2019-2020 total electronics: incomplete year due to covid, but 25,000 lbs collected with an average of ~4,300lbs collected per event

2020-2021 total electronics: incomplete year due to covid and in process, but 36,250lbs collected so far, with an average of 5,178lbs collected per event

As an additional comment, I would recommend that there be an option for first right of refusal for the nonprofit refurbishers, followed by option to recycle electronics, to ensure that there is capacity on each island for the estimated hundreds of millions of electronics coming from institutions, and that the existing electronics recycling industry would not be effectively compromised. I would hope this would be a fair work around to ensure much more reuse and repair of electronics while supporting the existing recycling infrastructure that has helped to divert countless millions of pounds of ewaste from our landfills and incenerator.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments. Please let me know if you have additional questions.

Jennifer



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CURT T. OTAGURO  
COMPTROLLER  
AUDREY HIDANO  
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES**

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY  
OF  
CURT T. OTAGURO, COMPTROLLER  
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES  
TO THE  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2021, 2:00 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 308 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

H.B. 516, HD1

RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE ELECTRONICS MANAGEMENT

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. 516, HD1.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) supports the intent for electronics stewardship and the reduction of electronic waste through the donation of unnecessary but functioning devices to nonprofit organizations. DAGS would like to offer the following comments.

DAGS has concerns regarding the unintended liability issues that non-profit organizations may file against the State should the donated equipment malfunction. In addition, DAGS is concerned with the ongoing expenses that would be required to perform the stated administrative duties to dispose of State assets to the non-profit sector.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



## Testimony for HB516 - RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE ELECTRONICS MANAGEMENT

Position : Strong **Support of the bill.**

**LATE**

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Curtis Kropar, Executive Director of the non profit organization, Hawaiian Hope Org.

As you may know, Hawaiian Hope Org has been refurbishing computers in Hawaii for 14 years now. We take in donated computers, fix them up and then redistribute them to other non profit organizations, local families and students for home.

To our knowledge, Hawaiian Hope Org is the single largest refurbisher of computers in the state. **In 2018 we produced over 1,000 computers, and, in 2019 we produced over 1,800 computers.**

With this bill, HB516, we, and other non profits in Hawaii, could now have the opportunity to get access to a much larger quantity of computers from the state, **that are otherwise often discarded as eWaste.** We estimate this to be over 40,000 devices a year and we appreciate your efforts to make it happen and help us get even more computers and technology into the hands of the people that need it.

Additionally, this bill will save the state a considerable amount of money. In most instances, when the state discards computers and electronics, it pays for disposal. This disposal is often charged BY THE POUND as the fee is based on the weight of the equipment being discarded. One vendor we know of charges \$0.40 cents per pound to trash (recycle) perfectly working hardware. Another vendor we are aware of on the big island, "Mr K's Recycle & Redemption Center" states on their website, they charge \$.95 cents per pound, and additionally charge \$3 per mile for picking up discarded devices. As a single pallet of computers may weigh over 1,000 pounds, this can become very expensive, very quickly.

As an example, In a single pickup we did in 2019, we intercepted 700 state laptop computers that were headed for eWaste Disposal. Each laptop weighs 5.2 Pounds. 700 Laptops at 5.2 pounds each is 3,640 Pounds ! Given the quoted amounts above, **it could have cost the state an additional \$1,500 - \$3,000 to "dispose" of perfectly working laptops - for ONE disposal transaction.** These laptops instead were refurbished and most were given to low income kids to use for their education.

ReUse first is the most logical conclusion for taking electronics devices out of the waste stream, and instead getting them to the people in Hawaii that need them.

- It will provide more educational resources directly to families.
- It will better promote a culture of good stewardship of resources.
- It will save the state money.

With this, Hawaiian Hope Org expresses our strong support for HB516.

Thank you !

We are available to answer any questions you may have.

**HB-516-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 9:43:39 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joe Hammond	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of this bill. I believe that a lot of older (but still functioning) technologies are wasted in storage, not recycled, and/or not thrown away/disposed correctly. With this bill it would allow for these wasted technologies to be donated and used by other people who can make use of them.