

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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1640 HD2  
RELATING TO RECYCLING**

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: 2/25/2022

Room Number: Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure will not impact the priorities identified in the Governor's  
2 Executive Budget Request for the Department of Health's (Department) appropriations and  
3 personnel priorities.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Department supports this measure as it aims to improve the  
5 current electronic waste recycling program by creating recycling goals for all covered electronics  
6 manufacturers, sets convenience requirements for manufacturers' recycling plans, combines the  
7 covered electronic device and covered television programs into one comprehensive program, and  
8 requires manufacturers to fully fund their recycling plan including the collection, transportation,  
9 and recycling of their electronic devices.

10 This measure proposes a 50% recycling goal for 2023, 60% recycling goal for 2024, and  
11 70% recycling goal for 2025 for television, computer, monitor, laptop, tablet, and printer  
12 manufacturers. The recycling goals will be calculated based on a manufacturer's sales from two  
13 years prior, unless amended by rule pursuant to chapter 91. This allows the Department  
14 flexibility should the recycling goals need to be adjusted in the future. The Department believes  
15 a 50% recycling goal is achievable since in 2021, TV manufacturers recycled 2,240,180  
16 pounds—had the 50% recycling goal been in place for 2021, they would have surpassed this  
17 target (2,207,459 pounds) by 32,721 pounds.

18 Unfortunately, overall data from electronics recycling in Hawaii shows a decline in the  
19 number of pounds recycled by covered electronic device (CED) manufacturers. In 2014, 54%

1 (2,290,087 pounds) of all electronic devices recycled in Hawaii were CEDs, which contributed to  
2 the highest amount (4,235,276 pounds) collected under the current electronic waste program. In  
3 2020, 2,865,504 pounds of electronic devices were collected for recycling in Hawaii, with CED  
4 manufacturers collecting only 625,324 pounds or 22% of all devices. While the total number of  
5 pounds recycled may be on the decline, it is not due to the light-weighting of devices.

6 While electronic devices may be manufactured to be lighter than their historic versions  
7 (for example, cathode ray tube (CRT) TVs vs. LCD TVs) the recycling goals proposed in this  
8 bill utilizes sales data from just two years prior (not 10+ years ago when the heavier CRT TV  
9 were still being sold). When thinking of consumer habits, both with purchasing computers and  
10 TVs, it would be reasonable to expect that when a consumer purchases a new device, they may  
11 want to recycle their old or broken device, which was purchased a few years back. The old  
12 device that they are wanting to recycle is more than likely heavier than the new device they just  
13 purchased.

14 Manufacturers of computers, monitors, laptops, tablets, and printers (CEDs) have no  
15 recycling goal or mandate; under the current e-waste law they make the decision how many  
16 pounds they would like to recycle in Hawaii. For example, Apple has recycled 8.3 million  
17 pounds of CEDs while Dell has recycled only 1.6 million pounds of CEDs over the past 10  
18 years. Both Apple and Dell collect the same electronic devices, but Apple has set higher  
19 recycling targets than Dell for Hawaii.

20 Under the current law, manufacturers have no incentive to increase the amount of  
21 electronic devices they recycle in Hawaii. The recycling goals and convenience requirements  
22 proposed in this measure would provide additional recycling opportunities for Hawaii's  
23 consumers. Monthly collections in each county and zip code tabulation areas with a population  
24 greater than 25,000 would translate to 19 locations on Oahu, two locations on Maui and Hawaii,  
25 and one location on Kauai.

26 **Offered Amendments:** None

- 1 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**Mitchell D. Roth**  
*Mayor*

**Lee Lord**  
*Managing Director*



**Ramzi I. Mansour**  
*Director*

**Brenda Iokepa-Moses**  
*Deputy Director*

# County of Hawai'i

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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Ph: (808) 961-8083 · Fax: (808) 961-8086

February 24, 2022

### COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Re: Testimony in Support of HB 1640 HD2, Relating to Recycling, which expands definition of electronic devices to be recycled, establishes goals for covered electronic recycling, penalties for manufacturers not meeting goals and convenience requirements for electronic recycling.**

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita and Committee Members,

The County of Hawai'i Department of Environmental Management is pleased to submit testimony **in support of House Bill 1640 HD2** that strengthens and expands the current Electronic Waste and Television Recycling and Recovery Act.

HB 1640, HD2, would 1) expand the definition of electronic devices to be recycled under the amended law; 2) establish electronics recovery goals based on prior sales of the manufacturer's products in the State; 3) establish financial incentives based on weights for those manufacturers that do not meet their goals; 4) establish certification requirements to meet environmental standards; and 5) most importantly require minimum convenience levels for Neighbor Island electronics recycling.

The County of Hawai'i supports this bill, which included a sufficient manufacturer collection goal to ensure a sustainable recovery rate that keeps up with rapid obsolescence in electronic devices and a requirement for monthly collections. The County of Hawai'i urges the Committee to include more entertainment electronics (game consoles & sound systems) and networking electronics in the definition of an electronic device. We look forward to working with the Legislature and all interested parties to strengthen our electronics recycling law to increase diversion from our limited landfill space, protecting our environment and enhancing recycling options for our Hawai'i Island residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best Regards,



Ramzi I. Mansour  
DIRECTOR  
County of Hawai'i Department of Environmental Management

cc: Mitchell D. Roth, Mayor, County of Hawai'i  
Mike Kaha, COH Solid Waste Division Chief TA  
Sanne Berrig, COH Recycling Coordinator

MICHAEL P. VICTORINO  
Mayor

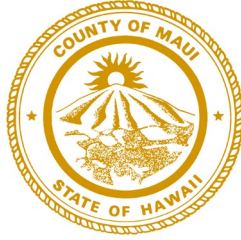
ERIC A. NAKAGAWA, P.E.  
Director

SHAYNE R. AGAWA, P.E.  
Deputy Director

MICHAEL KEHANO, P.E.  
Solid Waste Division

SCOTT R. ROLLINS, P.E.  
Wastewater Reclamation Division

TAMARA L. FARNSWORTH  
Environmental Protection &  
Sustainability Division



**COUNTY OF MAUI  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

2145 KAOHU STREET, SUITE 102  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793

February 24, 2022

TESTIMONY OF TAMARA L. FARNSWORTH  
COUNTY OF MAUI, MANAGER OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION & SUSTAINABILITY  
DIVISION

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
Friday, February 25, 2022, 1:30 p.m.  
Via Videoconference

In consideration of **HOUSE BILL 1640 HD 2 RELATING TO RECYCLING**

Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair

Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

Honorable Members of the Committee on Finance

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The County of Maui Department of Environmental Management stands in **SUPPORT of HB1640 HD 2** which would improve and update an electronics extended producer responsibility program within the Department of Health by creating recycling goals for all covered electronics, setting convenience requirements for manufacturers' recycling plans, combining the covered electronic device and covered television programs into one comprehensive program, and requiring manufacturers to fully fund their recycling plan including the collection, transportation, and recycling of their electronic devices.

A significant portion of the burden of disposing of or recycling electronics waste now falls to state and county taxpayers. The department diverts electronic waste from landfills due to toxic wastes and fire hazards associated with these items, even at the cost of nearly \$1000 per ton in 2020. In Maui County, the annual volume of electronic waste currently exceeds the program's ability to manage all of it, and the county must defer shipping at the end of each year because quotas are met well ahead of December.

While weights of these items may be declining overall, the use of electronics remains stable or is increasing. The mandates set forth by this bill allow for an incremental portion of increasing diversion over three years. The highest percentage required for manufacturers to handle will be 70% in 2025, which would allow for a 30% decrease in weights from the previous two years sales. Testimony from the Consumer Technology Association shows a table with annual decreasing weights at an average rate of 1.6% over the ten year span from 2010 – 2020. Even in the unlikely event that weights would decrease by 14% each year over two years, the highest percentage of decrease shown in 2017, the mandate would still be achievable. **Using the average decrease in weights or even the highest historical decrease, it is clear that the maximum 70% diversion will be achievable.**

TESTIMONY OF TAMARA L. FARNSWORTH  
HB1640 HD 2  
February 24, 2022  
Page 2 of 2

This bill lays out a clear pathway for producers to increase their responsibility for the full life cycle of the products they manufacture. It provides a tiered, incremental system to assist with them taking on more of that responsibility. The mandates set forth by this bill can be met by the industry and will take the burden off the shoulders of taxpayers. It will provide manufacturers the opportunity to take responsibility for the products they produce, hopefully encouraging innovative design for a more circular economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support of HB 1640 HD 2.**

February 24, 2022

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Rep. Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair  
Committee on Finance  
Hawaii State Legislature  
415 S Beretania St  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Re: Oppose HB 1640 HD2**

Dear Chair Luke:

On behalf of the Consumer Technology Association (CTA), thank you for opportunity to provide comments on HB 1640 HD2. CTA is the trade association representing the U.S. consumer technology industry – including manufacturers of televisions and computer equipment which are the primary targets of this legislation. We also represent retailers of these and other consumer technology products.

CTA is very familiar with the current Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) laws that require television and computer manufacturers to recycle old electronics in Hawaii. Under these EPR programs that have been in effect for more than a decade, electronics manufacturers have spent more than \$25 million to safely recycle old televisions and to fund the Hawaii Department of Health’s oversight of the recycling system.

As shown in Table 1 below, the combined amounts of televisions and computer equipment recycled peaked about 2015. This is not unique to Hawaii and is the result of light-weighting of televisions and computers by manufacturers starting in the early/mid-2000s. You may recall the old, heavy cathode ray tube televisions and monitors that sat on the floor in the family room – today a much larger television using better and lighter technology can be hung on the wall like a mirror. These dramatic changes are reflected in weight of electronics coming through the system as Table 1 shows.

Note that the light-weighting trend has driven lower overall “sales weights” of televisions and computers sold until the past couple years when weights per unit generally bottomed out and many consumers bought more of these devices to help communicate, be entertained, and do remote work during the pandemic. Based on sales weights calculated under other states’



EPR electronics recycling programs, CTA expects the decline in overall recycling weights to decline for the next 6-8 years, then bottom out or even creep back up slightly starting in 2030 consistent with product use and lifespans of these devices.

**Table 1**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Combined Amounts of Hawaii TVs/Computers Recycled by Manufacturers (lbs. per capita)</b>	<b>Change from Previous Year</b>
2010	2.38	
2011	2.55	8%
2012	2.79	10%
2013	2.95	6%
2014	2.98	1%
2015	2.95	-1%
2016	2.85	-4%
2017	2.45	-14%
2018	2.32	-5%
2019	2.22	-4%
2020	2.02	-9%

Note that HB 1640 HD2 requires increasing recycling rates from 2023-2025, which is not consistent with the background decline in weights coming during the next decade. Simply put, there will not be enough pounds of electronics in Hawaii to meet this proposed mandate. As CTA uncovered in New Jersey in 2019, and has strong circumstantial evidence in Illinois from their law structured similar to HB 1640 HD2 (which has since been replaced), the only entities who benefit from unreachable targets are recyclers who sell pounds that either do not exist or are outside the scope of the program.

Note also that the “split” between pounds recycled by television manufacturers verses pounds recycled by computer manufacturers as reported by DOH has been reasonably close, even though TV manufacturers have a pounds recycling target currently and computer manufacturers do not. For example, according to DOH data in 2020, computer manufacturers recycled about 600,000 lbs. of computer equipment while television manufacturers recycled just over 2 million pounds. While this does not reflect the exact proportions of current TV sales weights compared to computer weights, in jurisdictions where these products are regulated identically it is common for more computers to appear in lower amounts and be recycled outside the state-mandated system as many computer devices typically have a positive economic value in the recycling stream.

With that in mind CTA opposes HB 1680 HD2. CTA has worked in other states to find consensus approaches to solving the e-waste problem without unreachable targets, and we would be happy to work with DOH and other stakeholders to develop such a plan and modernize the Hawaii electronics recycling system.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify and provide our comments. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [walcorn@cta.tech](mailto:walcorn@cta.tech).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walter Alcorn". The signature is stylized with a large initial "W" and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Walter Alcorn  
Vice President, Environmental Affairs and Industry Sustainability  
Consumer Technology Association



## Mr. K's Recycle and Redemption Center

815 Kinoole St., Hilo, HI 96720 · [www.mrksrecyclehawaii.com](http://www.mrksrecyclehawaii.com)  
Tel: (808) 969-1222 · [office@mrksrecyclehawaii.com](mailto:office@mrksrecyclehawaii.com) · Fax: (808) 769-4023

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TO: Committee on Finance  
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

FROM: Mr. K's Recycle and Redemption Center, Inc.  
Roy Kadota, Owner

DATE: February 24, 2022

RE: HB 1640 HD2, Relating to Recycling

POSITION: Support

Mr. K's Recycle and Redemption Center has had the privilege of serving as the County of Hawai'i's electronic waste collector since at least 2016. During that time, Mr. K's has recycled a total of about 2 million pounds of electronic waste for Hawai'i Island. In addition, Mr. K's refurbishes electronics and sells devices and parts for re-use. We are proud to be part of the ecosystem diverting toxic e-waste from the landfill, extending the use of valuable resources, and making electronic devices available at affordable prices for our County.

Mr. K's is therefore pleased to **submit testimony in support of House Bill 1640 HD2**, that strengthens and expands the current Electronic Waste and Television Recycling and Recovery Act.

HB 1640 HD2 accomplishes the following:

- 1) It clarifies the definition of electronic devices to be recycled under the amended law to better reflect the current environment.
- 2) It establishes and funds electronic recovery goals based on prior sales of the manufacturer's products in the State.
- 3) It establishes certification requirements to meet environmental standards.
- 4) Most importantly for Hawai'i County, it requires minimum convenience levels for Neighbor Island electronics recycling.

Mr. K's urges the Committee to include more entertainment electronics (game consoles and sound systems), networking electronics (such as headsets) and peripherals (external speakers, keyboards, cables) in the definition of an electronic device. The public continues to see electronic waste as primarily a waste issue; convenience and simplicity are key to increasing recycling rates, while detailed sorting and pricing discourage recycling.

We look forward to working with the legislature, the State Department of Health, the County of Hawai'i Department of Environmental Management, and other stakeholders to strengthen our electronics recycling law and

systems to increase diversion from our limited landfill space, protect our environment, and expand recycling and reuse options for our Hawai`i Island residents.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB1640 HD1.

**HB-1640-HD-2**

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 2:32:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This seems like a common sense update to established policy. Please pass HB1640.

**HB-1640-HD-2**

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 3:21:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
chris c.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita and Committee Members,

**I support House Bill 1640 HD1** which improves the current flawed Electronic Waste and Television Recycling and Recovery Act.

This bill establishes good electronics recovery goals, establishes financial incentives for manufacturers that do not meet their goals and requires minimum convenience levels for Neighbor Island electronics recycling.

The State of Hawai‘i needs to strengthen our electronics recycling law now to increase diversion from our limited landfill space, protecting our environment and compel manufacturers to enhance recycling options for our Hawai‘i Island residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

**HB-1640-HD-2**

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 10:01:30 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Sanne Berrig	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testifying as a private citizen who works in the field of waste diversion on Hawai'i Island, this bill provides much needed funding to divert materials from the landfill in order to recover valuable materials for recycling.

The bill revisits existing regulations and improves our ability to divert and recycle e-waste.

Please **support** this important legislation.

Mahalo nui,

Sanne Berrig

**HB-1640-HD-2**

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 11:19:59 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support



**HB-1640-HD-2**

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 11:43:37 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Constance Bee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need to fund recycling of electronic waste. HB1640 also helps make it more convenient for those on Neighbor Islands. Please support this bill.

**HB-1640-HD-2**

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 11:44:34 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Christy Pratt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill, because I believe that our current system dealing with ewaste can be improved with this bill. We need funding for all of our Island ewaste.

**HB-1640-HD-2**

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 11:45:34 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Claire C	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Claire Cea and I am familiar with the process of recycling e-waste in Hawaii county. I am in support of House Bill 1640 because it will create a more sufficient and reliable source of funding for the e-waste collection for Big Island and I am confident that it will ensure less e-waste being tossed on our roadsides and in our landfill. I believe that that burden should lay on the manufacturers who are selling these electronics because it will make them think of the environmental impact of what they're selling beyond just putting their products on a shelf. OEMs should be conscientious of the logistics of recycling their products and I am happy to see a bill that will encourage the shift of thinking to include the entire lifecycle of electronics for all consumers. I am eager to understand more of the details of this bill and hope to see it survive the legislation process.

**HB-1640-HD-2**

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 12:27:47 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jonathan Lewis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Committee Members,

**I support this bill**, though I have some reservations. I work for a recycling company and my position is responsible for E-Waste recycling. Overall, this bill is an improvement over the current policies and would set a positive precedent moving forward to address the growing e-waste recycling needs of Hawaii. The burden falling on manufactures is absolutely necessary as they should be considered the responsible parties for these devices. The state budget should not be used to recycle environmentally dangerous substances imported to Hawaii by large companies who possess the resources to dispose of them properly.

That being said, I believe there are issues with the bill that should be addressed. Right now, there are not provisions for several classes of devices that we receive in significant quantities. A large percentage of devices received are computer peripherals such as, keyboards, mice, external drives and many other devices that are used directly with a personal computer. Hundreds of pounds of these devices go through my facility every week and as the bill stands the manufactures bear no responsibility for these devices.

Many of these devices are coming from businesses and schools and also include larger and heavier devices such as projectors and document presenters. These devices are manufactured by companies that are listed in this bill and are often coming to us from state and county facilities, including police and medical offices.

Also, a plan to address ALL types of commonly used batteries, especially lithium ion batteries as they often come in loose and dangerously damaged.

Even if these considerations are not addressed, the bill is a vast improvement over the current system and so I reiterate that **I support this bill**.

Thank you,

Jonathan Lewis

**HB-1640-HD-2**

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 12:59:01 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Michele Mitsumori	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Kyle Yamashita, and Committee Members,

I support HB1640 HD2, improving the current Electronic Waste and Television Recycling and Recovery Act, which is outdated and sorely insufficient.

HB1640 HD2 aims to establish sufficient and reliable funding as part of the cost of selling electronic products in the State, such as through recycling goals and financial incentives to meet those goals. The bill also establishes a public education component, which is essential to building community values around specific habits such as responsible disposal of electronic waste and promoting the reuse of devices and parts. Our recycling system needs to be convenient, affordable and consistent in order to achieve the long-term behavioral change needed at scale to protect our well being and our environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this much needed bill.

**HB-1640-HD-2**

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 1:01:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Jennifer Navarra	Zero Waste Hawaii Island	Support	No

Comments:

It is good to have recycling targets for manufacturers (EPR), and good to encourage convenience measures for Neighbor Islands, which have lower population density and greater distances.

The e-waste programs need constant reliable funding.

**HB-1640-HD-2**

Submitted on: 2/25/2022 9:57:32 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Nicole Larson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support increased recycling.

**House Bill (HB) 1640 HD2 would 1) expand the definition of electronic devices to be recycled under the amended law; 2) establish electronics recovery goals based on prior sales of the manufacturer's products in the State; 3) establish financial incentives based on weights for those manufacturers that do not meet their goals; 4) establish certification requirements to meet environmental standards; and 5) most importantly require minimum convenience levels for Neighbor Island electronics recycling.**

**The County of Hawai'i supports HD1 which included a sufficient manufacturer collection goal to ensure a sustainable recovery rate that keeps up with rapid obsolescence in electronic devices and a requirement for monthly collections. The County of Hawai'i urges the Committee to include more entertainment electronics (game consoles & sound systems) and networking electronics in the definition of an electronic device. We look forward to working with the legislature and all interested parties to strengthen our electronics recycling law to increase diversion from our limited landfill space, protecting our environment and enhancing recycling options for our Hawai'i Island residents.**