

ACT 222

H.B. NO. 2627

A Bill for an Act Making an Appropriation to Fund the Statewide Collection and Disposal of Hazardous Wastes Produced by Farmers and Householders in Hawaii.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the proper and economical disposal of the hazardous wastes produced by Hawaii's farmers and householders is an important problem that needs to be addressed immediately. Some of these wastes are carcinogenic, acutely toxic, or may contaminate drinking water supplies. Traces of pesticides have already been found in Hawaii's wells.

Currently, there are no hazardous waste landfill sites or treatment and storage facilities in the State and the shipment of wastes to mainland facilities for disposal is very costly.

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Farmers are especially affected if they buy more agricultural pesticides than they can use. The problem is aggravated if the pesticide is banned by the Environmental Protection Agency. In that case, farmers are not only left with a storage problem for their oversupply of pesticides, but an oversupply of an illegal pesticide.

Another problem area is toxic chemicals in the household. Everyday, toxic household chemicals are poured down sinks, flushed down toilets, emptied into backyards, or thrown out with the trash. They are toxic, corrosive, caustic, flammable, reactive, or explosive and are found in such common products as insect and roach sprays, rust removers, batteries, drain cleaners, oven cleaners, and disinfectants.

There are, however, no regulations controlling them, and they can harm homeowners, communities, and the environment in many ways. Municipal treatment plants are designed to process natural wastes only, so the hazardous wastes flushed into these systems may damage them or impair the treatment process. Wastes thrown out with the trash are crushed along with other garbage and can injure either refuse workers or workers at landfills, where they may also leach into the soil. Toxic wastes poured on the ground can contaminate drinking water supplies and those poured into storm drains can contaminate marine waters.

The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the statewide collection and disposal of pesticides and hazardous wastes produced by householders and farmers.

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$200,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 1988-1989, to fund the statewide collection and disposal of certain pesticides and hazardous wastes; provided that the department of health shall limit the collection and disposal of pesticides from farmers to those that have been banned by law for agricultural purposes.

SECTION 3. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of health for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 1988.

(Approved June 8, 1988.)