

**ACT 258**

H.B. NO. 54

A Bill for an Act Relating to Public Health.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that protection of the public health from unsanitary and infectious wastes is a primary responsibility of state and county

governments. In recent years, the common practices associated with the handling and disposal of solid wastes in landfills and the handling, treatment, and disposal of infectious wastes have been increasingly inadequate. The generation of these wastes appears to be growing at a rate faster than society's ability to deal with the problem. Of special concern is protection of the groundwater from pollution associated with landfills and the prevention of incidental exposure of the public to infectious wastes at a time when hepatitis B and AIDS are major concerns for health officials and the public.

The legislature finds that two important strategies to alleviate the problems associated with these wastes are the promotion of special sorting and handling of certain wastes that can be recycled and the development of new regulations relating to infectious wastes.

SECTION 2. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

**"§321- Infectious wastes; management and disposal.** The department of health shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 for the management and disposal of infectious wastes generated by hospitals, clinics, other health care facilities, doctors' offices, dentists' offices, research laboratories, veterinary clinics, and other generators of infectious wastes. The rules shall include a definition of infectious wastes that clearly and objectively defines infectious wastes and specifies acceptable containers and other factors related to the identification, segregation, containment, and transportation of infectious wastes. Effective July 1, 1991 all generators of infectious wastes shall show proof that infectious wastes are being managed and disposed of according to departmental rules upon request of the department."

SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.<sup>1</sup>

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved June 8, 1989.)

**Note**

1. Edited pursuant to HRS §23G-16.5.