

## ACT 229

H.B. NO. 1425

A Bill for an Act Relating to Recycling.

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

SECTION 1. The goal of the State is to reduce the solid waste stream prior to disposal by twenty-five per cent by January 1, 1995, and by fifty per cent by January 1, 2000. In this plan, recycling and bioconversion should be considered before landfilling and incineration. Our landfills are reaching maximum capacity. Between forty to fifty per cent of waste by weight received by the landfills consists of recyclable material. The creation of new landfills is expensive and time-consuming; recycling can delay the need for them.

Today, we throw away four per cent of our glass, eleven per cent of our metals, five per cent of our plastics, nineteen per cent of our papers and paper boards, and twenty-seven per cent of our compostable yard trimmings. This is an example of lost opportunity costs for recyclable materials. Nationally, eleven million tons of aluminum cans are buried in the landfills; this represents \$6.6 billion in potential lost revenue. This economic impact is significant and needs to be calculated into the costs of building a new landfill.

SECTION 2. Chapter 342G, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

“§342G- Recycling coordinator. There is established a position of assistant to the coordinator of the office of solid waste management to be known as the recycling coordinator. The position shall be appointed by the director without regard to chapters 76 and 77 and shall be compensated at an annual salary level of \$42,538. The recycling coordinator shall be included in any benefit program generally applicable to the officers and employees of the State.”

SECTION 3. Section 342G-13, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

“[[§342G-13]] **Powers and duties of the department.** In the execution of the responsibilities provided under this chapter, the department shall:

- (1) Establish and administer goals and guidelines as provided for in this chapter;
- (2) Adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 and administer the rules as provided for in this chapter;
- (3) Fulfill the office of solid waste management’s responsibilities pursuant to this chapter until the establishment of the office;
- (4) [Be designated] Serve as the state solid waste management agency for [all purposes stated in] compliance with the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (42 United States Code section 6901 et seq.) and any other federal law [heretofore or hereafter enacted affecting] regarding solid waste; and
- (5) Perform other duties as specified in this chapter.”

SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New statutory material is underscored.<sup>1</sup>

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 1995.

(Approved June 29, 1995.)

**Note**

1. Edited pursuant to HRS §23G-16.5.