



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

## Environmental Center

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### SB 1408 SD 1 RELATING TO INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Statement for  
Senate Committee on  
Ways and Means  
Public Hearing - February 27, 1991

By  
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SB 1408, SD 1 would provide an integrated solid waste management program for the Department of Health and each county to follow in their consideration of solid waste management and processing methods including source reduction, recycling and bioconversion, incineration with energy recovery, and landfilling and incineration without energy recovery. The Committee on Agriculture and Environmental Protection amended SB 1408 by removing the provision that the Department of Health use guidelines rather than administrative rules to detail the intent of the chapter. The sum of \$722,000 has been appropriated by said committee for the fiscal biennium 1991-1992 to initiate an annual statewide household hazardous waste collection project.

Our statement on this bill does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

It is certainly a good idea to address solid waste management in an integrated fashion and include removal of impediments to recycling. Addressing government purchasing in this manner is also an integral part of reducing the strain on Hawaii's present waste management system.

The changes made by the Committee on Agriculture and Environmental Protection seem to be rational and should stand as such, however, we do offer two issues for your consideration.

First, the goal of a 25 percent reduction in the solid waste stream by January 1, 1995 appears to be rather low. A reasonably strong program could

easily reach 50 percent reduction by 1995. Since initiating a recycling program in the Environmental Center offices, we have experienced a reduction in paper waste of approximately 90 percent. Our wastebaskets are now virtually empty.

The second issue which should be addressed is that of incineration. The definition of incineration (page 8, line 8) as stated does not include the organic and inorganic chemicals that are produced when solid waste is burned. The definition might be amended to read "...wherein solid waste is reduced to an ash, which equals about a third of the original waste and is increased in toxicity by a corresponding amount, and atmospheric emissions consisting primarily of carbon dioxide and water vapor but also including a variety of organic and inorganic chemicals including dioxins and furans." These organic and inorganic chemicals which are produced by incineration are hazardous wastes and will require treatment as such, therefore reliance on other methods of disposal is necessary to preserve the clean environment of Hawaii.

Approaching the complicated issue of solid waste management in an integrated fashion will certainly reduce pressures on the environment and help preserve the natural beauty of Hawaii for future generations.