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Environmental Center

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HB 673

RELATING TO RECYCLING

House Committees on
Energy and Environmental Protection
Economic Development and Business

Joint Public Hearing - February 13, 1993
12:00 P.M., Room 1310 SOT

By

John T. Harrison, Environmental Center
Peter J. Rappa, Sea Grant

HB 673 would define composting as an agricultural activity and would also define post-consumer recyclable materials as Hawaii-generated raw materials with significant economic value.

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

Although we strongly favor the encouragement of composting as a recycling process which holds impressive potential benefit for Hawaii and the nation as a whole, we have some concerns with proposed language in Section 5. Specifically, inclusion of industrial wastes without qualification on line 4, page 3, leads to the possibility that soil remediation treatments for soils contaminated with hazardous materials may fall into this category. While we are aware that new technologies for composting petroleum contaminated soils offer promise of accessible solutions to this problem, not all contaminated soils may be amenable to this approach. In particular, we are concerned about soils containing mixed petroleum and other waste products which are potentially hazardous.

To address this problem, we suggest adding the words, "which do not contain a hazardous substance" after "industrial wastes" in line 4, page 3. The definition of hazardous substance as provided in Section 128D-1 may be included by reference. With this change, we strongly support this measure.