HB 954 HD 1
RELATING TO INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Statement for
House Committee on Finance
Public Hearing - March 4, 1991

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HB 954, HD 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 Energy and Environmental Protection and Intergovernmental Relations and International Affairs and Health amended HB 954 by adding Section -2, by redefining agricultural and special waste, by reducing incineration priority, and by removing the provision that the Department of Health use guidelines rather than rules from Section -31.

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

HB 954 has a Senate companion bill SB 1408 that also formats an integrated solid waste management program. 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 of recycled products 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 Energy and Environmental Protection and Intergovernmental Relations and International Affairs and Health are 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 6, line 8) as stated does not include the organic and inorganic chemicals that are produced when solid waste is burned. If the definition of incineration is going to include specific references to carbon dioxide, water vapor and ash then the toxic compounds, such as dioxins and furans which are produced should also be included in the definition.

Toxic compounds produced by incineration are hazardous wastes and will require treatment as such, therefore reliance on other methods of disposal is recommended to preserve the clean environment of Hawaii.

The proposed program provides the framework for both an economic and environmentally sound solid waste management system for Hawaii.