HB 2787

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR SOLID WASTE

House Committees on
Energy and Environmental Protection
Judiciary
Intergovernmental Relations and International Affairs
Housing

Public Hearing - January 30, 1992
8:30 am, Rm 1310

By
John T. Harrison, Environmental Center
Gordon Dugan, Civil Engineering
Nancy Kanyuk, Arts and Sciences

HB 2787 would appropriate funds for a study of the feasibility of transporting solid waste from the neighbor islands to Oahu's H-Power facility.

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

We certainly have no objection to a study of this issue. However, we suggest that such a study will likely articulate serious concerns with the proposal. Waste-to-energy facilities do not eliminate the material which must subsequently be landfilled: they merely reduce its volume. The effect of adopting interisland transshipment of solid waste would be to transfer the burden of landfilling solid wastes from the outer islands to Oahu. We suspect that the County of Oahu may not look favorably on such a premise without reasonable compensation. Add that compensation to the shipping costs, and the enterprise may not appear fiscally attractive to the neighbor island communities.

Our preference is for additional encouragement of source reduction and waste reutilization programs to mitigate neighbor island landfill saturation problems.