HB 3761

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR A STUDY TO DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY
OF PRODUCING REFUSE DERIVED FUEL
AS AN ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCE

House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Public Hearing - February 3, 1992
8:00 AM, Rm 1310

By
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HB 3761 would fund feasibility studies for the production of refuse derived fuel as an alternative energy source.

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

We are somewhat perplexed by the intent of this bill. Refuse derived fuel presently is used by the H-Power facility, and that seems to provide an excellent empirical basis for the evaluation of this technology, particularly in view of the emission monitoring provisions of the facility permit. The City Department of Public Works screens the feedstock to the plant to maximize the heat content and minimize unwanted combustion byproducts. Is it the intent of this measure to encourage the trial combustion of additional waste materials presently excluded from the H-Power operation?

Clearly, there is a need to diminish the delivery of materials to our landfills. However, instead of increasing our output of waste as is implied by language in line 5, we should be looking increasingly to recycling and reuse of all consumer items, with the intent of reducing our production of refuse.