



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Environmental Center
Crawford 317 • 2550 Campus Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Telephone (808) 948-7361

Office of the Director

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HR 10
REQUESTING STUDY OF A PAPER RECYCLING PLANT

Statement to
House Committee on Corrections and Rehabilitation
House Committee on Ecology and Environment
House Committee on Youth and Elderly Affairs
Public Hearing 15 February 1978

By
Michael Chun, Public Health
Doak C. Cox, Environmental Center
Jacquelin N. Miller, Environmental Center
Darro Thuet, Environmental Center

HR 10 requests that the Department of Planning and Economic Development make a study of the feasibility of establishing a paper recycling plant at the Halawa Correctional Facility. The consideration of such a plant is of concern to the Environmental Center because of the implications as to resource conservation. This statement on the resolution does not, however, reflect an institutional position of the University.

The resource conservation premises of the resolution are valid. If the volume of recyclable paper, the demand for recycled paper, and the economics of recycling are clearly favorable, it would seem that a commercial recycling effect would be undertaken. If the economics are not sufficiently favorable for a commercial operation, the establishment of a recycling plant by the State might perhaps be justified by the combination of resource conservation, reduction in waste disposal requirements, and provision of occupational training to inmates of the correctional facility. However, the proposed study should include:

- a) the volume of paper available for recycling, present and potential;
- b) the demand for recycled paper, present and potential;
- c) The utility of the training that would be provided to the inmates, after they leave the correctional facility;
- d) The present costs of waste disposal of potentially recyclable paper; and

- e) The overall economics of a recycling plant, and not merely the costs of construction and personnel requirements of a recycling plant.

We note that HB 2023 proposes an appropriation to establish a paper recycling plant at the Halawa Correctional Facility. If the answer to the questions raised above were already clear, no study such as HR 10 would be needed. If the study is required, it seems premature to make an appropriation for the plant.