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HR 28/HCR 25
REQUESTING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ADOPT A PREVENTATIVE
APPROACH WITH REGARD TO THE DISPOSAL AND HANDLING OF HAZARDOUS WASTE

Statement for
House Committee on
Planning, Energy, and Environmental Protection
Pubic Hearing - March 10, 1988

By
Jacquelin Miller, Environmental Center

HR 28/HCR 25 recognize the need and costs associated with the environmental control, regulation, and enforcement of programs with regard to the disposal and handling of hazardous wastes and directs the state Department of Health to continue its efforts in hazardous waste programs, while simultaneously adopting programs to encourage reduction of the amounts of hazardous waste produced.

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

We strongly support the purpose of this resolution. Recent reports presented by the Federal Office of Technology Assessment concluded that as much as half of the hazardous waste generated in the U.S. could be eliminated within the next few years using currently available technology. Similar conclusions were expressed at the Western state legislators conference held in Honolulu this past September where several speakers stressed the need and value of waste reduction programs. It should be abundantly obvious that waste reduction programs represent a "win-win" situation. They reduce the generator's cost of disposal, the costs of regulation, and the long term liability to the community and environment. While we recognize that the need for disposal provisions can not be eliminated entirely, growing evidence from industry and regulators alike is demonstrating the ability for significant reduction in volumes of hazardous waste produced by recycling, and education.

Our only suggestion would be to add that the DOH should be encouraged to consult with the appropriate county departments in developing incentives and educational programs to carry out their hazardous waste reduction efforts.