



University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Environmental Center

A Unit of Water Resources Research Center
Crawford 317 • 2550 Campus Road • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822
Telephone: (808) 956-7361 • Facsimile: (808) 956-3980

RL:01257

HB 379 RELATING TO USED OIL

House Committee on
Energy and Environmental Protection
House Committee on Transportation

Joint Public Hearing - February 11, 1995
9:00 A.M., Room 1310 SOT

By
John T. Harrison, Environmental Center
Roy Takekawa, Env. Health & Safety Office
Andrew Tomlinson, Environmental Center

HB 379 would require motor oil dealers to accept used oil brought in by customers in exchange for new oil purchased.

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

This measure addresses the problem faced by the home mechanic trying to dispose of waste motor oil responsibly. In general the proposed approach is well-intentioned, but it raises three problematic issues:

1. Often, used motor oil is mixed with chlorinated solvents in the course of home repairs, and the resulting mixture constitutes a hazardous waste, disposal of which is enormously expensive. This appears to be the main reason most service stations are unwilling to accept used oil at the present.
2. Retail outlets for motor oil now include supermarkets, drug stores, variety stores, in fact virtually every general merchandising facility in the state. It seems unreasonable to require facilities with very minor volume in these materials to assume such a major regulatory burden. Since gasoline service stations and automotive repair facilities already handle large quantities of petroleum products, why not limit the return requirement to these outlets?
3. Language in Section 3 (page 3, lines 1-12) seems intended to provide for disposal using systems such as absorbent boxes, yet as worded, discharge of oil from normal vehicle maintenance may be released legally into the environment. Some amendment of this wording is necessary.