



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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HB 2627  
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO FUND THE  
STATEWIDE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF HAZARDOUS WASTES  
PRODUCED BY FARMERS AND HOUSEHOLDS IN HAWAII

Statement for  
Senate Committee on  
Planning and Environment  
Public Hearing - March 16, 1988

By  
Jacquelin Miller, Environmental Center

HB 2627 would appropriate \$200,000 to the Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC) to be used for the statewide collection and disposal of hazardous wastes produced by farmers and householders in Hawaii.

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

Section 1 of HB 2627 appropriately recognizes the concerns and costs of hazardous waste disposal and in particular stresses the need for safe collection and disposal of hazardous materials from farmers and households.

We concur with the purpose of the bill, but have certain reservations as to the efficacy of the program proposed, the supporting rationale for the funds requested, and the appropriateness of its management by OEQC.

### Efficacy of the Program

It is our understanding that a significant fraction of the obsolete toxic chemicals produced or held by farmers and householders in Hawaii has been picked up in earlier and similar collective programs undertaken in the past by special funding to OEQC. We are not sure what quantity remains and whether the proposed general collection by OEQC would be the best approach to meet the problem.

We understand that a final report on the results of the previous pesticide collection efforts of OEQC has been prepared and it could provide the basis for estimates of the potential types and volumes of

hazardous wastes remaining to be dealt with and the continuing need for their collections. It seems likely that county action in the collection of such materials, on an annual or semi-annual basis, may be more effective than a state-operated program. Recyclable materials could be processed and the remainder of the hazardous waste turned over to Unitek or some other approved hazardous waste handling firm for disposal.

Rationale for funds

We have no specific comments on the appropriateness of the amount of funds proposed since no supporting justification was provided in Section 1 of the bill.

Appropriateness of OEQC

A new division, the Hazardous Waste Branch, of the Department of Health (DOH) has been established to deal with hazardous waste issues in the state. Given the statutory responsibilities of the OEQC and the need for their guidance of Chapter 343 over which they have sole responsibility, we believe that the Hazardous Waste Branch of DOH would be a more logical choice to implement these hazardous waste management actions.